

Advanced Structural Testing (AST)

The City of Vallejo California issued an order to destroy eight boats for various reasons. Among the boats scheduled for termination was an old Catalina 22 swing keel.

The crew assigned the task of breaking up these boats decided to save the smallest and "easiest" boat for last: the Catalina 22. Over the next four hours, seven boats were crushed, chopped up, and the remains scooped into a waiting dump truck.

The Caterpillar D-8 (a tracked vehicle with a claw) tore through these first seven like a hot knife through butter. The plan to end the day with the "easy" boat went somewhat awry. They first figured on driving the D-8 over the top of the unfortunate Catalina 22, but after several attempts, that method had to be abandoned as the little Catalina would "squirt" out from under the D-8, escaping unharmed. It even swung its keel out at the wrecking crew, as though sticking its tongue out at them.

The next method tried was to use the claw to bite out sections from it, but they were unable to get a grip on the hull, so they abandoned that method as well. Ultimately, they wrapped it in chains and anchored it to the D-8 to enable them to drive over it and crush it. In the end, it took the same amount of time to destroy one Catalina 22 as it did to destroy the other seven boats!

After four hours of work on the game little 22, the crew leader then swore that if anyone ever invited him out onto a blustery San Francisco Bay in a Catalina 22, he'd have no reservations whatsoever about accepting.

Catalina owners, stand proud! You have very tough boats!