

A CLOSER LOOK

Most of the vests we tested look very similar at first glance—but it's the details that set them apart. The Spinlock Deckvest (1) was the only PFD with a webbing loop, rather than D-rings, for tether attachment. It also was the only one to offer a sprayhood (6). The Bluestorm X-treme Sail 33 (2) is among the six test PFDs that offer an inspection window to check the servicibility of the inflator. The two main types of harness closure were the three-prong plastic buckle like that of the Helly Hansen (4) and the single-prong plastic buckle like that of the Protexion Nautilus (5). The Spinlock harness closure (3) was the odd-man-out: Wearers turn an oblong-shaped piece of plastic, woven with thin webbing, sideways and slide it into a hole on the other side. Securing it

and opening it are two-handed operations, where as most plastic buckles can be unfastened with one hand.

