

Lassie Cold Weather Gear Options

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Hats: For very cold weather a neoprene cap is especially important, and ideally it would be fleece backed. For daily use, a bucket hat is recommended to protect your ears and neck. Many brands also have a back flap, and fastek chin buckle for heavy weather sailing.

Magic Marine neoprene cap. **Dakine** surf hat with back flap and chin strap. The Dakine is fast drying light and has a small Velcro pocket in the top.



Life Jackets: There are many types of PFDs, but it is particularly important to find a good fit for your body. The jacket should be U.S. Coast Guard approved. Some people prefer front zippered PFDs, which is a nice option, easier to get off in an emergency; but try to stay away from buckles as they tend to be caught on lines.

- **Forward WIP** -extremely light, non-bulky and form fitting.
- **Astral**-A low profile jacket with flotation lower, allowing for less bulk up top, so lines are less likely to catch.
- **Zhik**- Popular, large pocket, a good balance of form fitting and buoyancy.
- Zhik's new U.S.C.G approved jacket will be a popular new choice.

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Gloves: Sailing gloves are important to save your hands in heavy winds, keep the sun off, and keep you warm in cold weather. Many companies make sailing gloves, Gill, and Harken etc. For colder weather there are thicker neoprene gloves that will really save your hands, just be sure that the hand grip area is well reinforced.



Footwear: For every day Lassies sailing, the **Sperry** shoes have held up very well, protect the feet, keep small stones out and dry fast. A short light boot made by most **Gill, Zhik**, is nice for warm and cool weather sailing it is easy to get in and out of.

The **Zhik** lace up boot is nice for cold or heavy weather sailing. The grip top of the foot really helps to keep you in the hiking straps.

Some people wear socks to allow pedicures to stay on and like the ease of getting a foot in and out of a boot. In very cold weather wool socks are a great insulator between your foot and the boot. Neoprene socks are also worn on very cold days as well your boot. 'Smartwool' socks are a good investment.



Gear Bags come in all shapes and sizes. A water-resistant gear bag is recommended. If it rains while you are out sailing, and your bag is on the beach, or in a chase boat, it is nice to know that everything inside will stay dry. A bag with a large opening for a life jacket in the bag is important, along with some pockets to separate and organize your gear. Backpack carrying straps are an option and a shoulder strap is extremely helpful.



Water Bottles are a personal preference, but a one handed easy open bottle is important, especially on windy days. A sports squeeze bottle is the easiest to use. On very cold days remember to have an insulated bottle filled with warm water to keep your body temperature as warm as possible. No disposable plastic bottles please.

Sailing Equipment: Usually consists of a carbon pocket knife (no rust) extra lines, maybe a tiny roll of electrical tape, always a safety whistle, good sunscreen, lip balm, and a neck buff. This is often carried in a life jacket pocket. A small synthetic towel is also a good addition for your gear bag.



Dry suits are for extreme cold weather sailing. Many companies make dry suits, and because dry suits cost over \$500, it is important to try a few on before making a purchase if possible. The **Gill** dry suit is a proven product. Under a dry suit, synthetic fleece is usually worn, along with wool socks. The idea is that once you zip the dry suit up no water at all gets under the suit due to the very tight neck and arm rubber cuffs that keeps all water out. Remember that once the suit is on, you are committed and cannot take layers off or get out of the suit easily.



Spray Tops: Rooster is a newer brand that is rubberized with a fleece backing and a high dry neck. Although expensive, their products are highly adapted for comfort and their tops are top of the line. **Gill** also makes a good spray top, along with **Zhik**. In general zippers tend to corrode and are not advisable, although it makes the tops easier to get on and off. A good fit is important.



Pants: Gill, neoprene with a light fleece backing, nonskid, padded knees and bottom, makes is a good cold weather pant. They are a proven preference for cold weather. **SEA** is another good brand, with reinforced knees. **Magic Marine** makes a great cool weather long pant that has reinforced protective bottom, and knee to shin non-slip padding. **Gill Helly Hansen, Magic Marine** along with other companies also make 'Salopettes' or 'bibs', AKA foul weather pants that are loose and often worn under raingear. These may be better for larger boat sailing as when you are swimming, they become heavy, and then not helpful in keeping you warm or dry.

Example: of warm gear outfit for cold weather sailing:





Example: of nearshore or offshore outfit for heavy weather cold sailing gear on non-dinghy, or larger boats