

BOAT OR SHIP - THAT IS THE QUESTION?

By Richard Sorokin

The question often comes up, "What is the difference between a boat and a ship?"

Webster defines a boat-as a small open vessel or water craft propelled by oars, sail, or engine. A ship is any vessel of considerable size navigating deep water and not propelled by oars, paddles, or the like.

O.K. but what size makes the difference?

The best answer I ever heard was that you can put a boat on a ship but you cannot put a ship on a boat.

Still there are some vessels that beg the question. Where does a 75' to 100' sailing or motor yacht fit in? Is it too big to be loaded on a freighter and how many small boats will fit on its decks?