

## A Louisiana Hunting and Fishing Home Built on Floating Barges Hits the Market for \$5.5 Million



Casey Farmer

**A** hunting and fishing lodge that is floating off Louisiana’s southernmost tip hit the market on Friday for \$5.5 million.

Built primarily for the state’s three-month-long duck-hunting season, the waterfront property in Port Fourchon is aptly named “Fowl Play.” Around 2010, seller Tony Nelson hired architects Tom Adams and Adam Gerndt to create a hunting and fishing property he could use year-round, both with his family and with customers, as he’s the CEO of the Alabama-based commercial explosives manufacturer and distributor Nelson Brothers.

“[Adams] really took it on as a project. It was different for an architect since it’s on floating barges, so you’ve got a rectangular shape and you’re kind of limited,” Nelson, 67, said. “It was quite the challenge, and he really loved it.”

Building the camps—there’s a 2,790-square-foot main lodge and a 1,848-square-foot one for the crew—on barges allows the structures to be towed out into open water for duck-hunting season, which runs from about mid-November to the end of January. The floating camp is parked in the water for 90 days, about an hour boat ride from home base, with two crew members always present.

Being out on the water allows for all-day activity, Nelson said.

“There are a lot of big, fine duck lodges around the U.S., but very few have great fishing,” Nelson said. “We hunt in the mornings and fish in the afternoons.” Catches typically include speckled trout and redfish.

The property’s proximity to the Gulf also allows for offshore fishing, reaching “the best fishing in the

Gulf” in just an hour, a trip that would take boaters from Alabama and Florida two days, said listing agent Tim James Jr. of Jon Kohler and Associates.

“There’s really nice hunting properties, there’s nice fishing properties, but you really don’t find a place like this where you have world-class offshore fishing, inshore fishing and hunting in one package offered at this price point with this type of amenities,” James said. “It’s really unheard of, and the uniqueness of a floating lodge built to this standard makes it that much cooler.”



Floating lodges aren’t uncommon in Louisiana, but few are built to the level of Fowl Play’s, Nelson and James said. Though they’re referred to as “camps,” the two structures are more akin to a lodge that would be built on-land.

The main camp features a full commercial-grade kitchen that’s open to a dining room, a living room, an eight-bed bunk room, two staterooms—or bedrooms—a primary bedroom with its own

bathroom and three other full baths. The crew camp, meanwhile, houses a mudroom with personalized lockers, a tackle room, a game-prep room, a utility room, two bunk rooms, a sitting room and two full bathrooms. In total, the two lodges sleep 22 people.

Back on land, where the barges are docked for the remaining nine months of the year, the property has covered porches, an outdoor kitchen and a saltwater pool, all along 250 feet of protected waterfront. Plus, there’s a four-lift dock for other vessels.

Now that Nelson’s kids are grown up and he’s bringing customers to the camp less often, he said it’s time to part with Fowl Play, though it’s a hard decision. He and his wife are also looking to spend more time in New England and South Florida.

“Things change, and at my age, we’re shifting a little bit toward South Florida and the water activities there,” he said. “It’s super sad for our whole family... but I think change is good and it’s just time for it.”

