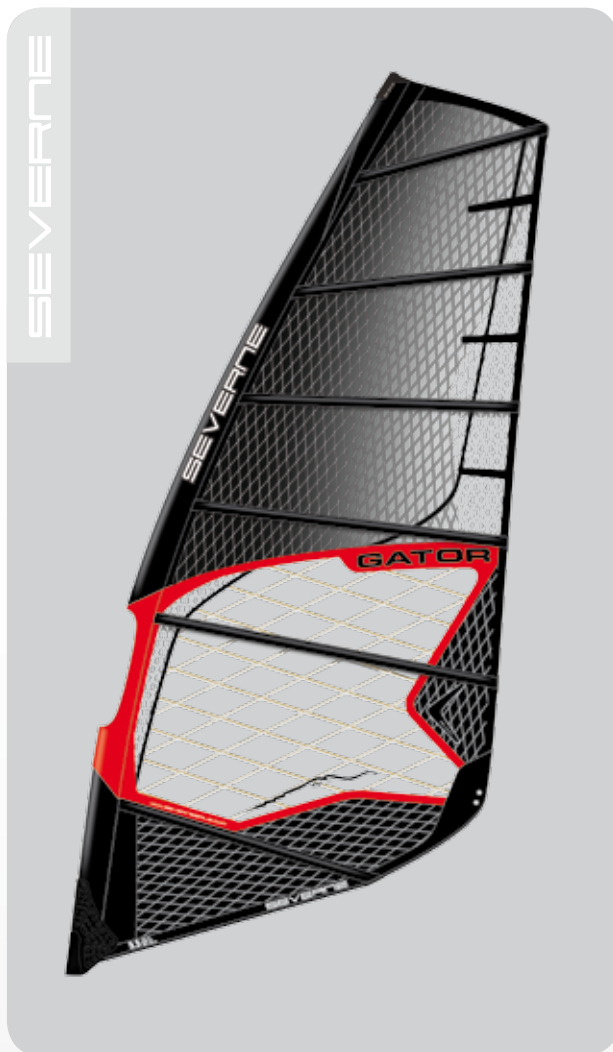


BOARDS,UK, # MAY 2010

## SEVERNE GATOR 6.0



This aggressive freeride sail from Severne is said to cover any conditions you may encounter worldwide, with its core principals being manoeuvrability, durability, and performance. Smaller sizes are said to be as comfortable in waves as any other dedicated line; middle sizes feature manoeuvre orientated characteristics yet remain comfortable for blasting, while larger sizes have a lower foot, a more powerful profile, and are built from a lighter cloth for lighter wind blasting. For 2010 a 5.7 has been added to the range, and all of the sizes now have a slightly different window seam position to increase durability. Available in 11 sizes from 3.7 to 8.0.

**Set:** With a luff length of 454 the sail sets best on a 430 mast. However, due to the adjustable head there is the option of setting it on a 460. We rigged it on a Severne Red Line 100% carbon 430 RDM. Leech twist is progressive, and the sail sets with loads of rotation in the 1st batten, a bit in the 2nd, and a tiny amount in the 3rd (from the bottom). There appeared to be a little bit of pre-set shape in the 1st batten, quite a lot at the 2nd, and a little in the 3rd. We found it set best with either a neutral outhaul for a locked-down powerful feeling, or with 1-2cm of positive for freemove sailing.

**On the water:** With quite a lot of medium spring the Gator doesn't have the direct feeling that some powerful sails give, but instead fills first and then delivers its power. This allows the rider to remain on course when large gusts hit without having to change their sheeting angle too much. This also gives the manoeuvre orientated sailors something to pull against for pump and plane style sailing. As well as being one of the most powerful sails on test it also twisted off re-

ally well in the head, giving the rider plenty of control however strong the wind. The six-batten design was fairly fast, but not as stiff and racy as some of the others in this test. It felt fairly light in the hands through most manoeuvres, but wasn't quite as flickable as some of the other five-batten designs which pleased the freestyle crowd more.

**Overall:** The Gator seemed to have the perfect mix of power and control - it would be difficult for any sail to compete with such a range. Great for those that want something manoeuvrable enough to do a bit of blasting, some bump and jump, and to head into occasional waves. Probably not the best choice for those that like to spend most of their time doing freestyle, but more than capable of the odd trick. Match it up with a freestyle wave or freeride board for optimum performance.