

SI-TEX SST-110 SEA TEMP GAUGE

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Just introduced at the recent Ft. Lauderdale International Boat Show in late October, the Si-Tex SST-110 is the right tool at the right price for all saltwater anglers, both inshore and offshore.

TEMPERATURE DRIVEN FISHERIES

One of the most important tools in both the inshore and offshore angler's marine electronics arsenal is a fully functional and accurate sea surface temperature gauge. The gamefish that visit our inshore and offshore waters tend to be very sensitive to certain bands or ranges of water temperatures, which along with the angle of the sun, availability of forage and other factors, impact the timing and whereabouts of their migration movements. Summertime fluke fishing seems to be at its peak when cooler and cleaner ocean water is flushed through tight inlets and the flatfish jam up around these estuaries waiting for a free ride into their backbay hunting grounds. It's no secret that when Autumn's falling water temps hit the low to mid-50s, striped bass start to move out of the bays and migrate west and south along ocean beaches towards their faraway wintering grounds in the Hudson River, Delaware Bay and Chesapeake Bay. Blackfish are sensitive to sea water changes too, as the falling temps start to put them in a feeding mood around wrecks, reefs and rockpiles. When offshore water temps hit the high-50s in the spring, you can expect to see the first blue sharks, makos and threshers. Come late June and early July when the ocean sea surface hits 70 degrees, the first dorado of the season usually show up and stick it out until the fall water temps drop below that magic mark sending them back south.

I can go on and on about how the success of both inshore and offshore sport fishing relies on the preference of each targeted species' preferred sea surface temperature bands, but we could literally write a book about it and that's not the mission of this week's On the Water review. Suffice it to say, knowing the current sea water temps is a "critical" component to having a successful day out on the water, and that's where the Si-Tex SST-110 comes into play.

THE RIGHT TOOL

Back in the day during the late 80s and 90s, one name dominated the dedicated sea surface temperature gauge market and that was Dytek. They offered flush-mounted 2-1/4-inch and 3-3/8-inch digital gauges, as well as a combo LED/paper yoke-mount box unit. Somehow, with Dytek being bought and then moved off Long Island where they had their operations, all that faded away. Low-



rance had taken up some of the slack with their 2-1/4-inch flush mount sea surface temp gauge, which is nice, but has smallish numbers that are sometimes hard to see. Enter the Si-Tex folks with the perfect solution in the form of their new-for-2011 SST-110, which is a "dedicated" instrument that is not part of an onboard network or combination multi-function display. The beauty of the Si-Tex SST-110 is that it is an affordable, waterproof, analog sea surface temp instrument with LARGE digital numbers that can literally be seen from 15 to 20

feet away. Believe me, I trialed it at the show and this sea temp gauge is totally good to go.

With its large four-digit LCD display (measuring 4.3 inches x 4.3 inches x 3.5 inches), rugged water-resistant construction and advanced features, Si-Tex's SST-110 is ideal for a wide range of recreational and commercial fishing vessels. It can be easily installed on the flybridge of a large sportfisherman or on the instrument panel of a 17-foot open center console. The ability to view water temperature at a glance (in 0.01-degree Fahrenheit/Celsius resolution), find favorable temperature zones and pinpoint critical offshore "temp breaks" that congregate forage and gamefish is a huge advantage for every fisherman. For maximum accuracy and to compensate for slight differences in transducers, the displayed temperature can be easily calibrated by the operator using the SST-110's front panel keys. Boaters can also set high and low temperature alarms for audible alerts to temperature fluctuations or hard temperature "edges." A temperature trend arrow on the display tells the user at a glance if sea temperatures are getting warmer, cooler or remaining constant.

For operation in any onboard environment or ambient light conditions, the SST-110 offers five levels of backlighting that can be selected and remotely switched On/Off. All set up and calibration constants are saved to a nonvolatile memory, retaining settings for the next time the unit is powered up. For easy integration on most professional fishing vessels, the SST-110 outputs standard NMEA 0183 water temperature data and works on both 12 and 24 VDC systems. Even with its large digital display, the SST-110 draws only 0.35 amps (0.55 amps with full backlighting). Si-Tex offers both transom mount and thru-hull temperature transducers separately. The SST-110 also works with Dytek's old 30K-ohm bronze temperature senders, so if you already have one on-board, just plug it into the Si-Tex SST-110 and you are ready to go!

The Si-Tex SST-110 is affordably priced for just about every boating angler's budget with an MSRP of only \$269 (excluding temperature probes), making it an ideal choice for a wide range of fishing boats. For more information about this great new "must have" marine instrument, call 631-996-2690 or visit www.si-tex.com. 🇺🇸