

Published: Sep 20, 2007 12:30 AM

Bladen to get boat-building jobs

From Staff Reports

BLADENBORO - A Washington-based boat builder said it will move a Florida operation to Bladen County, creating 120 jobs.

Palmer Marine of Port Orchard, Wash., will close its plant in Cape Coral, Fla., and invest \$3 million on a new plant in Bladenboro.

Palmer Marine builds fishing boats under the Defiance, Shamrock Tiderunner and Voyager brands. The company will leave Florida after 35 years. It joins about 100 boat builders that employ 40,000 workers in North Carolina. The jobs at Palmer will pay an average weekly wage of \$560, plus benefits.

Palmer is eligible for a \$200,000 incentives grant from the One North Carolina Fund, which requires matching funds from local governments.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/business/nc/story/709895.html>