

## SAFETY & SURVIVAL

### HOW WE TESTED

Our testing procedure included a thorough examination of each garment's features, and a dry fitting in which two testers assessed the comfort of each product. Reviewers also tested the dry fit while bending over and grinding a winch and reaching up and hoisting a halyard hand-over-hand. Each coat gave us sufficient mobility to feel quite comfortable in these tasks.

Then, we got into the water—both salt water and fresh—to see how each product functioned as a PFD. Testers weighed the garments while dry and while wet, and then gauged their actual buoyancy by tying a combination of weights to them in fresh water. Finally, we soaked the coats in salt water and stored them each outdoors in a black plastic bag for a full week to evaluate their resistance to mold and mildew. Though some staining and mustiness occurred (see individual results noted below), no corrosion developed during the few weeks of the test.



*Testers fully inflated the bladders of the inflatable float coats and noted how long each held its air. The Mustang OCX bladder (left) lasted 11 hours, while the FloatTech (right) made it more than 20 hours despite the fact the ambient temperature fell about 15 degrees that night.*