

Extinction of the Force 10 Seacook is a Sign of the Times

When heavy weather sets in, even the gourmand will happily settle for a warm bowl of soup. No doubt thousands of foul-weather soups have been heated on the Force 10 Seacook, a single-burner swinging stove that easily mounts on a bulkhead and is fired by a small propane canister.

Although the ruggedly built Seacook failed to comply with industry standards for cooking below decks (lack of a flame-failure shut off valve held it back), it routinely fared well in *PS* evaluations (see “Compact Cookers,” July 2007). In the summer of 2006, Force 10’s cabin heater line was sold to Vancouver-based Dickinson and the galley range product line (along with the Force 10 name) was sold to the French company ENO. The water heater and barbecue line remained in the hands the Force



10 principals, under a new name Kuuma. (Kuuma may continue to use the Force 10 name through 2010.) Kuuma also retained rights to the Seacook stove —classified as a barbecue—but the cooker has since been dropped. According to Kuuma (www.kuumaproducts.com), the product needed re-tooling and because of its limited market, the expense did not seem worthwhile.

Today, the nearest thing to the Seacook is the Forespar (www.forespar.com) Mini Galley , a petite rendition that hardly compares. With no plans to resurrect the Seacook in sight, it seems that our generation will be the last to know the purpose of that U-shaped bracket found near the companion-way on so many older boats.