

You have four engine options with the 17 – Yamaha 70, 75, 90 and 115, which provides a lot of choices to cater for different budgets and applications. We tested the 17 fitted with a Yamaha 115, around 70 litres of fuel, and it was a bare boat without any MFDs or other additions.

The 17 has a 16-degree deadrise, a beam of 2.14m, a draft of 30cm and a dry weight of around 545kg. On the day of testing it had been blowing around 15 knots and had backed off to around 5 knots for the test. We travelled from Carrum down to Mt Eliza, heading out wide to hit some residual slop along the way. It isn't a heavy boat, but it doesn't feel light when getting through chop. For what's essentially a light boat, it has great stability while under way and the stability is also good at rest. It's certainly a fun boat to drive fitted with the 115.

Hole shot is excellent, and I managed to hit speeds of 70km/h, which the boat handled without issue. It will only run better as you add weight such as more fuel, tackle, extra batteries and an electric motor. Trim tabs would also provide more control for situations such as the live-well being full, which would add 50kg (50-litre live-well) and cause some lean. They wouldn't, however, be needed for bow and stern control, and I found engine trim to provide full control here.

The aggressive entry makes for a soft ride going into the chop and it handles a following sea just as competently. It's no deep-vee by any means, and it's not the kind of boat you want to be launching off waves, but should you get into some rough water on your way home, the 17 will handle it without issue.



The Carolina flare does a great job at keeping water from spraying in off the front (I had to do some work to test this in the mild conditions) but the mix of this and the aggressive entry sets the 17 apart from similar-sized vessels on the market. For what it is, it's a soft and dry boat.

Priced as tested with the 115 and single axle Savage Trailer, it's \$76,038. You're getting amazing build quality, a big fuel tank, a heap of storage and a great ride for the money. You'll be hard-pressed to find these qualities at a similar price point on the market.

If you're looking for something in this size range that can cover a variety of fishing conditions from rivers, lakes to bays and light offshore work, you should take one of these for a water test – I think you'll be impressed.