



Even in very ordinary conditions the Sportsman rode exceptionally well and was very dry.



From previous page

At the front of the centre console there is a forward console seat and of course the opportunity to provide even more storage underneath it was too much for these boat builders to resist.

This hatch even has a mesh bag to safely house cameras and other valuables when in lumpy conditions. Great thinking!

At the stern a cleverly designed swim platform with extendable and retractable stainless steel ladder will make boarding the boat after a lazy morning of snorkelling an absolute breeze.

At last it was time for some on water testing. We reversed the boat off the trailer and headed out into the Pioneer River into a very steady breeze. The dry weight of the hull is around 660 kilograms and max engine capacity is as fitted, 150 horsepower. At 5.82 metres in length and a beamy 2.35 metres you could be forgiven for thinking you were in a considerably larger vessel thanks to the clever design and layout. For the most part I sat on the comfortable forward console seat. We put the boat through its paces and the performance was exemplary. Super tight turns at speed were perfect and delivered a feeling of great stability. Pushing through wakes left behind by other boats was a breeze and you barely noticed them.

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But the real test was to come.....

After half an hour of boat shenanigans we headed out into open water past the mouth of the river. It was true washing machine madness and this 16 degree deadrise hull handled the very ordinary conditions with consummate ease.

Again I was perched on the forward seat and somewhat exposed. The boat was thrashed though the slop, getting airborne and landing with that cushioned feel these hulls provide.

Once again tight turns were no problem and the ever increasing swell made little difference to us. Amazingly I remained dry perched in the bow and the worst I copped was the lightest of wind blown spray. In some boats I've been in you'd need full wet weather gear to tackle those conditions the way we did.

Standard options include many already mentioned as well as a 10 year hull warranty, 12 volt USB plug which seems to be mandatory these days, a self-draining deck by way of a scupper and for additional safety an auto bilge pump, rub rail navigation lights, stainless steel steering wheel coupled with hydraulic steering, electric motor harness and dual battery isolator naturally with dual battery trays. Naturally there is a comprehensive list of options to truly customise your pride and joy!



The stunning Sportsman Island Reef 19 boasts classy curves and a unique colour range.

Overall it was a great performer with enormous potential and functionality. A true family offshore fishing platform you could say.

If you are looking for a classy fibreglass boat that can head wide with 200 litres of fuel under the floor and handle a messy sea with absolute safety you absolutely must consider this!

You can check out the range at Reef Marine, 26 Prospect Street, South Mackay, call on 07-49573521 or email admin@reefmarine.net

The helm seat is super comfortable and wide. The back rest swings forward should the angler choose to sit.



The centre console is well laid out and has ample room for more electronics. It also allows for plenty of storage.



A very large live bait tank is conveniently located rear starboard.