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STURDY SEAS

If buying a boat was as easy as finding the friendliest and most helpful sales team you can find then Gavan and Ashley at Webbe Marine would have the market hands down. Not only are they knowledgeable in a helpful, not I know better than you way, but they are adept at helping buyers make the right decisions and truly believe in creating a seamless buying experience from research through to ownership.

They specialise in twin hulls boats and have a particular passion for the Sailfish brand of boats. This boutique builder and I call them boutique as they produce fewer than 50 boats per annum to an exacting standard, are based on the Northern NSW coast and have been producing boats for over 15 years. We have recently seen the 30 foot Sailfish tested but the move into the offshore trailerable fishing market has been immediately successful due to their high

The rocket launcher is sturdy and capable of accommodating a healthy arsenal.



level of design and boat building skill. In fact five of these recently released boats have already been sold.

The Shelfrunner is an overall length of 6.3 metres with a healthy beam of 2.45 metres. It is designed primarily as an offshore fishing rig and the cockpit space in this boat has to be seen to be believed. There is no way any other type of hull design would be able to provide this much room in the end package. Almost the full width is available with enough space to literally set up a two-man tent and sleep aboard if you are so inclined. The gunwale is a perfect height to brace yourself against when fighting large offshore beasts and the cockpit design allows you

you would like to make to your boat and they prefer to do this themselves knowing it has been done correctly the first time saving new owners hassles down the track.

The twin Honda engines are separated by a walkway that ends with a transom door, perfect to bring aboard sizeable captures. There is an optional seat / esky / kill box which can be custom made to your requirement or you can simply take your own esky and not impinge on the space available to fish and move about. The cockpit itself is self draining and a deck wash, hose and pump are all fitted standard as is the live bait tank under the passenger seat. The LED lights in the cockpit are a neat touch under the gunwale and will



A neat dashboard keeps everything at your fingertips.



A healthy livebait tank is located under the passenger helm seat.

More rod space is located in both sides.



to tuck your toes under the full length shelf running along either side of the boat. The height offered by the gunwale also offers peace of mind when you have younger children aboard.

Carpet is used throughout and is sturdy enough to handle heavy traffic and regular use by serious fishermen with the side pockets spacious and capable of accommodating a veritable feast of gear. Sailfish can break this long pocket up with separators if you like to keep different gear in their own designated spaces. In fact the Webbe Marine and the Sailfish team are all ears when it comes to small adjustments

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suffice for any night fishing expeditions.

Up front is a large storage area protected by a lockable sliding door. Lifejackets, fishing gear and anything you want to keep dry

would be at home here and you could add a portable toilet in this area to add some comfort on extended days out at sea. There is enough room to grab a quick nap if you need to by lying across the width of the room but it is not specifically set up for this purpose.

The glass windscreen offers good clear vision and the bimini which connects to the top of the windscreen via clear panels is a must have, offering security and safety from the elements and very occasional spray. A tidy rocket launcher sits above the bimini providing additional rod storage to the ones already located in the sides of the boat.

SAILFISH SHELFRUNNER

SPECIFICATIONS

LOA	6.3m
Beam	2.45m
Height on trailer	2.9m
Fuel	2 x 140l
Construction	5mm hull, 3mm sides
Built in foam buoyancy	
Price as Tested	\$94,990

For more information visit www.webbemarine.com.au or call Webbe Marine 02 9521 7944



Even with 3 people crammed on one side the Shelfrunner maintains a safe attitude.



The twin Honda 75 4-strokes power this vessel admirably.



On water or on trailer, the Shelfrunner cuts an impressive figure.

Anchoring the boat with this set-up means a walk out of the cockpit and around the wide walk around sides which are covered with ample grip up to the bow. There is also an option for a walk-through design which offers access to the anchor from inside the boat. The anchor well on either option is large, drained and would accommodate enough rope to hit the bottom in all but the Mariana Trench. Well at 10,924 metres maybe not but you will not run out of space here.

Sliding into the helm seat you are immediately comfortable and feel completely safe. The internal design of the sides and windscreen cocoon you in a comfortable environment and there is no way you will fall over or struggle to hold onto the wheel in any conditions. The steering is responsive and light as are the throttles powering the two seventy-five horsepower Honda Four Stroke engines. These are serviced by twin 140 litre fuel tanks running either side of the hull. The engines coupled with the hull offer excellent fuel consumption and this is a

trademark of the cat hull design, contrary to popular perception. Engines these days are mostly reliable but offshore fishermen will also appreciate the safety offered by a twin rig set-up.

The dash layout is complimented by a Garmin GPS750S Colour Touchscreen sounder/plotter and GPS. It is a handy unit and is only let down by the size of the screen. A serious fisherman may want to add an additional sounder with a larger screen and there is ample dash space to do this.

Being an aluminium cat hull, the Sailfish has some unique characteristics not available in other hull types. Most notable is the stability this boat offers. The Shelfrunner has impeccable stability at rest. Once offshore we managed 4 people on one side without any dangerous tipping or sudden movements that would see passengers on mono hulled craft scurrying for the other side of the boat. For passengers the grab rails are well positioned and one is always within reach no matter where you are on the boat.

The twin hulls slice through the water efficiently and when confronted by waves the harder you push, the more comfortable the boat becomes. Standing or sitting there is no banging or lurching about and due to the quietness of the engines a conversation is easy to hold. Approaching larger waves, the Shelfrunner rises and falls almost like it is being lowered back down carefully such is the smooth cushioned landing the twin hulls provide as air is forced between them and the water below. The performance in all conditions is exemplary despite having the 75hp fitted and not the maximum 90hp engines acceleration is more than adequate.

The water leaves the boat quite a way down the hull and a built in chine running along the length keeps spray down and away from the wind which can bring it back into any boat. Construction is of heavy 5mm hull with 3mm sides and it feels solid to the touch. Welds and painting are impressive delivering a lovely finish which will stand the test of time.

Coming home or launching is made simple by the aluminium Sailfish trailer, made on site by Sailfish themselves. There are no rollers on the trailer but the boat is easy to drive on and off and can be a one man operation. Owners will appreciate the simplicity the design offers with the tunnel automatically guiding the boat onto the trailer right the first time very time. ⚓

Modern Boating OPINION

With ever increasing fuel costs and the need for a sturdy stable boat, keen offshore fishermen should have the Sailfish Shelfrunner on their short list of boats to consider. Unrivalled stability, better fuel economy and tough build, the Shelfrunner will keep you heading wide time and time again and never let you down.

