



Winner

Sailfish S8

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AGB HISTORY WE
HAVE A BACK-TO-BACK WINNER. LAST YEAR
THE S7 STOLE THE SHOW, THIS TIME THE S8
DID IT AGAIN FOR SAILFISH

See
Video at
tradeboats.com.au





“Lean? What lean? Use the throttles to manipulate the back end and the S8 *just pushes through turns without the characteristic lean some cats have*” **TIM VAN DUYL**

ABOVE New to the S8, the centre transom door has been pushed back to give more space inside the cockpit and this also creates a damn handy spot to fish from.

Wow! Quite simply wow! The X-Factor on the magnificent Sailfish S8 has gone stratospheric! At last year's AGB competition the smaller Sailfish S7 had all our judges hooked, gaffed and in their death rattles lying on the expansive deck of this award-winning presentation. The S7 model won outright in the prestigious 2015 Aluminium Fishing Boat category.

This year's judging team was gilled, gutted and filleted by its awe-inspiring big sister, the Sailfish S8. In a previous test we said: “The Sailfish is a fisherman's wet dream, where everything a skirt chaser or bait slinger could want falls immediately to hand.” She is one hell of an impressive

nautical weapon. Sailfish has all the fundamentals set in stone thanks to many years of real-world seagoing experience.

Its hulls ride on a cushion of air, taming the slop and challenging wild seas with determination. The huge footprint and incredible stability provide the ultimate trailerable fishing platform but still allows for all of the creature comforts expected of a large enclosed wheelhouse. Meanwhile, the relatively light weight and high hull efficiency mean very low running costs paired with extremely gutsy performance.

The Sailfish S8 can only be described as nautical eye candy. Her well-proportioned package turns heads wherever she travels. She's as pretty as

a picture to any seafarer, with modern lines and a striking wrap and colour combination. She appears solid and proud, ready for any offshore battle but still remains appealing for a sunset cruise. The massive deck is large enough for a boardroom table and you could run the annual general meeting here, complete with a skipper and caterers.

Furthermore, the self-draining deck with non-skid floor is the base for one of the fishiest deck layouts imaginable, and a plethora of angling accessories all beautifully engineered to create the ultimate sportsfishing platform.

Sailfish developed its Hydroflow Gen 2 Hull from 45 years of design and testing experience. Beyond her fishing



TOP Visibility and dash space are well-thought-out to make the most of the helm position.

ABOVE LEFT Stern-to boarding is a breeze with the transom walkway setup between the twin 150hp Hondas, an optional upgrade from the standard 135s.

ABOVE RIGHT Plumbed livewell includes a viewing window and shares the portside transom corner with hatched access to the batteries and fuel filters.

credentials she'd make a wonderful family boat or a top dive boat, thanks to the big decks, rear door access and immense load capacity for plenty of gear.

A high percentage of Sailfish customers are buying for commercial applications, where safety, economy, longevity, payload and stability are primary requirements.

The wheelhouse is simply brilliant and gives you a real sense of solid confidence in the hull's massive abilities. There's a ton of room on the cabin roof for accessories and water toys and the cabin's internal layout is generous, comfortable and welcoming, with plenty of comforts for overnighting.

The helm is simple but effective, with 360-degree vision and provision for large

Sailfish S8

87.5 out of 100

	Ford	Smith	van Duyl	Starling	Beattie
Fishing suitability	9	9	9	9	8
Innovation	9	8.5	7	8	8
Design and layout	9	9	9	9	9
Quality of finish	10	9	9	9	9
Handling and ride	9	8.5	8	8	9
Stability at rest	10	8.5	9	8	9
Ergonomics	9	9	9	9	9
Std. equipment	9	9	9	9	9
Value for money	8	8.5	8	8	9
X-Factor	9	8.5	8	9	9



ABOVE Although the S8 looks massive it has been designed to fit within Aussie tow regulations.

BELOW LEFT The hardtop is robust and spacious, and wide gunwales with non-skid assist in accessing the foredeck.

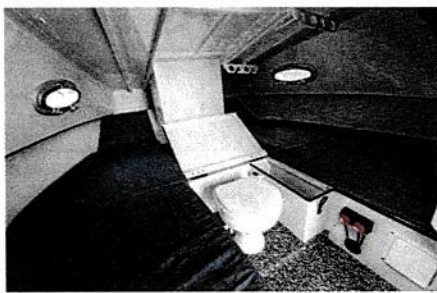
BELOW RIGHT A toilet is mandatory on such an offshore capable boat like the S8.



multifunction screens, anchor controls and twin levers for the Honda BF150 four-strokes. There's also comfortable seating and more storage space.

The Sailfish S8 cat jumps up with agility as you plant the throttles on the Hondas. There's a real spring in her step right through the rev range as she beckons you to embark on extended ventures or fight a big fish well into the night. Each sponson is compartmentalised and foam-filled for even more peace of mind.

Yet despite all this she can be towed quite easily as she's less than 2.5m wide and comes in at an all-up dry weight of



around 3000kg. What'll make her even easier to tow is the very attractive package price – a touch under \$200K as tested.

Overall, the Sailfish S8 is one hell of a competitor in the tough world of offshore fishing machines. As judge John Ford commented: "There's nothing missing to make this the perfect fishing platform." While Kevin Smith added: "You can't not like it. Uncompromised stability that's typical of big cats, loaded with more rather than less. Turnkey and ready to rumble."

There's no doubt this is one cat we'd all be happy to take home. ■

facts & figures

Sailfish S8

PRICE AS TESTED
\$204,940

OPTIONS FITTED

Reelax outriggers, second wiper, full vinyl wrap, tuna tubes, stone guard on trailer, Furuno electronics suite, FUSION sound system, and more

GENERAL

MATERIAL Aluminium

LENGTH 7.5m

BEAM 2.45m

WEIGHT Approx 3000kg (BMT)

FUEL 350lt

ENGINE 2 x Honda BF150 four-strokes

MANUFACTURED BY

WEBBE MARINE

PHONE (02) 9521 7944

WEB webbmarine.com.au