



SIMRAD SLAYER:

Dan runs a Simrad NSS16 evo3 and S2009 through a S5100 sonar module. Bluefin ain't hiding anywhere.







ilitary-like precision is an overused catchphrase in The Captain. However, Dan Brauman has earned it. After all, he's actually delivered lead to his foes via a Steyr

assault rifle. His missions take weeks of planning and years of tactical training, using state-of-the-art killing equipment. He brings a similar resolve to his fishing trips and gear. Naturally, every gunslinger needs an armoured personnel carrier. His is a 2016 model, battle-ready Sailfish S8.

Dan pilots the latest model from Sailfish: the Gen III Hydraflow aluminium hull. The design incorporates wider running strakes, extended waterline length and redesigned 6mm chines for greater lift and efficiency. We put it to the sword, taking on Bass Strait's 4m seas. The cat showed its sure footprint powering up, down and across waves crumbling with white foam at their tops. Even when travelling down sea at an angle (regarded as the least favourite angle for a cat) the Sailfish, er, sails with confidence. All achieved with a big wheelhouse and eight metres of length — no mean feat.

SLOW AND STEADY

Slow and steady is the way to treat a cat heading into a big sea. Dan gently eased her over the huge rollers. It did shudder moderately in the tunnel when heading straight into the sea, but certainly no more than any glass cat we've ridden. In fact, we barely noticed it was an aluminium hull,

checking the foam filling and box section stringers.

Cats have a reputation for miserly fuel consumption. The footprint on a cat is approximately half that of the equivalent-sized monohull, resulting in less wetted area and less friction. It means they can run smaller horsepower engines. Dan has fitted twin Honda BF135HP outboards. They proved every bit the penny-pinching power plants, burning just over 60L and covering 105km over the course of the day These outboards have clocked up 500 hou in just under two years. Dan's a fan, but w wouldn't mind twin 150HP units for those moments when you need to max power do sea and onto the back of the next roller.

WHY A CAT?

Now that he's bought a cat, Dan would ne go back to a mono. The stability in any set is the obvious benefit. He does many hou with his wife (on the boat) and he wanted her to feel safe and comfortable, no matte how big the seas — or fish — were. He als loves the big cabin and deck space with the walk-through, allowing the crew to get aft past the motors to fight and bring fish in. Twin engines and draining decks tick the safety boxes.

He adds the caveat: "You need to learn how to drive a cat." The key, he says, is to "learn how to trim the motors so it travels flat — whether it's a following sea, punchinto a head sea, or side-on. Also, travel at a speed that gets the air in and under the tunnel for a cushioning effect." Dan recommends taking the time to discover he hull performs with no swell or wind, a build your confidence from there.

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ONE ADVANTAGE OF CATS IS THAT THEYRE PISS-EASY TO GET ON THE TRAILER.

WEIGHTY ISSUE

Cats have a loyal fan-base and it seems to be growing, based on the Facebook groups and rebirthing of Bruce Harris Shark Cats seen hitting the ramps. One objection to cats is their bulbous beam and weight. Sailfish have overcome this with aluminium construction featuring a 2.45m beam. Dan's rig tips the scales at 3.4 tonne fully laden with 400L of fuel and 50L of fresh water.

A lot of thought and R&D is put into the S8. Any gamefisherman will appreciate the fishing ergonomics. The finish is as good as any rig The Captain has ridden. It's the kind of detail you'd expect from a low-volume

builder, but these guys aren't a niche operation. In fact, they have a construction crew of 20 operating out of Alstonville NSW, building around 30 boats per year. You won't see a lot of the work that goes on behind the scenes, like the aluminium sheet that's welded both sides then ground back on the exterior. All holes are drilled prior to two-pack paint — Dan was even invited to inspect his hull prior to the paint being sprayed on.

Custom options include tuna tubes for switch baiting marlin (incorporated into the design by Sailfish) and a pie oven. He recruited the Sailfish R&D team to design some custom Tiagra rod holders that clip in. "You tell them what you want and they come back to you with some good options

Sailfish build aluminium trailers to suit each hull. Dan reckons he's done more tha 20,000km in two years. The trailer present like new, and he's never had a problem. O advantage of cats is that they're piss-easy get on the trailer — just aim for the centr guides and the trailer does the rest. We proved this point in the Port Fairy current Some jovial lads in a CruiseCraft tried in vain to get on the trailer, but gave up afte half-a dozen fruitless efforts and let the Sailfish show the way.

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MILITARY MINDSET

We ask Dan what elements of military life he applies to his game fishing. He says, "It's 99 per cent boredom and one per cent adrenaline, action and mayhem. So you want everything organised in a place where you can get to it. Every rod is numbered and left in its place. Like military operations, it's a team effort. Everyone needs to know their role and how to use the gear." Asked whether he shoots to kill or release, Dan just smiles. "Kill one, educate many," he says. Game over. 🐔



SMOOTH RIDER:

that gets the air in and under the tunnel for a cushioning effect.

Dan says the key to driving cats is to learn how to trim the motors so it travels flat whether it's a following sea, punching into a head sea, or side-on. Also, travel at a speed



SAILFISH S8

Length: 8.15m

Beam: 2.45m

Draft: 600mm Boat and motor and trailer: approx 3400kg

Fuel capacity: 380L

Water capacity: 45L

Persons: 8

ENGINE SPECS:

Model: 2 x Honda BF135H

Type: DOHC 4-cylinder

Displacement: 2.4L

Weight: 220kg

OPTIONS FITTED:

Simrad NSS16 evo3, S2009, S5100 sonar module, Travel Buddy pie warmer, Reelax outriggers, gaff holders, custom rod holders

PRICE AS TESTED:

\$225,000

MORE INFORMATION

Webbe Marine

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- Pie warmer essential for winter warmers
- Temporary rod holders for his
- numbered Shimano outfits Slimy tubes — an essential switch-bait accessory
- Hook'Em gaffs in every size, for every occasion
- **Permanently mounted GoPros** to capture the action



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