Boat Profile

Nigel Webster

Quintrex 430 Escape

Nigel Webster test drives a 'big little boat' and gives it the thumbs up!

I recently had the chance to test several of the latest range of Quintrex boats. I will cover several of these in upcoming issues, but one little model immediately caught my attention. The 430 Escape is one of the most popular of the Quintrex fleet for sales around the country. A big reason that this rig caught my attention is that I currently have a host of fishing mates telling me they are in the market for a small tinny. We are experiencing a time when living expenses are being watched, garage and garden space isn't always at a premium and anglers are after a simple and cost efficient option for getting out on the water. The Quintrex 430 Escape is a great little fishing boat that has just been released with a new look hull. Sales reflect the sentiment I am hearing on the street concerning anglers looking for less expensive options – the 430 hull is dominating recent figures. If you are looking for something along the lines of a smaller boat, it is timely that you consider this model as it now has some improved design aspects. Let's check them out!

Hull and Handling

The 430 Escape has just been released with the new Millennium Hull and flared bow combination. The design intent is to provide a deep and sharp hull that cuts easily through swell but also facilitates easy lift of the hull on to the plane. The Millennium Hull showcases a strong and deep keel line which fades up into wide and flared chines. This hull geometry certainly seems to affect the boats ability to cut through chop with operator teeth and internal organs not bothered in the slightest! Having owned older style tinnies I found myself gritting my teeth in preparation for the first high speed encounters with the square side of some swell. I was very pleasantly surprised how well the boat eased through lines of chop. Observations on the water quickly demonstrated the boat's ability to cut through a bit of chop while throwing spray away from occupants. The chine geometry helped the hull work through steep faced swell without wearing undue water in the deck area of the boat.

The 430 Escape is rated to a power maximum of 40hp, which pushes this rig along very nicely. This power level, when combined with the new shape hull, worked to push the boat easily out of the hole with three people on board. The weight of the boat combined with modern outboards around the 30–40hp rating, make for a very economic outfit for fuel economy and running costs.

Driving the boat demonstrated the ability of the hull to remain on the plane easily once you were up and running. The efficiency of the new hull design was proven by the limited amount of wake produced by the boat when underway. The boat barely provided a ripple when on the plane. Some boats have a tendency to dig into water when running along the crests of swell. This 'keel grabbing' behaviour results in sharp movements against the control of the operator and can be disconcerting. When pushed parallel with wake, I was impressed to find no hint of keel grab, which I was concerned might be a factor given the deep and tight keel line. The hull demonstrated an impressively soft ride when running with, into and along swell lines.

The new dash and position of controls and seating makes it an easy vessel to skipper.

Watching the boat on the plane from shore highlighted how well the hull throws spray away from the boat. The 430 Escape when underway demonstrated that the spray line starts well back from the bow of the boat. The combination of this and the flared bow (chine arrangement) design certainly limit the ingress of spray and water into the boat. When pushed across swell and wind, I found only the odd spot of water ending up on the windshield and none found its way into the cockpit area. The abrupt and high sided stern in combination with the extended pod design meant the boat could be dramatically dropped off the plane and following water has no chance of ending up in the boat. The boat rides well when travelling with swell. The deep V ensures that travelling with a following sea does not mean diving into swell troughs

The 430 Escape is well suited to our closed water areas.

FWF SPECIFICATIONS

Length Overall (m)	4.48	Transom material (mm)	2.00
Length bow to transom (m)	4.30	Transom shaft length	L/S
Beam (m)	1.90	Weight (boat only) (kg)	272
Depth (m)	0.95	Rec hp	30 (22 kW)
Length on trailer (m)	5.40	Max hp	40 (30 kW)
Height on trailer (m)	1.92	Max main motor weight (kg)	120
Bottomsides (mm)	2.00	Number of people	4
Topsides (m)	1.60	Max load (basic) (kg)	480

FWF STANDARD FEATURES

Warranty
3 Year Warranty

Fittings
Accessory kit large
Drink holder – fold down (2)
Escape dash
Rod holders (2)
Transom step & rail r/bout

Hull
Anchorwell (moulded)
Cleat on front deck
Flared bow
Handles bow (2) (if no rail bows)
Millennium Series Hull
Motorwell
Side pockets (2)
Transducer bracket

Paint
Painted with stripes

Rails
Aft short side rails
Windscreen grabrail

Screen
Windscreen (3 piece curved)

Seats
Lounge rear folding small
Seat pedestals (2)
Skipper folddown seats (2)
Transom backrest

Steering
Steering mechanical non return
4:1 ratio
Steering wheel

FWF STANDARD FEATURES

Bimini and envelope
Cargo/luggage netting fitted
Front clears
Radio GX600 VHF AE50 fitted
Paint 435 – 460 Hull Two Tone
Rails low split bowrail with bowroller
Rails full length siderails
Seat upgrade 2 skip – 2 premiers
Shrinkwrapping
HDS-5X Pro Fishfinder
Upgrade hyd steer 430 Escape
Canopy 430 Estuary Angler
Quintrex demo decal combined
Radio GX300 27 MHz AE66 Fitted
Motor Fit 30–40hp
Fusion MSRA200 Speakers 200 W
Prop Upgrade
High split bowrail
Side Clears 430 Escape
Seat upgrade
Elite-5x Fishfinder
Storm Cover 430 Estuary Angler
Travel Cover 430 Escape

The boat opens fishing options for the die hard and weekend angler alike.

The deck is well laid out for popular fishing pursuits.

and ending up with water coming over the bow.

The beauty of operating a smaller vessel means there are fewer issues with trailering and launching at many of our boat ramps. The boat is a breeze to tow for most vehicle makes and models and, at a total length of 5.4 m on the trailer, this is an easy boat to store at home.

Deck Layout, Fishability and Comfort

The design of the deck layout makes this boat feel a lot bigger than it really is. Quintrex has developed a spacious rear deck to cover many options for the small water single and family angler. Having a small family, I appreciated the open nature of the deck and ample storage options at the stern and sides (side pockets) of the boat. The deck area has not been cluttered with seating. This does not mean there are inadequate seating arrangements. Fishing partners and family will be happy with the swivel front seats and comfy rear lounge seat. The rear lounge seat also does a good job of separating the deck area from rear stowed items such as fuel tanks. The rear seat conveniently folds up and is removable, which means you can open up the deck to further fishing space if required.

The cabin area sports a new look dash, controls and swivel seats. The dash is made of ABS plastic and features an efficient, modern look. The redesigned dash is lighter and now contains more storage area for personal items. It even comes equipped with comfort items such as drink holders! The skipper's domain is suitably sized to enable the vessel to be operated from a seated or standing position. There is plenty of leg room when operating the vessel from a seated position. Key control points are all comfortably reached from the position of the helm. This includes access to the throttle and the anchor well, which is reached by swinging back the windscreen.

The deck displays necessary safety features such as rails at the rear and front of the hull. The transom step makes getting in and out of boat

The hull offers great stability at rest.

a lot easier following a swim. The extended pod at the stern makes walking around the motor easy.

The saying of 'big little boat' befits the spacious perception you have when wetting a line from inside this vessel. The deck layout is well designed to suit the types of fishing many weekend and family anglers are likely to pursue. Whether drifting with baits out the back, casting lures, at anchor for a spot of baitfishing or trolling in the fresh or salt, this deck will facilitate it all. The hull provides good stability for occupants. This is important when taking the family or uncoordinated fishing mates for a day on the water. We put our 'big kid', *Yak Fisher* editor Rob Maya, on the gunwales and she hardly tipped the scales!

Options

The 430 Escape comes with several standard and optional extras. Optional items worth considering include the bimini and envelope, front or side clears and hydraulic steering.

Summary

Observing the new range of Quintrex hulls reveals they are certainly living up to reputation. If you are looking for a new tinny, then I recommend looking at the 'new look' tinnies in the Quintrex range. If you are after a smaller style tinny, then the 430 Escape is as big a small boat as you will find. The running costs, ride and fishing options available in this package make it very attractive.

FWF PACKAGES

At the time of writing, Cunninghams Marine in Brisbane was offering on water package deals with either Vortex or Mercury 40hp outboards from $16,200 to $19,780 respectively. For further information on current options, head to the Quintrex website at *www.quintrex.com.au*