Quintrex 430 Escape

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

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 unsuit 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 36–40hp 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 crest 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.

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 stem 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length Overall (m)</td>
<td>4.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length bow to transom (m)</td>
<td>4.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beam (m)</td>
<td>1.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depth (m)</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length on trailer (m)</td>
<td>5.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height on trailer (m)</td>
<td>1.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottomsides (mm)</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topsides (m)</td>
<td>1.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transom material (mm) 2.00
Transom shaft length L/S
Weight (boat only) (kg) 272
Rac hp 30 (22 kW)
Max hp 40 (30 kW)
Max main motor weight (kg) 120
Number of people 4
Max load (base) (kg) 480
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 angle 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 naturally 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 a lot easier following a swim. The extended floor at the stern makes working around the motor easier.

The saying of ‘big little boat’ belies 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 bathing or fishing 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’, Yaki 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 clear 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’ tinny 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 an 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