

Yellowfin revamps plate boat line-up

The revamped Yellowfin boat range delivers a tough Aussie-built offshore plate boat as part of the Quintrex brand.

SCOTT THOMAS REPORTS



ABOVE: Perfect conditions for testing the new series of boats from Yellowfin.

RIGHT: Evinrude's G2 range of outboards are a good match for the boats and have plenty of power!



YELLOWFIN re-launched its range of offshore plate boats at a recent Queensland media event.

The Yellowfin name dates back to the late 1980s and early '90s before the boats made a comeback with a re-release in 2009. Moving forward to 2016 and the brand now comes under the Quintrex name and will be sold throughout its nationwide network of dealers.

The line-up comes in four sizes - 5800, 6200, 6700 and 7400 - in both hard top and soft top configurations, making it eight models in total.

Yellowfin is hoping to capitalise on its strong Aussie-built reputation and will complement the Quintrex brand with this range of serious offshore boats.

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The models feature 6mm plate bottomsides, 5mm transom and 4mm sides, except for the 5800 with 5mm plate bottoms. A 19 degree variable deadrise ensures a soft landing and stability at rest.

A new hull design sees Yellowfin modify its transom and extend the waterline length. This, according to Yellowfin, gives it more lift and allows for larger and heavier outboards. Most of the test boats available were fitted with Evinrude's G2 E-TEC which sit further back on the transom to free up space on the duckboard.

The solid construction process features a sub frame rib structure. This "milk crate" structure is made up of longitudinal and latitudinal ribs of 6mm vertical stringers and 5mm horizontal ribs. The floor is a fully welded checker plate floor and its self draining with a no-return scupper system. The range features basic floatation.

Other new features include water deflectors on the side deck, a concealed control box at the helm and a fully-welded alloy anchor well. The hard top windscreen comes with hardened glass and the helm sits low, which caters for shorter users and overall better vision at sea.

Under the cabin, the extra long bunks means this is more than just simple storage space. The 5800 features a 1.8 metre bunk, while all the other models stretch out to 2 metres, meaning there's enough space for sleeping.

New options include a drum winch, LED lighting, seat boxes, and cabin bunk infill, plus all the usual electronics options. On that note, the test

boats all featured Simrad electronics and the helm area has enough dash space for 12 inch units.

Fishing features

The range caters well for the serious offshore fishos. Things like large capacity fuel tanks, kill tanks, live well with glass window, ample rod holders, large dash space for electronics and high sides make the Yellowfin a suitable option for offshore use.

The 110 litre kill tank would hold a decent size fish, or if you refer, it can be converted to a long-range fuel tank.

The range features five "reel easy" rocket launcher style rod holders on the hardtop. This clever design, seen on other Quintrex boats, features a folding mechanism which makes reaching for the rod a whole lot easier, especially for the vertically challenged!

Optional ice boxes under the helm and passenger seats are a good use of space and double as seating for additional passengers.



LEFT: The latest Yellowfin release features four models all suitable for serious offshore work.

On the water

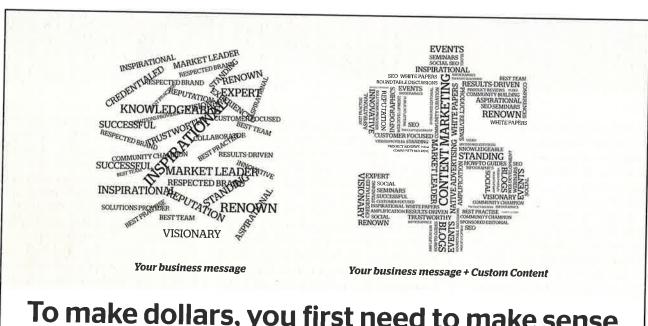
A big swell and limited time meant a serious day's fishing was off the agenda. However, big seas equalled perfect boat testing conditions and the new line-up didn't disappoint. Fishing World spent most of the day onboard the 5800 and 7400. The smallest boat in the range, the 5800 handled the rough conditions better than expected. The hulls were noticeably quiet through the chop and despite the nasty conditions, we set a reasonable pace in comfort. Stability at rest was good in the challenging conditions.

With a starting price of \$57,636 fitted with a 115hp E-TEC, it's well worth a look if you're in the market for a plate boat of this size.

The 7400, Yellowfin's largest boat in the range, was also noticeably quiet and as expected featured loads of space in the cockpit and cabin. Being such a big boat and featuring the same thoughtout design and tough heavy duty build, the 7400 ate up the sea! The stability at rest was good and the 730mm high sides gave us an extra measure of security in the rough. The 7400 starts at \$71,628 fitted with a 130hp E-TEC.

The range comes in five colours: Mica Grey, Ocean Blue, Carmine, Jet Black, and white. All boats feature Yellowfin's striking new graphics.

Check them out at www.quintrex.com.au and visit www.fishingworld.com.au for a video showing the boats in action off Mooloolaba.



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