

YELLOWFIN

6700 and 7400

BOATREVIEW

SAMMY HITZKE

SAMMY HITZKE TAKES THE LATEST OFFSHORE RIGS FROM YELLOWFIN OUT ON THE WATER AND PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF WHAT'S IN STORE FOR POTENTIAL OWNERS.

YELLOWFIN 6700 AND 7400

Australia's iconic name in boating, Quintrex, recently relaunched its new and excitingly fishable range of Yellowfin offshore plate boats. The big brothers of the fleet, the 6700 and 7400, are set to become a very popular choice for fisho's looking for the perfect offshore vessel, whose capability and comfort leave nothing to be desired. Matched with any of the new colour schemes, not to mention the powerful Evinrude G2, heads are sure to turn when either of these bad boys roll up to the boat ramp. Good looks aside, there is no shortage of nifty features and ingenious ingenuity that will make any day on the water an absolute pleasure, so let's have a closer look at what makes the 6700 and 7400 such a standout performer.

HULL PERFORMANCE

The Yellowfin range hosts an all new hull design ensuring the latest in boating performance technology has been incorporated to provide a smooth, safe ride for the captain and crew. The 6 mm plate bottom sheets, 5 mm transom and 4 mm sides make for tank-like toughness from the hull, while the new design allows for more lift on the run and accommodates larger, heavier outboards so you'll never run out of power. It also aids in creating a very stable and buoyant fishing platform that still effortlessly cuts through chop and swell, a very rare trait in a lot of plate boats. The 6700 and 7400 models boast a large 730 mm of freeboard which comes into its own when there is a bit of slop around or if you have to reverse down hard on a fish.



SF STANDARD FEATURES

- Kill tank plus livewell
- Deckwash
- Transom door
- Self draining decks
- Burley bucket
- 'Reel easy' rod holders on hard top models

SF OPTIONAL FEATURES

- Additional 75L fuel capacity (replaces kill tank)
- Cabin carpet
- Anchor winch
- Hardtop LED lighting kit



So how does it ride? Well, I was lucky enough to test drive one of these fishing machines in far from perfect conditions, on a day where most boat owners would have been happy to be heading to the office for work. Large swells and 15 to 20 knot winds provided the perfect opportunity to really put the hull design through its paces. The 6700 and 7400 both took the conditions in their stride, charging through the steep swells with ease and all the while hardly dropping off the plane. At rest they were still stable enough to walk around in unassisted as a result of no violent pitching or rolling that I would expect from similar riding hulls. Usually I find there a definite compromise between ride and stability but it seems the Yellowfin range have found the perfect combination.

For a boat over seven metres the 7400 was still remarkably agile and with the help of the 250hp Evinrude G2 got up out of the hole impressively fast. This boat's performance had me thinking it would be the perfect extended trip vessel that could be taken almost anywhere and get you back again even if the weather changed its mind mid-trip.

What I found most impressive however was through all the chop and swell that we hit on the test drive, not once were my ears greeted with the trademark 'bang' of the hull slapping down on the water that plate boats are traditionally famous for. In fact, there was a complete lack of 'banging' at all. The high-density foam floatation the hull is filled with, incorporated with the hull design, makes for a remarkably soft ride not dissimilar to that of a big glass boat.

The big reverse chimes also hold their own, deflecting spray wanting to come over the bow. Given the conditions though, we did have a few waves that threatened to douse the boat. The large cabin meant we were never in any danger of dampening our clothes, but the captain did have to flick the windscreen wiper switch a couple of times to clear the glass. I would suspect in calmer conditions the spray would not present the slightest issue, but it's good to know that even in the rough stuff you're not going to be getting wet.

INTERNALS

Available in both hard and soft top options the Yellowfin boats have all the mod-cons a fisho would ever hope for or need. The spacious cabin keeps skipper and crew dry in all-weather from sea spray to driving rain, while the large rear decks offer plenty of room to move around once it comes time to fish. The checker plate floor drains water quickly through the scupper holes at the back of the boat and the deck wash is easily accessible should the need arise to clean the floors or wash an area down. There is also a large livewell and kill tank for storing bait or your catch, but if the kill tank isn't required customers can opt for an additional 75L of fuel. That's on top of the 200L the 6700 has and 250L the 7400 has below the deck. Nonetheless, it's a very handy option for those who plan on making a lot of long-range trips.

As far as electronics go, Yellowfin have chosen to kit out their range with all the latest units from Simrad and Lowrance, with ample room to flush mount units straight onto the dash.

The main storage areas are featured under the front bunks with deep Roto tubs under each, capable of holding large amounts of gear. There is also the option of having seat boxes installed which allow esky's or storage boxes to be placed under the seats. This presents an excellent opportunity to keep eskys out of the fishing area at the back of the boat or to serve as a food/drinks cold storage.

FISHABILITY

While the 6700 and 7400 may be a great boat to take the family on a lovely day out to Tangalooma wrecks, their full potential isn't reached until it comes to the serious hardcore fishing trips these beasts are capable of. To say they were constructed with fishermen in mind would be a huge understatement. The first thing that struck my fancy was the enormous, uninterrupted rear deck space. There is nothing to get in the way, just open space for you and your crew to go their hardest. I would have no dramas comfortably fishing 2 people from each side of the 6700 and 3 a side in the 7400. Trust me; there is a lot of room back there.

Rod storage is also a non-issue for those among us who like to be prepared for any situation, with 18 rod holders on the 7400 and 16 on the 6700. That's enough room for everyone's rods to be up off the deck and out of harm's way. It's also great if you want to fish from outriggers and troll multiple outfits during the game fishing season. The full deck length side pockets also allow for storage of any long gafts or tag poles (and much more) if you manage to fill all the rod holders.

The bait board sits at the back of the boat and extends out over the duck board so to not cut into any deck space, this is a great addition for bait or rod rigging as well as some light filleting work should the need arise out on the water. It also adds an additional place to hold five of the rod holders which is a great use of space.

The front of the boat doesn't offer a great deal in the way of fishing room, but what it does offer is grab rails the whole way around. If you needed to chase a fish around the front or required access to the anchor there is plenty to hang onto to make the task a lot safer.


From a fishing standpoint, the Yellowfin boats would equally be at home gamefishing as they would be sending some baits down for red emperor. With the addition of the large two metre bunks tucked in under the front, they also fit the mould as a great option for extended trips or an overnigher out on the reef.

SUMMARY

The Yellowfin 6700 and the 7400 are outstanding fishing vessels ready take you there and get you home in style and comfort. They have cut no corners when it comes to

fishability but are equally at home taking the family out for a relaxing day on the water.

Available with almost endless upgrade options, the Yellowfin Plate boats can be decked out to your heart's content, leaving you with the ultimate fishing vessel. If you're in the market for a new rig, make sure you test ride a Yellowfin, I have no doubt you'll be impressed.

Both models are available as a ready to fish package with boat, motor and trailer. For more information, visit the Quintrex website on www.quintrex.com.au and follow the links to the Yellowfin page. 

Sammy Hitzke is Brisbane based fisho, working in the Western Australian Pilbara region. He fishes his way up and down the East coast as well as the Wild West. Sammy specialises in land based and inshore fishing, but has been known to have a crack at just about anything that swims and even waves a wand around from time to time. Sammy is Prostaff for Lowrance, Mako Eyewear, EJ Todd and Departure Co.

