



Boat Test – Dom Wiseman

# Pocket Bluewater Battler

Sailfish cats, noted for their larger boat builds, has stepped down into the trailer fisher market and designed and built a boat in the sub-6m category, capable of off-shore running with ease



**S**ailfish is a leading aluminium cat hull manufacturer based at Alstonville on the NSW North Coast, and has been producing impressive larger boats for 17 years. Sailfish has now taken all their skills and knowledge and turned it all into the new Sailfish Reef Runner, a 5.6m twin hull offshore fishing boat.

This boat, for Sailfish anyway, is an entry level package. But in terms of the standard fittings, finish and space, there is nothing entry level about it. The 5.6m length coupled with a healthy beam of 2.45m creates a cavernous space in the boat. The internal design takes into account fishing space, and maximises it with neat placement of all the helm

and storage, leaving a floor space in the cockpit measuring 2.05m wide x 1.75m bow to stern. It's enough to sleep in if need be, and certainly enough to accommodate many fishing mates.

This boat is not quite a cuddy cabin, with the forward storage compartments separated on either side by a walk-through design offering access to the anchor and bow area. There is no need to go outside the boat to deploy the pick which we think is a great safety feature for those looking to drop anchor well out to sea. The walkthrough is wide, so nobody should have trouble fitting through.

To the port and starboard side of the walk-through are storage spaces which would accommodate a veritable

Aladdin's cave of boating paraphernalia such as lifejackets, fishing gear and the kids if they get irritating.

Moving back into the boat, the helm is positioned forward to maximise cockpit space. The throttle controls sit on the dash, just to the right of the steering wheel. They are comfortable to handle when underway, and you can drive with one hand on the throttle and one on the wheel in any difficult situations.

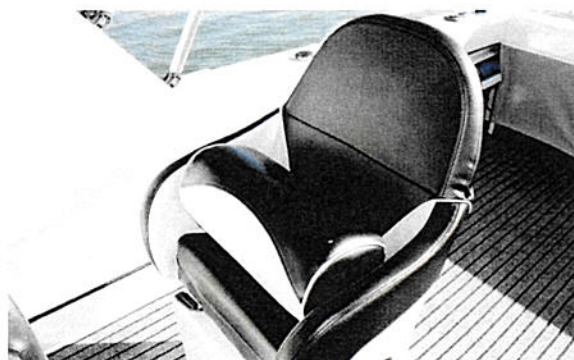
The gauges for each engine are separated by a Garmin touch screen sounder/GPS which is NMEA compatible, offering full engine readout on the fly. This unit is actually a standard fitting along with the bolster seats, which are very handy when you

The Reef Runner is striking with its silver painted sides.



The dash layout is neat and allows access to all controls easily.

The deluxe helm seat bolster creates space for anyone wanting to stand while driving.



wish to stand and drive. Storage bins, cutting board and deck wash are all also standard as is a folding rocket launcher capable of accommodating six of your favourite fishing rods.

room here for more – you guessed it – fishing rods. It is primarily an offshore fishing boat after all.

Sailfish cats come equipped with Honda engines as standard, and the

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Back in the cockpit, which is no doubt where many would spend most of their time, the freeboard is healthy with anglers able to stand and lean up against the gunwale comfortably. The high sides feel safe and there is no threat of water slopping over the sides. The floor is carpeted throughout and storage shelves run down the port and starboard sides. There is also additional

Reef Runner coupled with twin Honda four-stroke 60hp provides solid performance. Despite misconceptions about four-stroke engines, Honda 60s provide good low down torque and can get the Reef Runner onto the plane in a snap. The top end speed is adequate for offshore use where conditions will often mean running flat out is an uncomfortable and unnecessary

#### FUEL CONSUMPTION

Rab Revs	Knots	L/HR per hour per engine
2000	6.2	3.4
2500	7.3	3.8
3000	12	4.9
3500	14	6.8
4000	18.3	7.5
4500	21.5	9.4
5000	25.8	12.5
5500	29	17.0
5850	32	22.7

way to travel most of the time. There is an option for 75hp Honda engines but unless you have an extended run through very sheltered waters before hitting the ocean, I wouldn't bother.

The hull design on the Sailfish compliments these engines well, and looking at the hulls while on the trailer, it is easy to see why. On each hull a strake runs from the front to keep the spray deflected down and away from the boat. It also provides a small but effective flat surface which helps the hull rise onto the plane quickly and efficiently.

**Twin hulls such as the Sailfish offer additional benefits that cannot be ignored**

Twin hulls such as the Sailfish offer additional benefits that cannot be ignored. There is the obviously safety factor of twin engines. In the event that one engine fails, there is always a

spare to get you home safely and for offshore fishermen, this provides plenty of comfort.

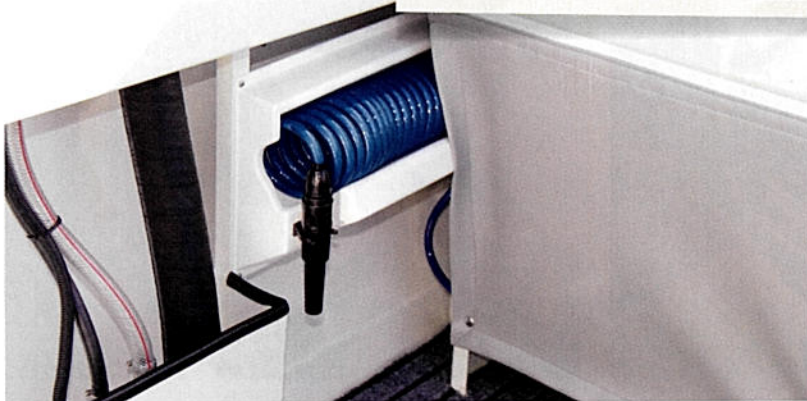
Twin hulls also offer added stability, and the Reef Runner is no exception. The wide beam and separated hulls sit on the water evenly, and even with several mates leaning to one side of the boat, there will not be any dangerous tipping or rocking.

Finally, fuel consumption is exceptional. The beauty of two engines is that you need less effort and horsepower to get the hull moving.

For anyone considering a knock-about aluminium offshore fishing boat, the Reef Runner is definitely worth checking out. The space offered in this package coupled with the safety factors alone would be enough to ensure



Massive and deep cockpit space is perfect for offshore use.

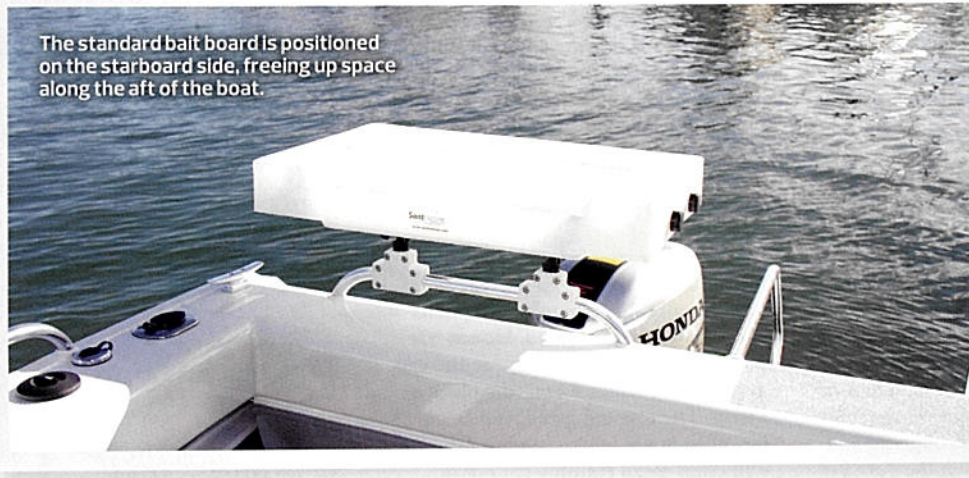


The standard deck wash is a handy addition to a well balanced package and will help keep the boat clean, even after years of use.

**SAILFISH REEF RUNNER**

**Specifications**

- LOA: 5.6m
- Recommended horsepower: Two 60hp Honda four-stroke
- Maximum horsepower: Two 75hp Honda four-stroke
- Fuel: 140p side
- Range: (with two 60hp Honda four-stroke) 579km at 4500RPM
- Contact: Webbe Marine 9524 7944
- [www.webbemarine.com.au](http://www.webbemarine.com.au)



The standard balt board is positioned on the starboard side, freeing up space along the aft of the boat.

it is on the list of many boat buyers. The guys at Webbe Marine also offer great service and a friendly family deal which will ensure your ownership runs smoothly for many years to come.

Priced from just under \$80,000 you are getting what we would term a 'little big boat'. Small enough to handle easily but featuring the amount of space and safety you would generally find at the bigger end of town. All this on trailer and ready to go.

