



BOAT PROFILE

SHANE MENSFORTH

YELLOWFIN 6200 AND 6700

Big plate alloy boats have made a strong come back in recent times.

As **Shane Mensforth** reports, the latest offering from Yellowfin looks set to make its mark very quickly.

Queensland-based plate aluminium manufacturer Yellowfin Boats has decided to expand its range of with the reintroduction of the 6200 and 6700 models. That brand name may sound familiar to some, as Quintrex originally marketed Yellowfin boats back

in the late 1980s. They were big, bold offshore craft that were well received by blue water anglers then and the new generation Yellowfins are set to enjoy similar popularity now.

There are three sizes – 5.7m, 6.2m and 6.7m – and two optional configurations – centre console



The 6700 Centre Console has an enormous amount of deck space and is an impressive hull to look at.



The 6700 Cabin version.

demo day – perfect conditions in which to test boats aimed at the offshore market.

Yellowfin 6700

We were given a couple of Yellowfin 6700s to test – a cabin version and a centre console. Both were powered by 200hp Mercury Optimax outboards. Finished in striking red with eye-catching striping, the centre console (CC) is certainly a handsome craft to look at. As you could imagine, there's an enormous amount of deck space available in a centre

console of this size and you could fish half a dozen comfortably. This would make the ideal rig for island hopping in the Tropics or a great flats fly fishing platform.

The 6700C features a good sized cabin with 1.8 metre berths and plenty of head room. This doesn't detract from cockpit space, however, and the boat still offers enough area for four anglers to operate without falling over each other. I really like the broad gunwale coamings, which are handy to sit on while you're waiting for a bite and also provide handy cover for items stored in the side pockets.

Standard features in the 6700C, and indeed across the whole Yellowfin range, include berley bucket, alloy cutting board, outrigger mounting plates, self draining deck, plumbed live bait tank, transom door and four rod holders. It's a package that really doesn't need to be expanded for efficient offshore fishing. A fuel capacity of 250 litres will provide a very useful offshore operating range, particularly with direct injected two stroke or four stroke motor installations. There are a few optional extras available, of course, which include bimini top, deck wash, two tone hull paint, seat cabin cushions, bunk in-fill, GME VHF radio and two additional rod holders.

Lastly, on the subject of rod holders, the cabin version has an impressive 15 rod holders, (four in the boat, five on the cutting board and six on the rocket launcher).

SF SPECIFICATIONS

Beam	2.40m
Depth	1.20m
Bottomsides	5.00mm
Topsides	4.00mm
Maximum HP	250HP
Length Overall	7.44m
Length Bow-Transom	6.80m
Deadrise at Transom	20°
Length on Trailer	7.8m
Height on Trailer	2.9m
Number of people	7

SF STANDARD FEATURES

- Medium Burley Bucket Kit
- Alloy Cutting Board with 5 Rod Holders
- Outrigger Mounting Plates on Side Decks
- Rod Holders x 4 (on boat)
- Twin Battery Box & switch
- Self Draining Treadplate Floor
- 250lt Fuel Tank
- Centre Console
- 135lt Plumbed Kill Tank
- 65lt Plumbed Live Bait Tank
- Rear Ladder
- Side Pockets
- 12 VT power outlet in dash
- Hydraulic Steering
- Transom Door
- 3 Year Warranty

SF OPTIONAL FEATURES

- Bimini
- Deck Wash
- Two Tone Hull Paint
- Seat Cabin Cushions
- Bunk Infill Cushion
- GX600 VHF Radio
- Extra Rod Holders x 2

full cabin. All are designed specifically for the sportfishing market, but it's the 6200 and 6700 that will grab the attention of those who regularly blast ashore to chase billfish, tuna and other pelagic speedsters. The 6700 will make a great rig for snapper fishing in Port Phillip or Whyalla and, in the centre console version, a terrific Territory boat.

I was fortunate enough to be taken to the Gold Coast in mid-October for the official launch of the Yellowfins. Unlike most launch media days, this incorporated some offshore fishing, so I was more than happy to be involved. I had never fished off the Gold Coast before and although we only had half a day, I was really looking forward to the experience.

All three Yellowfin models are constructed with 5mm aluminium bottoms and 4mm topsides, which means they should be pretty well unbreakable. Sub-deck construction is super tough and the hulls display a high level of rigidity, which was obvious during our testing session outside the Southport Seaway. We had 15-20 knots of southerly wind and about two metres of swell for the

The 6200 is a great offshore hull that doesn't require a 4WD to tow it.



The 6200 was powered by a 175HP Optimax.



Yellowfin 6200

The Yellowfin 6200 is a model that will appeal to many, as it's not so big as to require a four wheel drive tow vehicle, yet has the size and capabilities to venture a good distance offshore. Again, we had a centre console and cabin version to play with and both were outstanding. They were fitted with 175hp Merc Optimax engines, which are maximum recommended horse power for the hull. Despite the combination of wind and swell, we were able to punch 20 kilometres offshore to some deep water snapper grounds. Our fishing guide for the day was Doug Burt, who owns a Tackle World store on the Gold Coast and really knows his local waters well.

The transom deadrise of 20 degrees on the 6200 (and, in fact, on all three hulls) ensures the ride is quite soft and a fine entry at the bow makes for very comfortable head sea running. Sea conditions for our trip out to Doug Burt's snapper grounds were very sloppy, but we were able to maintain 20-22 knots without getting wet or being banged around. The sea was beam on with plenty of white caps and the 6200C's general handling for the 45 minute ride

SF SPECIFICATIONS

Beam	2.40m
Depth	1.20m
Bottomsides	5.00mm
Topsides	4.00mm
Maximum HP	200HP
Length Overall	6.94m
Length Bow-Transom	6.30m
Deadrise at Transom	20°
Length on Trailer	7.3m
Height on Trailer	2.7m
Number of people	7

was very impressive. Both the 6200 centre console and cabin versions come with 200 litre under-floor fuel tanks.

The self draining cockpit design in each model is excellent, with box-style scuppers that won't allow water intrusion, even while backing up into the sea. There's nothing worse than sea water sloshing in through the transom while you're reversing down on a good fish and this certainly won't happen with the Yellowfin scupper system. Construction on each of the boats I tested was excellent and supports the three year warranty offered by Yellowfin.

The Yellowfins are available through selected dealers, who will stock a mixture of cabin

SF STANDARD FEATURES

- Medium Burley Bucket Kit
- Alloy Cutting Board with Rod Holders
- Outrigger Mounting Plates on Side Decks
- Rod Holders x 4
- Twin Battery Box & switch
- Self Draining Treadplate Floor
- 200lt Fuel Tank
- Centre Console
- 135lt Plumbed Kill Tank
- 65lt Plumbed Live Bait Tank
- Rear Ladder
- Side Pockets
- 12 VT power outlet in dash
- Hydraulic Steering
- Transom Door
- 3 Year Warranty

and centre console models. Recommended retail prices hadn't been set at the time of writing, but I know Yellowfin is keen to bring in all three models at prices below most of the comparable opposition.

There's no doubt these boats have a big future here and it's nice to see the Yellowfin name back. **SF**

SF OPTIONAL FEATURES

- Bimini
- Deck Wash
- Two Tone Hull Paint
- Seat Cabin Cushions
- Bunk Infil Cushion
- GX600 VHF Radio
- Extra Rod Holders x 2