

# The Yellowfin Return

Watch out – the yellowfin are back – the great plate alloy range that comes with the assurance of top level offshore fishing capacity and construction. JAMES HILL reports.



**A**ny boaties with reasonably long memories will remember the name of Yellowfin. If you could remember the 1980s you'd know they were Australia's first, truly serious offshore fishing machine and the dream-machine for many a young angler.

Two decades later the famous name is back and once young anglers can now fulfil those dreams of owning a Yellowfin. The brand is back better than ever with state-of-the-art construction and design.

Backed by the mighty Telwater group who also builds Quintrex and Stacer boats, these new Yellowfins are a brand new, very impressive range of plate alloy boats.

In one of the most important marine launches this year Telwater unveiled the fully-fledge range to media in August on the Gold Coast.

I was one of the lucky journos to sample test the new Yellowfins and take them fishing offshore. These are different hulls from the old, but do share the legendary attributes of seagoing ability and tough construction.



# INTERESTING BOATS



Fishing 20km offshore in less than pleasant conditions we certainly got a good idea of these new Yellow models. In a nutshell, they're quite possibly the best handling and riding conventional alloy boats we've come across. That's high praise indeed, but they do seem to be very soft riding and nice handling boats in open water.

Most interestingly, the Telwater design team has gone for a fairly proven style of hull. Basically, it's a deep Vee hull with plenty of beam and generous freeboard.

Operating in the 620 Centre Console model I was exposed to weather more than most of our party. Sure we did cop a bit of spray over the rails at times, but nothing like what you'd expect in most console boats.

The key design ingredients seem to be the blend of deep bow entry and the smooth, no strakes bottom backed up by reasonably large reverse chines back aft. The back of the boat shows a 20-degree deep deadrise, flanked by a semi gullwing profile. It's this mix of design features that makes the Yellowfin such a nice performer in open water.

One also has to praise the reasonable stability of these Yellowfins offshore. They weren't pleasant conditions, but the boats felt stable – especially the console model with its low centre of gravity. I was also impressed with how the boat kept us pretty dry when we just drift fishing.

The super practical layout ensures there's plenty of space to move about. Also console models have bum-bolsters to lean against when fishing the cockpit.

These plate alloy boats are certainly built with strength in mind and feature a welded sub-frame and self-draining treadplate floor.

There's initially three hull models (5.7m, 6.2m and 6.7m) in choice of either cuddy, or centre console configuration. Meanwhile, there's a generous 2.4m beam and 1.2m hull depth.

I really like the wide centre consoles with their handy storage solutions, plenty of dash space for electronics and added security of a lockable front storage compartment.

Behind the two-person helm seat there's a rack for storing four rods, while under the seat is a large 103-litre esky

box – perfect for the cold drinks or fresh fish fillets!

Other goodies on the Yellowfin include a transom berley bucket, raised cutting board, twin battery box, large in-floor kill tank and rear live bait tank with clear perspex cover.

It goes almost without saying that the Yellowfins come with a high equipment level, which includes a painted hull and hydraulic steering. The brand is also backed with a three-year hull warranty.

We hope to have some full tests in future issues and hear more about these boats from the tournament scene. Prices weren't available at time of publishing, but it was expected they'd be 'competitive' with existing brands. Most importantly, these boats will be sold as ready-to-go packages through an established dealer network just like Quintrex and Stacer boats.

**Further information:**  
[www.yellowfinboats.com.au](http://www.yellowfinboats.com.au)

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