



BOAT TEST

Warren Steptoe

"Above the deck is where the new Yellowfins shine brightest"



A red, 6.7m, centre console Yellowfin has a high altitude cool-factor.

A 20-degree deadrise at the transom and fairly fine bows ensure a smooth offshore ride.



The rebirth of Yellowfin

A sportfishing legend rejoins the party at the right time for boat anglers

BACK IN the '80s, Yellowfin boats were about the coolest trailerable sportfishers around. This was because sport and gamefisher Wayne Osborne fed up with not being able to buy a properly set up fishing boat, decided to build his own.

In an era when boat builders usually made weak excuses as to why they didn't build boats that were better for fishing, or denied people who fish had any idea what a good fishing boat was, Wayne built fishing boats that would still rate highly today.

Yellowfin boats have always been built from what is commonly (and erroneously) known as 'plate' aluminium. In some ways it's not the best stuff to build boat hulls from, but plate aluminium does make rug-

ged boats able to withstand bad ramps, bad roads and lots of hard use. Plate is also easy to customise and thus has become the material of choice for boutique boat builders and demanding customers with strong ideas about how they want their boat.

Unfortunately though, the boutique one-man operations and mid-sized quality production builders were among the most deeply impacted sectors of the Australian boating industry when the global financial crisis struck.

Today, their ranks are in tatters with few survivors among some of the best fishing boats and most genuinely nice boat makers you'd ever meet. It's very sad.

How all this relates to Yellowfin is the interesting part. Wayne's original Yellowfin



Navico recommends the Lowrance HDS-7 Fishfinder/GPS Chartplotter for the Yellowfin 6700 CC.

LOWRANCE®

company wobbled along through the usual ups and downs for many years before ending up as part of Quintrex.

Here for a few years, the marque found a spiritual home before corporate changes gradually softened the hard edge of innovative focus Yellowfin had always been known for and it faded from the scene.

Today Quintrex itself is one of several well-known brands built at Coomera on the Gold Coast by parent company Telwater.

Just when some of the best plate marques had disappeared into economic doom, we're presented with a sensibly limited range of very good plate fishing boats in the best tradition of a brand that was once an icon.

The reborn Yellowfins are new hull designs which, having spent two days at sea in them

YELLOWFIN 6700 CENTRE CONSOLE

RPM	SPEED	FUEL BURN
1000	5.5 knots	2.7 litres/h
2000	8.8 knots	8.9 litres/h
3000	24.2 knots	19.7 litres/h
4000	32.1 knots	32.8 litres/h
5000	39.2 knots	52.2 litres/h
5700	43.9 knots	74.9 litres/h

SPECIFICATIONS

Material:	plate aluminium
Hull length:	6.80m
Length overall:	7.44m
Beam:	2.40m
Hull weight:	960kg
BMT towing weight:	approx. 2000kg
Hull deadrise:	20-degrees
Power during test:	200hp
Max power:	225hp
Recommended power:	200hp
Fuel:	250L
Max persons:	7
Price as tested:	\$76,900
Website:	www.yellowfinboats.com.au

now, rate alongside the very best handling and riding plate-boats I've tested.

Attractive sharply raked bows with 20-degree deadrise transoms mean the Yellowfins ride as well as a plate hull can.

The outboard sits on a pod integrated into the transom with a small outside deck each side, while the side sheets undercut from these forward to the chines. The new Yellowfins look fantastic.

A below-decks gridded stringer system affords impressive structural integrity in a genre known for it. I am somewhat ambivalent about checkerplate decks, but carpet is an option. Above the deck is where plate boats win or lose people who fish, and it's here the new Yellowfins shine brightest.

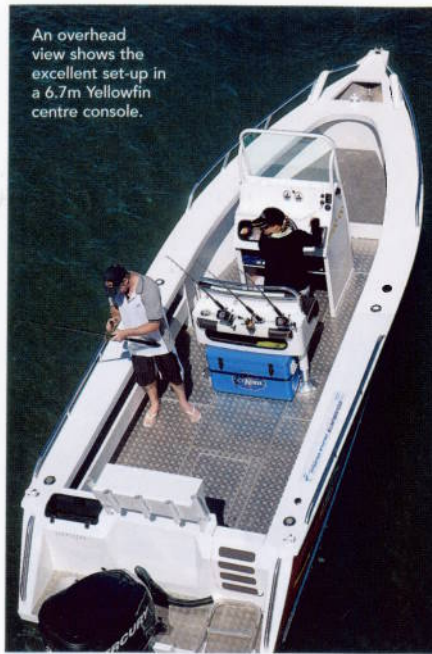
The range consists of three sizes: 5.7, 6.2 and 6.7m in length respectively, and there's a choice between centre console and cuddy cabin configurations.

Aft of where the cabin rises from the side decks, the cockpits in both models are identical. Features include an in-deck fish pit (which drains overboard), a transom door and boarding ladder, a livewell in the aft bulkhead and a central work station perched above a built-in locker.

Cabin models have a Spartan interior with carpeted stowage lockers filling the bows. Behind that a pair of armchair-style bucket seats sit atop another pair of lockers.

In the cabin models, I thought the all-

An overhead view shows the excellent set-up in a 6.7m Yellowfin centre console.



important grab bars across the cabin top in front of the passenger were well done. But an otherwise great console lacks a properly sited horizontal bar for passengers to secure themselves on rough water.

The centre consoles have a well-thought-out seating arrangement with a leaning bolster including spacious stowage, a rack holding four rigged rods and a big icebox underneath between the supports. Forward of the console the deck steps up with space beneath for more stowage. Both configurations have wide side decks overhanging massive side pockets. Being known for disliking side pockets when they protrude past the side decks, I must say these ones are excellent. The stowage is useful and they're not intrusive. The cabin models stow no less than 10 rigged rods without using side-deck rod holders. The consoles stow nine. You can actually carry rigged rods in these boats!

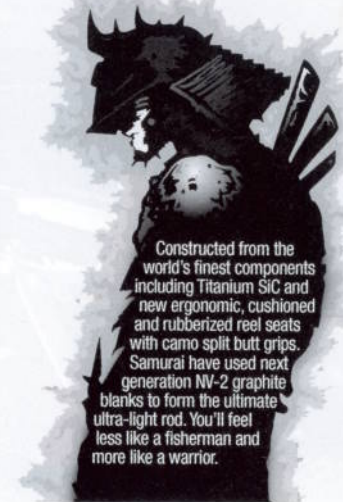
About my only gripes with any of the new Yellowfins are that the fish pit is a bit short to contain a decent wahoo or spaniard; the already mentioned grab bar for the consoles; and I would fit a clip-on vinyl curtain to hide the batteries in the transom.

With the possible exception of the length of the fish pit, which may encounter structural issues to fix, these are all mere niggles. The new Yellowfins come with long standard equipment lists and remarkably short options lists. Outboard, trailer and the all-important electronics choices are wide open. MP

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SAMURAI
Reaction

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Bream 201, 7', Very Fast, 1 piece, rod line class 2-6lb



Bream 203, 7', Medium Fast, 1 piece, rod line class 2-6lb



Snapper 302, 7', Fast, 1 piece, rod line class 6-12lb



Snapper 402, 7', Fast, 2 piece, rod line class 10-20lb



Snapper 502, 7', Fast, 2 piece, rod line class 15-25lb



Bass & Barra 451, 6'6", Very Fast, 2 piece, rod line class 12-20lb



Bass & Barra 351, 6'6", Very Fast, 1 piece, rod line class 10-17lb



Bass & Barra 251, 6'6", Very Fast, 1 piece, rod line class 4-10lb



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