

# BOAT PROFILE

NIGEL WEBSTER



## YELLOWFIN 6700 CABIN

**W**e detailed a boat test of the Yellowfin 5700 Centre Console in last issue of *Sport Fishing Australia* and it has been our pleasure to test her biggest brother for this edition. Amidst some tough economic times, it has been uplifting to see positives in our fishing marketplace. A positive for many anglers has been the re-emergence of the popular Yellowfin brand of boats after many followers watched them disappear from our market place during the 1980s. The Yellowfin name has always been associated with quality and as such, the rebirth of the brand has been met with favour amongst long standing advocates of the brand.

The new look Yellowfin boats have hit the market with a new purpose. The modern boats are designed to be dedicated fishing boats that maintain a design and geometry suited to offshore use.

Market research established that a niche market existed for the small to medium sized range of offshore boats.

The Yellowfin design 'think tank' set about developing a product that satisfied certain criteria. The new boats had to provide exceptional plate boat performance and be constructed so that anglers walking off the street could drive away a vessel with nothing more to add to it than a sounder!

Having tested the new Yellowfin 5700CC (5.7 m Centre Console), I was eager to step into the biggest size of the range and see what the 6700 Cabin product could do!

### Product Objective

Prior to testing a boat, I am always interested in the product objectives. By this, I mean what the design team were setting out to achieve and how the

product then tests against those objectives. The 6700 Cabin has been developed to provide a serious offshore fishing boat. The boat has been developed for anglers that want the option to tackle most offshore possibilities. High on the agenda of objectives included developing a boat that was tough but with a hull that rode well and provided a dry ride. The boat had to be spacious with plenty of well-considered storage space. Marketing considerations included the development of a spacious fishing platform that was easy to operate to make offshore fishing more of a pleasure than a battle. First impressions of the boat on the trailer were that the hull cut an imposing presence with a deep but fine keel and chunky reverse chines. The boat showed off a simple and efficient cabin design, high sides and well thought out transom pod—it looked robust but slick.





## Performance and Ride

The new generation Yellowfin hulls have arrived matching their intent and design considerations. The 6700 Cabin, like all other Yellowfin boats, is made from 4 and 5 mm aluminium. The boat comes with a maximum rating of 250 horsepower. On water tests demonstrate that these boats will push the speedometer to 81.2 km at 5600 rpm with a tested boat weight of 1215 kilograms. The hull design is built to provide a cruising speed around 43.6 km/hr at 3000 rpm and an impressive tested fuel efficiency of 21.3 litres of fuel per hour. The boat is fitted with a 250 litre fuel tank, which opens all the offshore water you want with a 6.7 metre boat.

I tested the 6700 Cabin on a rainy and squally Queensland day. The boat was put through the Gold Coast Seaway entrance into a messy sea which it handled with ease. I was impressed with how dry the ride was in these conditions! Bigger boats are sometimes a bit sluggish to get up on the plane, and this causes me concern when bar crossing. The 6700 Cabin is not afflicted with this issue, and happily leapt out of the hole when the throttle was applied.

The rough sea we used to test the boat provided ample time to test for issues such as keel grab. The hull responded well to turning and cutting across parallel chop without any signs of pulling from my hold. There are plate boats on the market that suffer a continual 'slapping' sound when

punching through sea offshore. The keel and chine arrangement meant the 6700 maintained a smooth ride with any spray water thrown well away from the cabin of the boat. The hydraulic steering made handling the boat a breeze, which makes life so much easier on those long, offshore drives or general handling around the ramp. In the event that I dropped the boat off the plane, the transom pod and high sides ensured water did not get anywhere near internal equipment. The testing process was also made pleasurable by the ergonomic seating arrangements and roomy cabin area. The 1.8 metre bunks make for a spacious resting area when at sea or camping on the water as well as providing added storage space when required.



## Fishability

Key attributes for anglers when fishing offshore include general mobility around a boat, non cluttered fishing space, stability while fishing and ample storage space around your fishing area to keep the process simple. These considerations have all been included in the designs of the 6700 Cabin. The boat provides a well thought out fishing platform for all types of angler. The non-slip flooring, convenient gunwale height and steps in all the required areas make moving and fishing about the boat a breeze. These boats are made to be stable and the boat only provided the slightest lean when I requested two people to stand together on one of the gunwales. The transom area has everything you need at arm's length, and there is a storage space wherever you feasibly need one. Bait boards, shelving, live bait tanks, inbuilt berley bucket, access to the rear pod area and rod holders are all well positioned around the transom. An extended transom pod keeps the motor away from the fishing area and has also been used to hold a solid berley bucket. Offshore fishoes hate the end of day clean, but this boat has been made easy to clean which is worth its weight in gold!

## Yellowfin Design Considerations – Silencing the Critics

Plate boats do come under fire from the critics at times. Common issues include noisy and wet rides, electrolysis and cracks in boats. Having been impressed with what I had seen, I was eager to hear how the design team had dealt with some of these issues. Here is what they had to say!

*Yellowfin plate boats use an extrusion for their keel, chines and*

*gunwales. The benefit of using an extrusion is being able to weld to this extrusion both externally and internally. This creates double, and sometimes triple, welds where the plate enters the extrusion. This process greatly reduces the chance of these welds cracking, but increases the hull's strength and structural integrity. The subframe (underfloor ribbing structure) design on the Yellowfin is the same design used on the original Yellowfin hulls. Aluminium stringers 5.00 mm thick are used to stitch welded longitudinally and latitudinally along the full length of the hull. This is a tried and tested design, with stellar results, providing strength, rigidity and a consistent hull shape.*

*To minimise the risk of electrolysis, the boats are earthed through a single common ground. This method, as recommended by marine electrical engineers, reduces the chances of a charge (current) running through the hull.*

The boats are filled with underfloor foam and this satisfies two functions: it provides basic floatation as a safety precaution, and helps quieten down the hull while underway.

The 5.00 mm thick hull sheets and a 20 degree transom deadrise (which gets sharper towards the bow) provides a quieter and softer ride. The stem line of the new boats was relaxed to provide a sharper look but, more importantly, to create a softer and drier ride. The extruded chines have a wide extension, designed to deflect sharp spray away from the hull while also providing lift in running swells. The hull was also built with a reverse chine not only offering improved stability at rest but also increasing the lift at the transom, which has created a hull that's extremely efficient. For example, the boat will plane quickly and at lower revs and the reverse chines get the boat

## SF SPECIFICATION

### Boat Model – Yellowfin 6700

#### Cabin

Material	– Aluminium
Length Overall	– 7.44 m
Length Bow	– Transom 6.80 m
Transom Angle	– 16 degrees
Deadrise Angle	– 20 degrees
Bottomsides	– 5.00 mm
Topsides	– 4.00 mm
Transom Material	– 5.00 mm
Beam	– 2.40 m
Depth	– 1.20 m
Length on trailer	– 7.80 m
Height on trailer	– 2.7 m

### 6700 Yellowfin Cabin

Transom Shaft Length	– EXLS
Dry Weight (boat only)	– 990 kg
Rec hp	– 200 hp, 149 kW
Max hp	– 250 hp, 186 kW
Fuel Tank Capacity	– 250 L
Steering Type	– Hydraulic steering
Max Main Motor Weight	– 302 kg
Number of People (BASIC)	– 7
Max Load (BASIC)	– 932.00 kg

### Optional Extras Available:

Anchor Winch Plate on bow (starboard side only)
Bimini & Envelope Yellowfin
Deck Wash
Fire Extinguisher Bin
Radio GX600 VHF AE50 Fitted
Paint – Two Tone
Trim Tabs – Lectrotabs
Rear Lounge Fold 3/4 Yellowfin
Rod Holders Stainless Steel (2)
Stress Free Winch

### Fittings

Accessory Kit Large
Anchor Tube (2)
Berley Bucket Medium Kit

Cutting Board Alloy
Drink Holder Cups (2)
EPIRB Bin
Fire Extinguisher Bin
Outrigger Mounting Plates on Cabin Side
Rod Holders S.S. (4)
Twin Battery Box & Switch Qtx
X Bollard On Front Deck (2)
X Bollard Transom Corners (2)
FLOOR
Self Draining Floor Treadplate
FUELTANK
Fuel Tank (250 L)

### HULL

Anchorwell
Casting Platform Carpeted Lid
Centre Console Yellowfin
Kill Tank (Plumbed 135 L)
Live Bait Tank (Plumbed 65 L)
Rocket Launcher – Cabin
Rear Ladder
Scuppers Self Drain Floor
Side Pockets Large
Transducer Bracket
Transom Door

### PAINT

Painted Hull 670
------------------

### RAILS

Bowrail High 32 mm / Bowsprit
Rail Grab Transom 32 mm
Rails Side Long 32 mm

### SCREEN

Cabin Hatch
Windscreen – Hatch

### SEATS

Seat with storage boxes
-------------------------

### STEERING

Hydraulic Steering
Steering Wheel (Cruise 3 Spoke)
Warranty – 3 years

higher out of the water creating a higher top speed, and better fuel economy at normal operating speeds.

## Summary

I believe we will see a lot more of the Yellowfin brand out on the water as the name gets back in vogue with anglers. The 6700 Cabin is definitely worth considering if you are a serious offshore angler. If you are in the market for an offshore plate boat then definitely consider taking one of these vessels for a test drive. Springwood Marine on the Gold Coast are doing special deals for these boats at present with prices starting from around \$75,000 mark. This is great value when considering these quality boats are ready to put on the water and start fishing! **SF**



## SF RANGE

Yellowfin have developed three models:  
5700 Centre Console and Cabin  
6200 Cabin  
6700 Cabin