



The front casting platform gives you a good vantage point for throwing lures.



On the plane the 60hp Honda pushed the Wrangler along nicely.



Side pockets down each side provide plenty of stowage.



The console area with storage shelves.



There are two hatches on the front casting platform.



Boat Review

by BEN COLLINS

Originally developed at the request of Northern Territory dealers who were after a boat suited to the rugged fishing conditions up that way, the Blue Fin Wrangler is a very versatile fishing platform.

This boat would be at home up a small creek trolling or casting for jacks, offshore chasing snapper on plastics or casting for tuna in the bay.

That is the versatility you get from this kind of sport fishing boat and what makes them so appealing to many people, including me.

The sports console is mounted in the centre of the boat towards the rear, ensuring there is maximum fishing room, which is the key in a boat of this size.

An added advantage of the console position at the rear is the softer ride, as you can let the hull do its job of slicing through the chop.

You also have the option of a side console, which would open the rear of the boat up even further.

Two seating positions are available just in front of the console, which on a quick run out to the Pin were found to be very comfortable.

In front of the removable seats was a slightly raised platform giving you an ideal vantage point for casting.

There is also another seating position on the

front casting platform, which could be used as a rest point when fishing in rougher conditions.

Unlike some of the bream and bass boats that have the casting platforms raised to the gunnel, the 4.75 Wrangler still had plenty of freeboard.

The advantage of this is you feel more secure when fishing in rougher conditions whether in the bay or offshore, where you could easily take this boat on the right day.

If you have young children, it also makes it easier for them to fish because they can lean against the side of the boat, and you don't have to worry if they are going to fall over the sides.

The Wrangler comes standard with 3mm plate bottom and sides and is rated to 80hp.

By upgrading the construction material to 4mm bottom you can upgrade the maximum horsepower to 90hp, which is fitted to a pod.

Tested with a 60hp Honda the 4.75 Wrangler had more than adequate performance so would be a bit of a weapon when upgraded to the 90hp.

But I am still a firm believer that you are better off putting a bit more horsepower on the back and not using it, rather

than needing it and not having it.

The advantage of putting a bigger engine on the back means you don't have to work it as hard.

However, it obviously costs a few extra bucks for the upgrades, so it does come down to personal choice and budget.

As I said, the 60hp Honda had surprisingly good performance with two people on board and limited gear.

It just depends how you intend to use it. Pulling onto the plane around the 3500rpm mark, the 60hp had plenty of poke and I suggest would have spun an even bigger prop as it did touch the rev limiter a few times when given a burst of full throttle.

In saying that, it is a good thing, as you would probably get a little more top end and be able to cruise at a slightly lower rev range.

As tested it sat comfortably around the 35-40km/h mark and topped out around 55km/h.

With the bigger prop I'm guessing you would nudge close to 60km/h.

Conditions for the test were pretty good and the 4.75 Wrangler ate up every bit of wash and waves we could find.

It was also very precise

on its cornering, with no cavitation when the engine was trimmed correctly.

This basically comes down to set up and balance of the package, which the guys at Logan River Marine had got right.

As for storage places, the compact console provided a top tray with shelf underneath, which is ideal for putting the lures or rigs you might be alternating.

Two long shelves are also situated along each side of the boat and are other good places to keep your terminal tackle at hand.

The front casting platform has two hatches that open to a single large underfloor area and would be suited to keeping life jackets and other larger items.

A plastic infill tub has been fitted to the bow as storage for your anchor and rope.

The advantage of having plastic instead of aluminium is that the chain and anchor don't bang against it.

Top decks around the bow are also tread plate floor, giving you grip as you jump on and off the boat.

Alternatively there is a rear pod that you can use to board and I'm sure

you would be able to fit a boarding ladder there too.

Other features of the boat include an 85-litre underfloor fuel tank, which would give an awesome range coupled with the new fuel-efficient 60hp Honda.

The 30-litre plumbed live bait tank that is flush-mounted to the rear of the boat is a good size.

Badged as a 4.75, the Wrangler actually has an overall length of 4.95m, making it a substantial boating package coming in around the \$27,500 mark with the Honda 60hp 4-stroke outboard and trailer.

For more information on this versatile boat, give the guys at Logan River Marine a call on 3287 4888 or drop in and check it out for yourself. ⚓

PERFORMANCE

RPM	Km/h
3000	12
3500	22
4000	30
4500	35
5000	42
6000	55



Plumbed live bait tank.



Good vision is possible from the driving position.