



The front casting platform with electric bracket.



A huge amount of storage under the hatches.



Close-up look at the rod locker.



The concise but functional helm.



Looking towards the stern of the boat, you can see the rear casting platform, seven foot rod locker and cockpit area which all maximise fishing space.



With a top speed of 80km/h the Seascape Jackal gives you an exhilarating ride.

Seascape Jackal 4.82

REGARDLESS of whether casting surface lures for bream and flathead, flicking plastics for snapper on shallow reefs or working snags in the impoundments after a monster barra, you need a well-designed boat that maximises your fishing area.

I'm not alone when it comes to enjoying a bit of lure fishing and although anything but a new concept, its recent increased popularity has seen boat manufacturers specifically designing vessels for this style of fishing.

One such boat, which I tested recently with Trevor from Karee Marine, is the Seascape 4.82 Jackal.

Seascape Boats is a local Australian boat manufacturer with a wide variety of models in its range from open tinnies to off-shore craft and sports fishing boats, which is how I would classify the 4.82 Jackal.

With an overall length of 4.8m you have a good sized hull that is large enough for plenty of storage places which again optimises your fishing room.

The specifications of this model are a 4mm high-tensile fully ribbed hull that is longitudinally and latitudinally strung.

This framework gives



Boat Review

by BEN COLLINS

the boat strength, enabling it to handle the often harsh Australian conditions.

Another bonus of this framework is it allows for lot of under deck storage which makes the boat feel bigger.

Having a clutter-free deck with all your fishing gear hidden away out of sight, but still at your fingertips when needed, also makes for more enjoyable fishing and boating.

Some features included in the test boat were a 100 litre underfloor fuel tank which will give you a decent range with the 150hp OptiMax Pro XS, a 60 litre plumbed live-well and basic flotation.

Under the front casting deck there is a massive amount of storage with four large hatches providing access to the under deck storage.

The fifth hatch, as seen in the photos is the live-well.

Something I noticed was that the underside of the hatches was carpeted, giving them better protection from the elements and a much neater finish.

It is this sort of attention to detail which will make a top boat even better.

A bracket for an electric motor has also been constructed to make fitting much easier.

Rod storage was by way of a seven foot rod locker that runs down the port side of the boat.

The helm area was basic but in saying that it had enough room for essential electrical equipment such as a sounder and GPS and all the necessary gauges.

And keeping it simply means it doesn't take up too much fishing room.

I found the driving position was very comfortable with excellent vision.

Fitted to the test boat was an 115hp OptiMax

Pro XS with a Laser 2 19 pitch prop which was a very good match.

The Jackal effortlessly jumped onto the plane with a punch of the throttle and settled nicely on the calm water.

With two people on board, about a quarter of a tank of fuel and some safety gear, a few speed runs saw us hit top speed of 80km/h with ease.

Even though the air was hitting us in the face at a rate of knots at top speed, the stability and quietness of the hull gave a feeling that you weren't actually going that fast, but a double check on the GPS confirmed we were in fact hooting along.

After a bit of playing in a straight line (for the speed tests) and also with the trim gauge to see what trim the Jackal preferred, we put it through a series of tight and fast turns.

The hydraulic steering made this a breeze and we did a few figure eights to create some wave to gauge the response in the turns with a bit rougher water.

Despite what we threw at it, the Jackal stayed very true and level, hugging the water and giving a good feeling of security and confidence to push the boat even harder.

This boat is actually

rated to 150hp but the Pro XS has a few more horses under the cowl than the standard version and I would have to question if it was worth going for the bigger motor.

I do like my speed, but the Jackal seemed to be very well-balanced with this engine and it was fitted at a good height, allowing you to adjust your ride slightly with the trim.

It would have been good to test it through some bigger waves to see how it handled them but we couldn't find any during the test.

Given the ride and the fact that the hull deflected the water very cleanly and cut straight through the waves we did hit indicate it would handle much rougher water.

Overall this is a well-designed boat that also handles well and maximises fishing space.

Who wouldn't want one?

The only suggestions or modifications I would make would be a few extra places to keep your rods outside of the rod locker and maybe fitting one or two oversized tubs under the front casting platform.

The concept of having it open is great as you maximise your space but one or two tubs (probably beneath the two hatches closest to the helm) would ensure your lure boxes stayed where you put them.

To fix the rod situation, a

couple of Velcro or ockie style straps on the front deck would allow you to keep a few rods there and ready to cast in an instant.

These are only slight mods and may not be what everyone wants but something I would do.

The Seascape Jackal is a good all-round fishing boat lending itself to both bait and lure style fishing and would easily double as a great family skiing or tubing boat.

For more information on this boat or others in the Seascape range, give Trevor from Karee Marine a call on 07 3875 1600 or drop in and check them out for yourself.

The test boat is valued very competitively at \$37,900 and includes an Oceanic trailer, hydraulic steering, live-well, 115hp Mercury OptiMax Pro XS, Queensland registration, navigation lights, and smooth water safety gear. ⚓

PERFORMANCE

RPM	KM/H
2500	21
3000	35
3500	45
4000	55
5000	67
5600	80



Storage under the rear casting platform.