

# A LITTLE GAMESMANSHIP

EVERYMAN LOVES A bluefish, but that doesn't mean he wants to be sniffing them out everyday. Even regular bluefishermen like to use their boats for other activities, such as waterskiing, diving or just cruising. If you're hankering for an all-around dayboat that also can get serious about blues, a dual-console design can dish that out. But if you want it served up with a dash of pepper, the Wahoo! 2100 Sportfish puts out pizzazz.

Slick detailing and a daring low profile aren't common aesthetic elements on fishboats. But on the Wahoo!, they're an appropriate prelude to the boat's performance.

With a Mercury 200-hp outboard, the Wahoo! was the fastest of our rally trio, topping out at 50.5 mph at 5750 rpm. You sit at the helm; if you stand the wind coming off the plex windscreen could pummel you. Settle yourself in and get ready; the 2100 is a gas to drive. The deep-V (15 degrees of deadrise at the transom) with sponsors forward makes the ride memorable. When spray comes up, sponsors trap the water and push it back down, creating a cushion that really softens the ride, even at top end. The sponsors also make for a drier ride, which is especially important when you're confined to a seated position. Overall, the hull design will be at its best in bays and rivers, although it can make a good showing in the ocean, provided the seas are calm and bluefish are



## PROPULSION AND PERFORMANCE Wahoo! 2100 Sportfish

**Standard power:** none

**Optional power:** single outboard up to 200 hp

**Test boat power:** single 200-hp Mercury outboard with 153-cid, 3.50" bore x 2.65" stroke, swinging a 14" x 19" three-bladed stainless steel propeller through a 1.87:1 reduction

rpm	speed		fuel use		efficiency			operation		
	knots	mph	% of max.	gph	% of max.	naut. mpg	stat. mpg	n. mi. range	sound level	
1000	4.3	5.0	10	1.6	8	2.72	3.13	171	0.1	69
1500	6.3	7.2	14	3.1	16	2.02	2.32	127	2.0	74
2000	7.6	8.8	17	4.4	22	1.74	2.00	109	4.0	83
2500	13.3	15.3	30	6.6	33	2.01	2.32	127	5.0	82
3000	21.9	25.2	50	8.0	40	2.74	3.15	172	3.0	83
3500	26.3	30.3	60	9.4	47	2.80	3.22	176	2.5	85
4000	30.8	35.5	70	10.7	54	2.88	3.32	182	2.0	86
4500	33.3	38.8	76	12.5	63	2.66	3.06	168	2.0	88
5000	38.0	43.7	87	14.4	72	2.64	3.03	166	1.5	91
5500	41.2	47.4	94	18.3	92	2.25	2.59	142	1.5	91
5750	43.9	50.5	100	20.0	100	2.19	2.53	138	1.5	92

Advertised fuel capacity 70 gal. Range based on 90 percent of that figure. Performance measured with two persons aboard, % fuel, full water. Sound levels taken at helm, in dB-A.

of top-quality boats. Of course, you pay for that workmanship: With test power, the 2100 retails for \$26,355. The Wahoo! is more things to boatmen with many interests. With this dual console, you get more seating and stowage, along with the all-out open space of a hard-core fishing machine.

—J. Craig

For more information, contact: Wahoo! Boats Unlimited, Dept. B, 708 Air Park Rd., Ashland, VA 23005; 804/798-2780.

swimming tight to the beach. Hydraulic steering is optional (\$575) and necessary for precise, easy control. The helm is to starboard, and the engine torque favors that side.

Notable features include a casting platform at the bow, which can be converted to a sun lounge with a padded cushion. Tackle stowage is nearby. The low, stainless-steel rail won't foul lines when casting. Standard flush-mount rodholders are in the cockpit, and jump seats with cushions are tucked into transom corners. Three built-in, insulated fishboxes also are standard. Stow loose gear in one of six other compartments.

The drawback of a dual-console boat is limited space at the helm to mount electronics. That's true here, too, although Wahoo! does make room for a recessed Ritchie compass.

Overall finish is excellent and the 2100's fiberglass hand layup is typical

LOA	210"
Beam	78"
Draft (drive down)	11"
Displacement	1,900
Fuel capacity (gal.)	70
Water capacity (gal.)	none
Base price (w/o power)	\$14,490

er lures—green/yellow, blue/white and red/white are popular colors. The flashy spoons represent baitfish, while the tubes and streamers mimic sand eels, a staple of the blues' diet.

When trolling a slick, a medium-size outfit with a 4/0 reel, 30-pound test line and a few ounces of trolling weights will suffice. But remember, the deeper you work the lures, the more water you can cover. For this reason some fishermen prefer to use diving planers or downriggers along

with a pair of topwater lines.

But even if you smell, spot and then troll a slick, you could get stiffed. Bluefish may not be near. The slick could be the remnants of an hour-old massacre. For that reason, you should scan the depths below the boat with a fishfinder. However, don't glue your eyes to the set so tightly that you forget to glance up and check for birds. Put in some time if you get a few promising readings on the fishfinder, but at the same time, don't

hang around if you continue to stare at a blank screen. You can make better use of your time with yet another strategy.

### Plan C: Scan Structure

AIM THE BOAT FOR STRUCTURE. Bluefish frequent ledges, wrecks and lumps because the upwelling currents around these structures can overpower forage fish. Always ready to take advantage of an easy meal, bluefish patrol these places.