



SPACE MACHINE

A feature-loaded vessel for anglers who like a lot of deck room for catching larger species



Words and photography
by **Dave Lewis**

THE ADMIRAL PRO-FISH 660 is a traditional open-cuddy fishing boat that is certain to find wide appeal with experienced boat anglers, and especially with those who like to venture a long way offshore to fish distant marks.

This boat is at the top end of what is easily trailerable, but provided that you have a suitable towing vehicle, owning this boat really could open up new opportunities for your offshore sea angling.

Admiral Boats are built in Poland, and if you cast a critical eye over the gleaming hull, you will soon notice the attention to small detail the manufacturer has put into ensuring the finest possible finish. Straight out of the factory, this is a feature-loaded boat that is ready to fish, but a comprehensive range

of optional extras are available, such as an eye-catching and hugely practical stainless rod rack fitted to the cuddy roof.

MASSIVE CUDDY

The cuddy itself is massive, and provides a comfortable seating area for two or three anglers to shelter beneath while sitting out a rain shower.

Key features include a top-hinged, forward-opening hatch for easy access to the bow to manage the anchor that is stowed in the usual bow locker, along with plenty of dry locker stowage spaces located within the cuddy bench seats.

The steering console is sited to starboard, with a comfortable seat for the helmsman fitted atop a fixed stowage box. A similar arrangement is provided to port for a crewman, with both seat pods incorporating additional stowage. While underway, the helmsman benefits from excellent forward vision, courtesy of large cuddy windows that have been securely bonded in place.

The boat I reviewed was fitted with a canvas cuddy extension, clearly intended to provide protection from the elements during inclement weather. Were this my boat, I doubt I'd ever use this particular accessory. I enjoy being exposed to the elements and appreciate as much free space as possible aboard my boats, but I know there are plenty of other anglers who would appreciate it. The quality of workmanship of the canvas was very good. ▶



The boat was fitted with a canvas cuddy extension

FISHING COCKPIT

The self-draining fishing cockpit is huge, plenty large enough for three, or even four, anglers to fish together in absolute comfort. Waist-high gunnels provide the perfect amount of inboard freeboard, and fall vertically to the deck, ensuring it is possible to stand up against the gunnels and brace yourself when fishing in choppy seas. Onboard security is further enhanced with the addition of stainless rails port and starboard.

A spacious aerated livebait tank is incorporated within the starboard quarter, along with a bait board to port, plus additional stowage space. Several standard-size fuel tanks fit neatly and securely beneath the transom. The deck is finished with an effective, moulded, non-slip finish, and features large fish/bulky gear stowage hatch provided amidships. I like the inclusion of open stowage within the gunnels, these are perfect for keeping small items of equipment close at hand.

All necessary deck hardware is provided fitted as standard, including four rod-rests within the transom, and an all-important transom boarding ladder. Additional fixtures and fittings provided as standard include a manual bilge pump, navigation lights, sports steering wheel, and numerous stowage lockers.

The Admiral Boats Pro-Fish 660 has an overall length of 6.50 metres, a 2.5m beam and displaces 870kg. Rated at CE Category C, the maximum recommended engine size is 115hp.

STUNNING OUTBOARD

The boat was fitted with a stunning Mercury 115hp CT (Command Thrust) four-stroke outboard, which, as you would expect, performed impeccably.

This fine engine is built around an eight-valve, four-cylinder single overhead cam block, and comes with a five-year warranty for leisure users. On the day, we recorded a maximum speed in the region of 30 knots.



The Mercury 115hp CT, outboard engine

PERFORMANCE

My sea trial aboard the Pro-Fish 660 had been arranged by Admiral's North Wales dealers, Harbour Marine, based at Pwllheli Marina on the Llyn Peninsula.

Once clear of the strictly enforced speed limits within the marina access channel, flat-calm sea conditions provided the perfect opportunity to assess the top-end handling performance of this boat.



Build quality is excellent



The steering console and helmsman's seat

I was unable to assess her handling under more testing conditions, however, I do have a lot of past experience aboard almost identical versions of this hull. As a result, I doubt that were conditions on the day more demanding, I would have come away anything less than extremely impressed with the overall handling qualities of this very nice boat.

Thrown into a series of tight, high-speed turns, lateral stability was excellent; certainly she would be a stable platform for drift fishing with two or three anglers all fishing together along the same side.

I cannot over-emphasise the voluminous amount of deck space within the cockpit. Space is always at a premium on offshore boats, never more so when fishing for large species such as sharks, which in recent years has become hugely popular. The Admiral 660 Pro-Fish would be perfect for this style of fishing. ■



Rod-rests on the transom

COST & CONTACT

The cost of the Admiral Pro-Fish 660 is £26,495 including VAT. Trailers start in the region of £2,500. Contact Harbour Marine, tel: 001758 792509.

Web: www.rbwales.co.uk

For more details on the Mercury 115hp CT engine, which retails for £10,234, and other models within the Mercury range, visit: www.barrus.co.uk