



“What it loses in ride comfort, the Magnum makes up for in stability. At rest and underway, the Magnum is absolutely rock solid. You can stand several people over on the side, up in the bow, or down in the stern, and the boat really doesn’t react all that much. It really comes up trumps in the stability department. . .”

If you’ve been considering the purchase of a deluxe model inshore or impoundment fishing boat in recent months, now is a very good time to buy. During, and since the major state boat shows earlier this year, we have seen the introduction of a wide range of small fish boats, most designed for freshwater and estuary use.

The competition in this market segment between brands and manufacturers is now very intense, so canny buyers who are prepared to shop around, can pick up some great boats at very reasonable prices.

Just a few new boats which come to mind include the latest Stessl Edgetrackers and Bass Boss models, Quintrex’s award winning Hornet flared bottom v-punts, as well as fibreglass open models from Haines Signature (460 SF) and Cruise Craft (Lure 470).

Another good looking rig released during the boat shows is the SeaHunter Magnum 4.4 m, manufactured by Qld’s Mayfairs Marine. The Magnum is the flagship freshwater rig in the SeaHunter and Clark boat ranges

Design: As you can see from the accompanying photos, the SeaHunter

Magnum is not your average deluxe Vee punt. With this model, the designers opted for an unusual centre console layout, instead of a side console - which is the norm with this type of craft.

The helm console is situated amidships, between the very large bow and stern casting decks. The structure is small in stature and simple in design - yet it does have enough space for basic engine instruments, an LCD sounder, and perhaps a small built in compass.

Above the console is a perspex wind deflector, while underneath there is a compartment for stowing your car keys, jackets, jumpers etc.

Within the small lower console area there are three lift out pedestal seats - which slot into recessed bases in the floor. Two additional pedestal floor sockets are mounted on the bow casting deck, with another two built into the rear deck. Of course this allows the chairs to be repositioned up on the decks for fishing.

The driving position itself is quite good; the steering wheel and throttle fell comfortably to hand, and the boat felt balanced when running along - as most of the weight in the boat was nicely centred.

However, having made this comment, the centre console and three seat layout doesn’t work very well with just two people aboard. The trouble is that the second person has to sit to one side of the boat, beside the skipper, leaving the other seat empty. When running along, the boat naturally lists over to one side. It’s not excessive by any means, but it will prove irritating on long trips.

I guess the trick will be to fish alone, with three or four people - or to compensate for the weight of a second crew member by re-positioning weight inside the boat.

The most interesting features in the Magnum 4.4 are hidden below the extra large casting decks. As you would imagine, there’s an enormous amount of storage space at both ends of the boat.

Up, under the bow platform, there’s a formed anchor well, along with a central “wet” fish box - the latter situated just forward of the console. The box is surprisingly large, and will prove ideal for competition bass fishermen who might need to keep their fish alive for long periods. Like the rear live bait tank, the fish or “catch” tank is fully plumbed and ready to go.

Two big storage areas flank the fish box, and these are great for stowing life

SeaHunter 4.4 M MAGNUM

Great looking, purpose built freshwater and estuary boats have been coming thick and fast in recent months. Here’s another beauty - the Magnum 4.4 m from SeaHunter. Report & pics by Jeff Webster.

