

Fisher Maxi 620

Command Console

It's big, beamy, tough, innovative and one of the most honest design concepts we've seen in many a long year. Small wonder its owner made the conscious decision that having looked at all the imported craft from overseas and all the pressed tinnies made in Australia, he decided to purchase a limited production, hand built, Fisher platey.



To a very large extent, we can let the pictures do the talking in this test report because there is so much to consider. This is truly one of the most innovative, most interesting fishing boats we've tested for a long time, and for once, we're not just talking about having a live bait tank and a rod rack as standard equipment.

Important as these two features are, they don't, of themselves, make a fishing boat. Building a real fishing boat is a lot harder, and requires a level of experience and commitment not often seen in production boat building.

At the heart of the Fisher Boats program though, is a bloke who can genuinely be called a "veteran" of this OZ boating industry and specifically, plate aluminium boat building.

Col Svensson has been working with plate aluminium almost since it began, and apart from his own personal love of deep sea fishing, his passion for the construction of some of Queensland's best fishing boats is well recorded.

A couple of years ago, Col extricated himself from the wreckage that became known as the Queensland Ships disaster, when brands such as Ocean Cylinder and Sportfish went down the gurgle in a sea of legal acrimony and much personal bitterness. Like all the other employees and contractors who lost their jobs in the subsequent debacle, Col decided that if the job was going to be such a risk, then he might as well work for himself, and he started again as Fisher Boats, trading in his own right.

Moving his business out to Bribie Island, way up on the north-east coast of Brisbane, and connected to the mainland by the low slung Hornibrook Bridge, Col has built up a very impressive business, pushing through a plate boat nearly every week.

Last month, Col phoned up to say that a particularly interesting boat was just being completed, and it was a boat he felt we would be very interested in seeing first hand. Better still, he volunteered to bring it all the way down from Bribie Island to Runaway Bay, along with its owner Bill McCloud. This was a gesture we very much appreciated during a time of no little stress as we bounced between the completion of Plate Alloy Boats Of Australia- Book 3, the last issue of F&B (#118) and this one. Sometimes there are just not enough hours in the



No, they are not horizontal tuna tubes (!) nor are they bits off an FA-18 exhaust. But they are part of Col Svensson's belief that if you are going to run platies with a deadrise ("Vee") as deep as this, water ballast tubes are essential for stability at rest. This is not new, just bigger than we've seen before.



day and this has been one of those periods.

So once again guys, we thank you for bringing the rig down to us. Next time it will be our turn - and we look forward to going up to Bribie Island with the black cat, for the next Fisher test.

Design

Isn't this a terrific, honest concept? Bill McCloud was very impressed with Col Svensson's own fishing boat. Because he never has time to go out overnight (he has a young family, too) Col built himself a boat that was purely

for fishing - no more, no less.

When Bill saw the boat, he fell in love with the concept straight away. A man who's had quite a few craft over the years, including some big ones, he told the writer "I believe that if it's less than 40 foot you can't sleep in it - and what I wanted this time around, was a fishing boat, pure and simple. I'll never sleep in it - I just wanted a dead-set, serious fishing boat!"

Bill continued "When I saw Col's boat, I thought it was just about perfect, but I wanted him to extend the space between the bait prep table and the transom - and then come in on the