

BLACK WATCH 26

The name Black Watch is synonymous with gamefishing and quality boat building. This 26 footer is the “baby” of the family, but arguably the best value package of the four models - the 26, 30, 34 and the awesome new Black Watch 40. But this we can relate to

I have to say right up front, that this report is in no way objective or unbiased, because your correspondent is hopelessly and passionately in love with this boat!

After 30 years of light tackle sportfishing along the east coast, in about 20 different boats ranging in size from 3.4 m to our big twin screw Outsider 44 we ran between 1985-1988, this Black Watch 26 is just about where I believe sportfishing economics and one's passion for the deep bluewater coincide in 1997.

At around \$125,000, this exquisitely built, high performance diesel gamefishing boat is just as capable of fishing anywhere its awesome 40' sistership can go in fishable weather conditions. It has the range, the performance and the cockpit to match it with any of the big boys, and yet it's faster, more agile and as much as 50%-80% cheaper than many of the other new gameboats available in Australia.

Of course, this assumes that one's interest is purely in the fishing, and not the boating.

The Black Watch 26 obviously doesn't have the accommodation of the bigger Aussie game boats, and it's not nearly as opulent as any of the imported American “gin palaces” being dropped on our shores at this point in time.

But this isn't that sort of boat. This is a real boat made for real blokes who reckon the nearest they're going to get to heaven is coming back on a summer nor'easter with the outriggers set, family and/or friends relaxing in the cockpit . . . with the Pakulas smokin' in the wake and the expectation of a big black crashing down on that lure . . . before pulling the 24 kg Tiagra into a screaming, blood tingling crescendo that's enough to give you goose bumps just thinking about it . . . this is what the Black Watch 26

is all about.

Join me now as we take a run off the Gold Coast with Steve McCloy, from the marketing end of Black Watch Boats, as we put the 26 through its paces.

Design: The Black Watch 26 is one of the original, genuine Raymond C.Hunt and Associates design from the United States. Remember, it is Raymond Hunt who is credited as being the “father” of the whole deep vee movement, from way back in the early 1960's. Hunt's “deep vee” hulls have had a considerable influence on modern fibreglass boat design, whilst his Black Watch 26, 30 and 34 designs are internationally recognised as three of the best fibreglass

fishing boat designs ever built.

These are not new designs; some of the Hunt models go back to the early '70's, and I'm sure the Black Watch 26 is no exception. That great Australian classic game boat, the late Garrick

