



Mercury's 150hp FourStroke Winning Respect

Words & Pics by Andrew Hestelow
from Stelco & The Downrigger
Shop

Many years ago Mercury ran a terrific advertisement, for their outboards. The ad was divided into two parts, top and bottom, by a vertical line. The top half showed a super funky trailer boat, with the outboard outline appearing as a dotted line so that the outboard brand or its size could not be seen. The advertising copy in that section went something like, 'What you look for in your first boat.'

The bottom half of the ad showed the same boat as a dotted line, with a brand new Mercury outboard displayed. The copy beneath that pic read 'What you look for in your second boat.'

I've had my boat, *Carolyn Jane*, for 26 years. It's a 6.4 metre Star side console, originally made to survey for an abalone diver in South Australia. It was then sold to the Sydney Aquarium, who fitted a one thousand litre tank behind the console and used it to catch many fish for their exhibit, particularly snapper, jewfish and kingfish. The boat was fitted with twin 90hp brown band Mercurys, one of which had a blown head gasket. It cost me \$10,500 back then, including trailer and a four man liferaft, plus all the normal safety gear, radio, Humminbird sounder and the like.

The twin 90s delivered incredible performance but

