



Kevlacat's New 2100 Offshore

Wow - isn't this nice ? Imagine if you could wake up one morning and find this magnificent craft in your driveway - where would you go first ? To find out, Darren Shiel volunteered for the task of testing the new rig (took him about 2 milliseconds to put his hand up) and came back smitten . . . and took off to buy himself a handful of Powerball tickets. S'all perfectly understandable, really!

I have to admit first up here that I am a devoted cat fan. Driving rescue boats for almost ten years, I have operated various versions of them for countless hours, in both aluminium and fibreglass, and have driven them in places they should never have been.

When PW gave me the choice of testing the new 2100 Offshore Kevlacat or the new Stacer 565 Centre Console, I jumped at the opportunity of taking the 2100 for a run. I am also a fan of trailer boats, so I had very high expectations of this rig, and looked forward to putting it

through its paces on the Gold Coast Seaway.

Design

The 2100 here is an evolution of the original 5.2m Kevlacat, launched in 1989, a boat that won the Boat of the Year award in the same year. The 5.2 was a huge success, and continued in production for 11 years. The new 2100 certainly has a high standard to live up to, with the original 5.2m long regarded as a favourite by many fishermen.

The success of the original 5.2m was due mainly to the fact that the boat had the all round balance of

small size and ease of use, it was easy to tow, moderately powered and most of all, it was remarkably seaworthy for a vessel of its size.

Having a completely new hull and deck design, the only thing the new 2100 Offshore carries forward from its predecessor, is the advantages of size and function. The boat has been increased in size slightly, and is now 5.8 m long. Featuring more aesthetically-pleasing rounded looks, and a number of other refined features, such as full fibreglass tooling both inside and out, new moulded pods and a glass windscreen, it has certainly

Older hands will still pick the classic Kevlacat 5.2 origins in this new model, but apart from the general concept, this is a far more contemporary craft, and as Darren discovers, no slouch, either. Hardtop set-up is terrific.

