

# F&B's Small Craft Section

that the boat floats level with all four occupants (75kg each) clinging to it, plus a 15kg allowance for extras.

**Engineering/Construction** The 375 Angler is made from 1.6mm pressed aluminium for both bottom and side sheets. It is a standard pressed aluminium boat, made using the industry wide construction methods. As



**H**orizon Boats, built on the southern Gold Coast at Burleigh Heads, have been in the marine industry for over 10 years. Horizon builds a number of different styles, from open dinghies as tested, to bow riders, punt and cabin style boats all aimed at a number of different markets.

The Horizon 490 Project boat (2002), as featured in F&B issue #73, was extensively used by F&B and its associates, and proved to be a comfortable and safe vessel.

So on a near perfect day, I took the new 375 Angler for a run, to test its capabilities.

**Design** A full open dinghy, the 375 Angler is an entry-level boat to the market. Bare as bones, the boat is as plain as they come.

An open runabout with an enclosed bow, anchor well beneath, twin thwart cross seats, fuel tank shelf and transom engine cut out, the boat fits the entry level purpose and is very functional.

Basic measurements of 3.75 metres



length, 1.80m beam, and 1.00 metre depth, make this boat a fairly big, deep bodied vessel for 3.75m.

The bare hull weight is claimed to be 95kg, and the boat is rated to take a maximum of 4 persons, at 75kg each.

The boat was designed from the outset to comply with the anticipated NMSC National Standard for recreational craft that are under 6.0 metres, regulations the NMSC hope will see all Australian manufactured boats complying to their proposed new boat building code by mid 2005.

The Horizon meets the level flotation criteria for the AS1799, which requires



mentioned, the boat complies with the new standards, and is provided with polyurethane flotation, contained in the larger than normal cross thwart seats.

**Finish** The finish on the 375 Angler is as you would expect from a 3.75m dinghy. The boat is basic, the welds are clean, and the hull is unpainted.

The boat does have a number of accessories, which normally would not be expected of a 375 dinghy. Horizon includes as standard, a two-hole bow eye, two-rod holders, anchor well tie-up, bow cleat, waterproof storage module, positive foam flotation and a

half fuel tank rack.

**Performance** The boat is rated to take a maximum horsepower rating of 25hp, a recommended 20hp engine, and is available in short or long shaft, with a maximum engine weight of 51kg.

Fitted with the Yamaha 20DMHS (short shaft), two-stroke outboard, the

shouldn't ask too much of a 3.75 metre boat.

**Handling and Ride** The ride on the 3.75 is as you would expect, quite reasonable, and certainly not jarring in the calm conditions we encountered.

A little wet at times, I am sure this was due to having too much negative trim on the engine. Given more time, I



boat is quite fast. Normally, the Horizon wouldn't need a 25hp engine for just two or three passengers, as it had plenty of power. The only time the boat might need more power would be if it was heavily loaded - if it was loaded up with a week's camping gear, and four persons, for example. Then, the 25hp option might be a better bet. However, it goes without saying that any owner would have to be very careful about the load exceeding the maximum load allowable shown on the plate.

The boat proved to be stable compared to similar sized boats, but you

would have taken the boat for a run with different settings, but unfortunately the timing on the day didn't allow for this. Set with some more positive trim, the boat could be a lot drier.

The boat is designed for smooth water use, and doesn't pretend to be suitable for open bays or ocean waters.

**Fishability** The boat is ideal to run around or fish the local waters, for a couple or a small family. When operating with more than two adults, fishing room and movement is restricted.

The 375 is uncluttered, and is fitted with two transom mounted fishing rod holders, angled to the stern.

**Trailer** The test boat had a standard Oceanic single axle trailer with keel rollers and side skids, and is easy to tow. Weighing an estimated 350kg fully loaded, most cars are legally capable of towing this weight.

This boat is an easy one-handed

## Specifications

### Horizon 375 Angler

Open Boat Pressed Aluminium  
**Classification** For sheltered waters use.

**Length** 3.75 Metres

**Beam** 1.8 Metres

**Deadrise** at Transom Medium  
Deadrise

**Weight** (Bare Hull) 95kg

**Weight** (Boat, Motor, Trailer) 300kg  
Loaded

**Max persons load** in accordance  
with AS1799 4 Pax (75kg each)

**Max Load** 360kg as defined by  
AS1799

**Fuel Capacity** 1 x 25 Litres

**Max Engine Transom Weight** 51kg

**Engine Rating** 15-25hp

**Warranty** 2 Years

### Specifications – Engine

**Yamaha** 20DMHS (Short Shaft)  
Outboard

**Type** 2-Stroke Outboard 2 Cylinder

**Weight** 48.0kg

**Shaft Length** Short

**Propeller** Standard Alloy

**Warranty** 2 Years

**Price** – From \$5,890 as tested on  
water incl. Safety Gear, GST and  
Registration

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operation to retrieve, and there is no need to get the trailer wet - apart from the tyres.

The boat could easily be stored in the garage, or on the roof of a decent 4WD, ready to be taken into remote waters.

**Conclusion** Used as an entry-level boat for a young or old couple, or a tender to a bigger boat, this boat is a cheap way to go boating, hassle free. The Horizon range of Angler (Dinghies) and Pathfinder (V-Nose punts), all meet the proposed NMSC national boat building code, today. They are built with foam flotation, and will remain upright in the event of a swamping, including engine and four occupants clinging to the vessel.

In meeting the national safety standards, Horizon are showing the way ahead for good design and manufacturing practice.

**F&B**