

5.0m FIBREGLASS FISHING CUDDIES . .

Small fibreglass fishing cuddies are among the most popular of all trailerboats. They are great for beginners, young families, as well as keen fishermen. In this special report, Jeff Webster examines what you should look for in a small cuddy, and reviews the best models on the market.

It is no accident that the first boat for many people is a small cuddy cabin. In the eyes of most newcomers, the cuddy represents the best value for money - and this is true to a large extent. Buying a cuddy cabin gives you the most boat for your boating dollar.

If you have a specific purpose in mind - such as freshwater tournament fishing - then buying (say) a deluxe model v-nose punt is a worthwhile proposition. However, you do have to keep in mind that a barra boat with the "works" will cost as much, if not more than an entry level alloy or fibreglass cuddy cabin.

For this reason, for most people, the cuddy cabin layout is the best choice.

Quite apart from the value for money issue, the cuddy cab is ideal for beginners because it can perform a variety of functions very well. With a small cuddy, you can fish coastal waters and inland impoundments, cruise the harbours with family onboard, or take the family skiing.

The cuddy may not be the best choice for any single one of these boating pursuits, but for a bit of each of them, it is ideal.

So what do you look for in a cuddy cabin? Well, I guess it depends on your priorities. Let's identify some of the central issues involved and examine them individually.

Seating: Okay, if you're buying the boat for family outings, then good seating is very important. The best cuddy cabs will have some kind of removable or fold down seating in the stern, along with two bucket chairs at the helm.

With the rear seating, boats with a central island style outboard well, will normally have a folding or lift out

Creating budgets - or at least, sticking to them is often difficult when it comes to weighing up the virtues of buying a better quality depth sounder, compared to (say) a better boat trailer. The key is to prioritise your purchases.



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