

Fitting Out:

Mike's QUINTREX 485 FISHSEEKER

Presenting a fascinating insight into the complexity and sophistication of fitting out a current production craft to provide a safe, seaworthy platform to fish, explore and cruise through the sparse waters of North Western Australia.

Exmouth's Mike Levy has been fishing and boating in the nor'west for the best part of 30 years. The 'lessons' he has experienced, and the knowledge he has acquired over the years, provide a vivid backdrop to his latest fitting out project - and info, tips and ideas we can all use.



Since reluctantly divesting myself of my last vessel (a 6.4 metre platey, survey built, with a Chevy/Volvo I/O, still in the family) I had been giving a good deal of thought to just what suits my current circumstances.

Many people will be in a similar position – age wearying the body and spirit, cost of running big engines, difficulties with beach launch and retrieval, etc!

In short, economics and ease of handling seemed to be the important considerations.

I wanted to be able to launch and retrieve the craft by myself from a beach, have simple, failsafe

steering and operational controls - and be able to leave it dry overnight on the sand when fishing the local islands, shoals and coastline. Power trim and tilt was essential, as was reliability and limited fuel costs.

Importantly, I was keen to ensure as much equipment duplication as practicable due to the dangers of our isolated, heat stressed environment in nor'west West Australia.

Considerations

I looked at many hulls, poured over specifications and prices, assessed available useful space and different engines - F&B was given a bit of a hammering!

Fortuitously I had access

Author Mike Levy, pictured above, has done a beautiful job fitting out his Fish Seeker - check out the array of electronics on the console he built for the craft.



to test run a local Quintrex 4.6 metre Dory in "basic ally", and was impressed by the hull performance and the apparent vast deck space.

This was a dinghy that rose above my head on the trailer, looked about 3 metres wide (well, actually it was just over 2 metres!) and had a deck to which a small aircraft carrier could aspire.

In the water it was stable, easily driven by a small engine and the freeboard meant the water was a comforting distance away.

I had a suspicion that the Millennium hull in the Quintrex range might prove even better, given the marketing "bumpf" and feedback I had gathered.