

## LIKES / DISLIKES

- + Versatile fish or family-fun platform
- + Punchy performance and smooth ride
- + Good protection, visibility and headroom under the hardtop
- + Roomy cabin with full-length bunks
- + Attractive finish and price
- Battery switch being exposed to the elements, as tested (options)
- No non-skid on gunnels or cockpit floor side panels as tested (options)
- Anchor well edges were a bit sharp



Sportcraft Boats has 22 other boats for sale online. Visit the dealer section of [tradeaboat.co.nz](http://tradeaboat.co.nz) to see if one of them is your next buy.

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Access to the anchor is through the good-quality front hatch which allows easy access to the self-draining anchor well

full navigation lights, interior light and rear facing spotlight. The bait board is of a good size and there's also plenty of cockpit space available for a large icebox to keep the resulting fillets in prime condition.

Over the back, the twin tread-plate duckboards, a boarding ladder and ample handholds should make taking a dip a hassle-free experience as well.

## Fish o'clock

I made the trip down to the laid back shores of Mt Maunganui on a sunny Friday afternoon, where the Sportcraft team were eagerly prepping the Scorpion 610 Hardtop for duty. I've always found Jamie Black and his team a pleasure to deal with and they kindly provided a very comfortable photo boat for the occasion: the Bluefin 769 Weekender (see last month's issue for the full review).

After a quick stop at the local tackle store to stock up on bait and ice, we glided the boats off their trailers before heading out to Karewa Island to try our luck, which wasn't all that flash but at least we didn't come home empty handed. A 1m swell running outside The Mount provided a good launch pad to test the ride – it was very well-mannered and quite impressive indeed. The solid hull passed its test with flying colours with WOT (33 knots) achieved in both directions. This boat was responsive and reassuring to helm and it didn't take long at all to feel at ease.

The gull-wing hull design can take a bit of a nudge to get on the plane, which the 90hp Mercury two-stroke did easily with two people on board. While these engines can run a little rough at low revs they quickly redeem themselves when given plenty of throttle. One hundred and fifteen horsepower may be a better option if you're going to load her up with dive tanks or burly blokes, and Sportcraft will happily fit the best Mercury option to suit customer requirements.

Due to the tall hardtop and large safety-glass front windows, visibility at the helm is excellent, both seated and standing, with plenty of headroom – the addition of some window treatment would make this even better. To provide the customer with maximum choice, our test boat only had minimal gauges fitted but there's space for a full set with enough room left to flush mount a five-inch panel and truckloads of additional space on top of the dash to go crazy if your budget allows.

Sportcraft Boats is an expert in all things aluminium and manufactures its own range of multi-roller Sportline trailers complete with submersible LED lights. At just under one tonne, she's easily towed and brakes can be optioned in if required.

### SCORPION 610 HARDTOP

Designer Sportcraft Boats

LOA 6.10m

Beam 2.30m

Material 5083 marine-grade aluminium

Hull bottom 5mm

Hull sides 3mm

Towing weight 960kg

Deadrise 17°

Transom height 20-inch

Engine as tested Mercury 90hp ELPTO two-stroke

Max hp 125

Fuel capacity 2 x 45L tote tanks

Price as reviewed \$44,000