

down without smacking their head, and it's actually got more room in there than some of our bigger hardtops, which our long-legged customers really like.

"It's also nice and wide, giving it good stability, and there's ample room in the back for fishing. It would have to be the best-value hardtop on the market. It's basically a good all-round boat for doing a bit of everything with, allowing you to expand your boating opportunities, while still remaining easy to tow," adds Black.

RATINGS

Fishability	★★★★★
Innovation.....	★★★★★
Design and layout	★★★★★
Handling and ride	★★★★★
Ease of towing.....	★★★★★
Stability	★★★★★
Finish	★★★★★
Ergonomics	★★★★★
X-factor	★★★★★
Overall	★★★★★

Versatility plus

While the Scorpion 610 Hardtop lends itself more towards a capable all-round fishing platform, if you don't want to call it a day, the full-length berths with storage beneath would allow a comfortable night's sleep for a couple of good mates. Entry through the cabin door could be a bit of a squeeze for larger blokes, but once inside it offers a cosy, fully-lined bungalow, which could be closed off with a canvas door if required.

Further weather protection can be optioned in as well. "Clears can be fitted to the hardtop sides and we've also had a few customers add a road cover with a couple of zips running down the back, to give you a fully-enclosed cockpit," explains Black.

The interior is fully lined in all the right places and the Sportcraft team has done an excellent job of both the carpet and overall finish. Handrails are perfectly placed and both the driver and passenger get footrests as well. Access to the anchor is through the good-quality front hatch, which allows

easy access to the self-draining anchor well, although the aluminium edges here are a bit sharp for my liking.

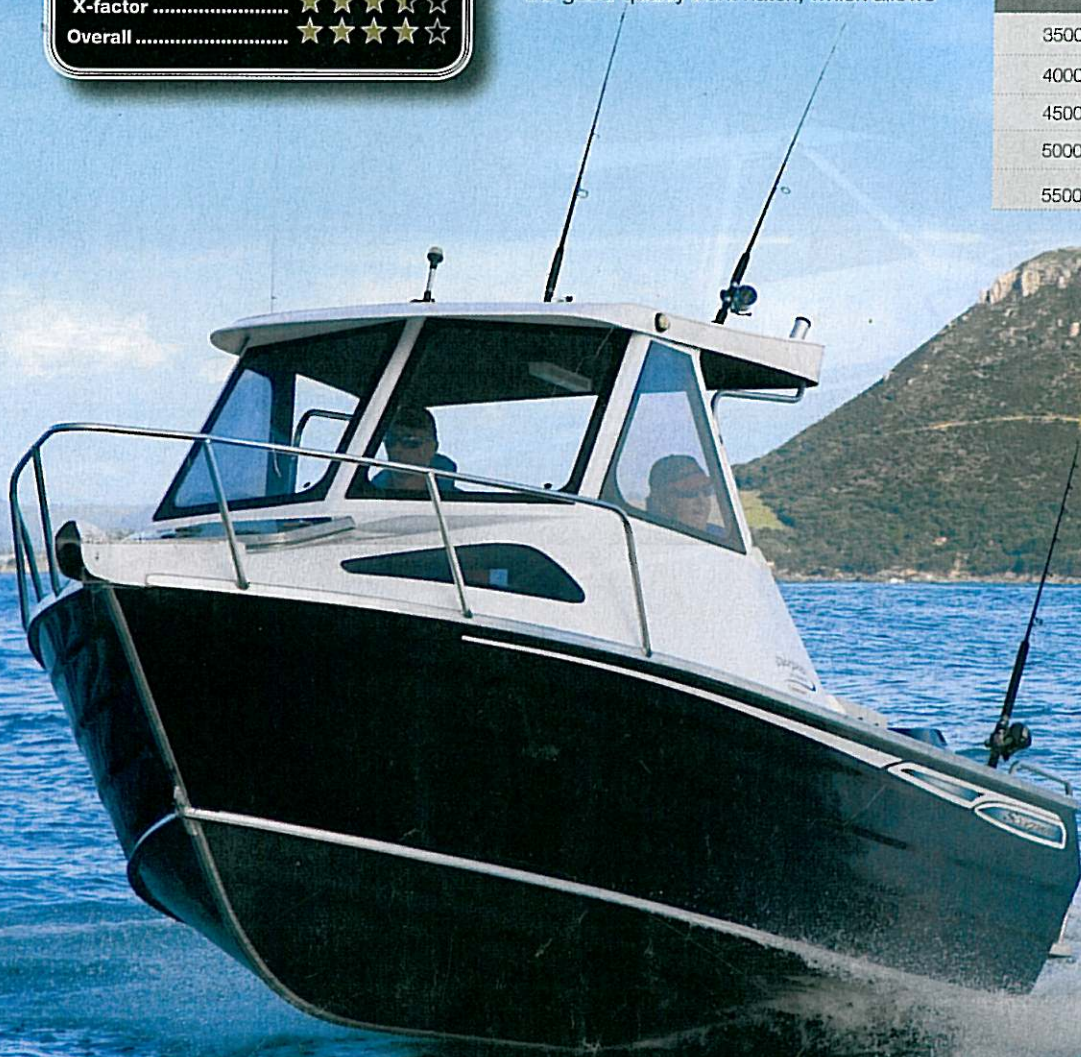
To keep clean-up time to a minimum and enjoyment at a maximum, the floor is covered with quick-clean treadplate, draining into a bilge well (complete with a bilge pump) at the rear. It is sealed, providing underfloor buoyancy, but the side panels are bare aluminium and some non-skid should be optioned in for safety and comfort.

Earlier versions came fitted with a 90-litre underfloor tank, but as there's enough room under the transom, two 45-litre tote tanks are the cheaper, lower-maintenance option for extended range. If you're on a serious mission, extra tote tanks can be stored

PERFORMANCE DATA

Scorpion 610 HT with 90hp Mercury Elpto 2-stroke and Mercury Vengeance 18P propellor

RPM	KPH	Knots
3500	24	13
4000	32	17
4500	42	23
5000	52	28
5500	62	33



The protection that a hardtop provides becomes much more appealing if you need your fishing fix to stay sane through the winter