

The bait board is of a good size and there's also plenty of cockpit space available for a large icebox



## SPECIFICATIONS

### SCORPION 610 HARDTOP

<b>Designer</b>	Sportcraft Boats
<b>LOA</b>	6.10m
<b>Beam</b>	2.30m
<b>Material</b>	5083 marine-grade aluminium
<b>Hull bottom</b>	5mm
<b>Hull sides</b>	3mm
<b>Towing weight</b>	960kg
<b>Deadrise</b>	17°
<b>Transom height</b>	20-inch
<b>Engine as tested</b>	Mercury 90hp ELPTO two-stroke
<b>Max hp</b>	125
<b>Fuel capacity</b>	2 x 45L tote tanks
<b>Price as reviewed</b>	\$44,000

deal with and they kindly provided a very comfortable photo boat for the occasion — the Bluefin 769 Weekender.

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. It 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 a 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.

## The last word

The Scorpion 610 Hardtop is an impressive package at an impressive price. Its design gives you all the benefits of a hardtop, while minimising the drawbacks of increased windage, weight and expense, and all within 6.1m which is easily driven with 90hp on the back. But let's not forget the price — \$44,000 for a true turnkey package, including a quality paint job, VHF and basic fish-finder. Pretty impressive indeed. ↴

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