



Space saver

A boat with a centre console rather than a cuddy offers more deck space and versatility, and this Orkney is no exception

COMMERCIAL OPERATORS working pots or nets often choose an open centre console for their small boats, primarily for the available deck space and versatility. That large amount of space is appreciated equally by saltwater anglers too.

I introduced you to the latest version of the Orkney classic, the Fastliner 19 in Sea Angler 567. That boat, a thoroughbred, British-

built angling vessel, featured a forward open cuddy, but those seeking more space will be pleased to know the same hull can be fitted out with a centre console.

In my previous review I mentioned that a great many Orkney boats, especially the original Fastliner 19, are used by commercial fishermen. Clearly, this is testimony to their excellent sea-keeping, build quality and structural integrity. ▶

The boat provided a smooth, slam-free ride



A handy place for an Igloo cool box



MAIN FEATURES

The Orkney Fastliner 19 CC has a 7ft 5in (2.26mm) beam and is 19ft 5in (5.92m) long. The amount of available deck space really has been maximised with gunnels that fall vertically to the main deck, with 28 inches of inboard freeboard as standard.

The deck has Orkney's signature hardware, non-slip finish, with built-in buoyancy incorporated between forward and aft seating.

A choice of hull colour options are offered and, of course, you get that lovely traditional clinker finish that really adds a touch of tradition and character.

Key features include a spacious sunken foredeck within which the anchor, chain and warp can be temporarily stowed while running between marks. A large locker within the bow provides secure stowage.

The steering console is large enough to install a typical multifunction display unit, such as the Raymarine fitted to the review boat.

Aft of the console is a well-designed double seat fitted atop a useful stowage locker, which has an Igloo cool box mounted beneath it. The seat backrest can be positioned to provide a comfortable seat facing aft when fishing at anchor. An additional seat, which again incorporates stowage, is fitted immediately forward of the console, along with moulded seats provided within each quarter.

An open space beneath the transom seat incorporates a standard five-gallon fuel tank and battery. The transom is wide enough to install an auxiliary engine alongside the main power unit, and I was pleased to note that the boat I reviewed was fitted with an all-important boarding ladder.

The hand-laminated hull includes woven reinforcement areas and is stiffened below the waterline by a GRP girder system with the hull and deck being bonded. This results in a high strength-to-weight ratio structure.

All necessary deck hardware is fitted as standard, including a manual bilge pump, along with tough PVC fendering strip outboard,



The steering console had a Raymarine fitted



The test boat had a Yamaha 80hp engine



There's a large storage locker at the bow



An additional seat plus more storage space



A double seat sits atop a stowage locker

complete with fitted stainless steel end caps, to help protect that beautiful hull. A folding canvas dodger is also available – one was provided on the review boat.

ON THE WATER

Sea conditions within Poole Harbour, where I trialled this boat, were pretty good, with only a slight wind pushing against the tide combining to create a gentle chop.

I pushed her hard through all of the usual twists and turns, while trying to assess her handling qualities. In the few areas where we did encounter slightly more testing sea conditions, I found that driven sensibly she provided a smooth, slam-free ride.

Thrown into the tightest of turns at speed, she responded beautifully without any hint of cavitation, or throwing any spray aboard.

Speeds of up to 26 knots have been recorded with outboard engines up to the maximum of 80hp; 23 knots with a 60hp engine and 12 knots have been achieved with just a 30hp engine. The hull displaces 1,500lb (670kg) and has been classified as conforming to CE Category C.



INFORMATION

The starting price for an Orkney Fastliner 19 CC package, as tested with the Yamaha 80hp, is £27,668 including VAT. For more information on any boat manufactured by Orkney, visit: www.orkney-boats.com Tel: 01243 551456 or email: sales@orkneyboats.co.uk