

FishAbility

MUST-HAVE EQUIPMENT FOR THE SERIOUS FISHERMAN



LINE UP:

After hitting for kings, our test crew scored some smook on light tackle.



LEFT TACKLE: Five slots onboard without a worry in the simple lockable rod storage.

HIGH SIDES: Plenty of freeboard fore and aft provides safety for anglers, even for fly casters forward.

GOTTA GO?: Access to the head compartment is wide enough for less-than-nimble adults to use in almost any sea conditions.

BALANCED DIET:

The fuel tanks hold 26½ gallons low in the hull on the centerline for stability.

NO WADING:

Our feet stayed dry, thanks to large scupper, a raised deck and a two-inch-wide drainage channel all the way around.

SPECIFICATIONS

JUPITER 29 FS

LENGTH 29' 6" BEAM 4' DRAFT 33"

SEADRIVE 24 FUEL 26.5 GALS.

PRICE \$329,990

see howtomakeit.com

BOAT TEST

Bay Blazer

FIND THE PATH TO REDFISH IN THE SHALLOWS. BY DAVE LEAR

AS A LEADER IN BAY-BOAT EVOLUTION, Pathfinder lets its angling-oriented designers continue to tinker. The result is the innovative 2200XL. Designed specifically to handle a heavier four-stroke, the boat is fun to run and fish. We took one out on Choctawhatchee Bay in Destin, Florida, where we found big bull redfish eager to inhale our plugs. The ensuing battles underscored the many benefits of this fishing platform.

PERFORMANCE

The nimble 2200XL can get you on the fish fast. During our test with three anglers, gear and 40 gallons of fuel aboard, the GPS registered a cruising speed of 37.7 mph at 4,000 rpm while the Yamaha F250 used only 9.8 gph. Pushing the throttle to wide open, our speed jumped

to 56.4 mph at 5,800 rpm with a fuel burn of 20.1 gph. With a soft, dry ride, the boat is suited for nearshore duty, but I would take the 2200XL deep on bluebird days.

TEST CONDITIONS

DESTIN, FLORIDA



SUNNY 76°

WIND: 5 KTS SW

SEAS: LIGHT CHOP

TARGET: REDFISH

HOW IT FISHED

Our plugs barely hit the water before they were mauled by aggressive bull reds corralled atop a submerged shoal. For the next hour, we battled drum on light tackle (to see a video clip of the action, visit www.saltwatersportsman.com). The freeboard was the right height for safe releases and recessed cleats and a snag-free deck made for plenty of casting room. The optional bow trolling motor kept us within casting range, and we released more than a dozen reds and lost several more. **Pathfinder Boats; (888) 742-5569; www.pathfinder.com**



NO NANO!

Our test crew hit the draw board from the 2200XL.

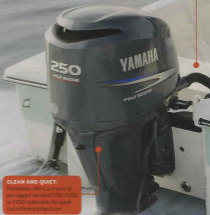


LEAN ON ME:

The standard leaning post comes with an internal storage compartment, backrest and a 94-quart cooler (but a four rod rocket launcher and tackle station can be added).

BUBBLE BATHS:

Line bait enthusiasts will appreciate the 41.25-gallon hot well on the carburetor, while the port aft compartment can be plumbed for an additional 28 gallons as a remote well.



CLEAN AND QUIET:

Pathfinder offers a choice of pre-rigged Yamaha F150, F200 or F250 outboards for quiet, fuel-efficient propulsion.