

Scout 260 Sportfish



Flying Wedge

Follow the leader.

There's a tanker to starboard and a shoal to port, a dogleg looms ahead in the channel, and I can't chop the throttle because there's a pair of poker run boats hot on my tail. My only choice? Skittering over the water at 51.8 mph, I cut the wheel to make the turn and take the tanker wake bow on. I cringe in anticipation and grip the wheel with white knuckles, but the Scout 260 Sportfish's hull meets the water like a brick hitting cream cheese. I look over my shoulder. *Ha!*—the poker boats didn't have the cards and folded.

The 260 Sportfish gives a ride like no other monohull, and the reason is its unusual design. On most modern deep-V boats, changes in deadrise and the angle of attack come as you move fore and aft along the hull. But the 260 Sportfish takes a completely different approach—its deadrise varies from the centerline out to the hullsides. From the centerline to the first strake, the bottom carries 20 degrees. From the first strake to the second strake, it has 22 degrees; and from that strake to the chine, it has 23 degrees. Combine this variability with sledgehammer-strong construction that includes a molded fiberglass stringer grid bonded to the hull while it's still in the mold, a chemically bonded hull-to-deck joint, closed-cell foam-filled voids, and dual longitudinal grids reinforcing the transom. Now go for a test run—the ride through nasty seas is kickass.

The 260 Sportfish I tested was the prototype hull, and although the ride blew my mind, there was room for improvement. The anchor locker hatch didn't secure open and it was hinged aft, so it'll be digging into your chest when you reach for the hook in rough seas. The forward fishboxes had a bit of water coming in the drains and needed to be raised up an inch or so. And when two people stood aft, some water came into the scuppers. All of these issues should be taken care of by the time the 260 Sportfish is in full production mode. Scout says it plans to bring the scuppers up 2" and move a water tank 2' forward to change the weight distribution. But give the boat a thorough walkthrough

BOATING

Certified Test Results

Scout 260

rpm	SPEED			EFFICIENCY				OPERATION	
	knots	mph	gph	naut. mpg	stat. mpg	n. mi. range	s. mi. range	run angle	sound level
1000	4.2	4.8	1.5	2.8	3.2	363	418	0	62
1500	6.0	6.9	2.6	2.3	2.7	301	346	0	66
2000	7.3	8.4	5.1	1.4	1.6	187	215	2	70
2500	8.3	9.6	6.9	1.2	1.4	158	182	7	74
3000	15.4	17.7	8.1	1.9	2.2	248	285	4	78
3500	23.7	27.3	9.3	2.6	2.9	333	383	2	82
4000	29.3	33.7	12.4	2.4	2.7	308	355	1	86
4500	33.6	38.7	15.9	2.1	2.4	276	318	1	90
5000	36.8	42.4	17.7	2.1	2.4	272	313	0	92
5500	43.9	50.5	24.5	1.8	2.1	234	269	0	96
5650	45.0	51.8	30.5	1.5	1.7	193	222	0	99

Advertised fuel capacity 145 gallons. Range based on 90 percent of that figure. Performance measured with four persons aboard, three-quarters fuel, one-half water. Sound levels taken at helm, in dB-A.

LOA 25'5"

Beam 8'6"

Draft (max.) 2'6"

Displacement (lbs., approx.; w/o power) 3,000

Transom deadrise 20°

Bridge clearance 6'8"

Minimum cockpit depth 2'2"

Max. headroom 5'1"

Fuel capacity (gal.) 145

Water capacity (gal.) 15

Price (w/standard power) \$75,309

Price (w/test power) \$85,009

STANDARD POWER Single 250-hp outboard.

OPTIONAL POWER Single outboard

to 300 hp or twin outboards to 300 hp total.

TEST BOAT POWER Twin 150-hp Yamaha F150 in-line-4 four-stroke outboards with 163 cid, 3.70" bore x 3.79" stroke, swinging 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 19" three-bladed ss props through 1.86:1 reductions.

STANDARD EQUIPMENT (major items) Hydraulic steering; tilt wheel; T-top w/electronics box, spreader lights, rocket launchers; pressure freshwater system; center console head; integrated, insulated fishboxes; livewell; raw-water washdown; tackle stations w/tackleboxes, knife/pliers/righolders, sink, tackle drawers; foldaway transom bench seat; 4 gunwale-mounted rodholders.

High Points New hull design provides awesome ride. Center 55-gallon livewell has air induction, blue lighting, and a viewing port. There's a 27-gallon livewell in the gunwale. Gunwale fish-box can hold an 80-pounder.

Low Points Anchor locker hatch, forward fishboxes, and scuppers need a redesign. Single hose clamps in the bilge should be doubled. Center bow stowage compartment drains into the bilge.

Toughest Competitor Century's 2600 CC goes for a tick under \$80,000 with the same powerplants as the Scout we tested, has 6" more LOA and the same beam, and carries 55 gallons more fuel. It doesn't have the foam-filled gunwale-to-gunwale construction, however, and can't be expected to provide the same ride in rough seas.

Contact Scout Boats, Dept. B, 2531 Hwy. 78 W., Summerville, SC 29483, 843/821-0068, www.scoutboats.com.

before you buy. Assuming these issues are addressed, the 260 Sportfish is going to be a big winner—and I can say that without putting on a poker face. —LENNY RUDOW