

# Powercat 2500 Sports Fisherman

Warren Steptoe fancied the 2600 Sport series and is now taken by this new cool 'Cat.



## PERFORMANCE

Test boat powered by 2 x Suzuki 140hp  
 Propellers: 22 inch pitch Suzuki s/s  
 Conditions: light chop, variable winds  
 Load: 2 people plus 160L fuel  
 Location: Pumicestone Passage, Qld.

RPM	SPEED IN KNOTS	COMMENTS
600	2.8	Slowest trolling speed
2000	5.6	Minimum planing speed
2500	8.3	
3000	14.0	Cruising
3500	19.2	"
4000	23.2	"
4500	27.0	Cruising
5000	30.0	
6400	39.7	WOT



There's plenty of storage room in the gunwales and on the deck.



Five wells in each corner of the aft cockpit provide plenty of room for bait.

**FISHERMEN** can be fickle. I've always looked at Powercat's 2600 Sports series and wished they'd do a full-on fishing version. And when they released the 2500 Sports Fisherman (same hull, some new mouldings), I looked at the space where Powercat's trademark central living unit usually sits and wondered if I could live without it!

Nevertheless, replacing one of the most thoroughly thought-out concepts in boating with the back-to-back seating found in most offshore fishing cuddy cabins leaves a massive cockpit.

When I tested Powercat's 2600 in 2005, I was impressed by it being a genuinely trailerable fishing boat with standards of safety and comfort at sea equivalent to much larger boats; boats which have to be moored and moved about on their own bottoms, which is a time consuming process.

The 2500 and 2600 Powercats need a vehicle capable of legally (and safely) towing three tonnes, but lots of people already own big 'Cruisers, Patrols and F250s. Such a car makes the boat completely mobile to take north, south, or anywhere else you want to fish.

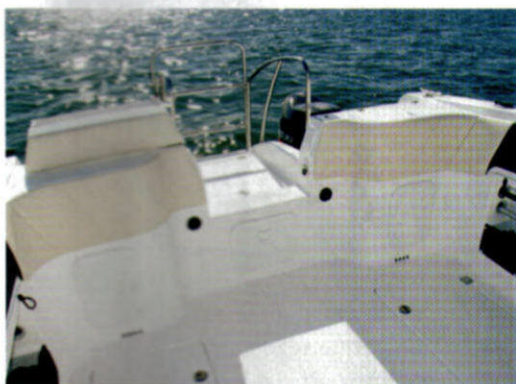
By comparison to an equivalent moored boat, these Powercats are faster and more economical with the Suzuki four-strokes they prefer. They give a remarkably soft ride in offshore conditions, are monolithically stable at rest, and safe in remote waters, thanks to the twin motors and paired essential systems.

The 2500 Sports Fisherman is the ultimate (trailerable) serious fishing boat with its mega cockpit. If you like overnight cruising, then the 2600 models with the central station featuring sink, stove, fridge, food prep space and pantry might be more your thing.

## Close up

The 2500 Sports Fisherman's full cockpit mould is great for cleaning up after the usual mess involved in fishing, with nowhere to trap smelly gunk. It's not so great when offshore fishing is concerned—there wasn't a space to wedge my feet in—under the gunwales to provide fish-fighting stability. The upholstered bolster around the cockpit periphery in the test boat was way too thin to get your feet under. Powercat's Steve Shaw didn't let me get started before pointing out their upholsterer had stuffed up—the bolster will be a lot thicker from now on!

Then there's how far out back twin Suzuki 140s extend. They're an inconvenience for some styles of fishing—and no worries for others. Powercat have extended a wide walk-through aft between the motors which allows access past the motors; which minimises that problem. It's an issue with all outboard powered boats and Powercat have addressed it.



The helm is well appointed with all the modern gadgets. The cockpit is massive and provides plenty of fishing space—and there's walk-through access past the outboard motors.

Without the central station, the 2500 Sports Fisherman gains those back-to-back type seats with 60L iceboxes underneath the aft facing ones. At the front are ingenious foldaway seats that convert from seat to padded bolster in seconds. It's one of the best seating arrangements for offshore travel I've seen.

The cockpit deck is cambered some 20mm towards a drain channel leading to freeing ports aft. Easy to clean and quick draining, the deck is far enough above the waterline to be self-draining.

Underfoot in the cockpit are a pair of 220L floodable fish wells. Higher up, in each corner of the aft bulkhead, is a live well with a cutting surface as a lid. A pair of stainless steel workstations/baitboards mounted above the live wells are optional.

Other options seen on our test boat include the hardtop, with standard stainless targa arch (I was impressed with the convenient grab bars underneath); an electric anchor winch; an electric toilet with 45L holding tank (a chemical toilet is standard); an upgrade to counter rotating 140hp Suzis from the standard 115s; and fuel tanks upgraded to 250L from the standard 200L tanks.

Powercat's 2500 Sports Fisherman took out the AMIF Fishing Boat Trailerable Over 6 Metres Award for 2007. I'd just call it the ultimate trailerable offshore fishing boat—perhaps if you didn't decide to go for a 2600 Sports instead!

## POWERCAT 2500 SPORTS FISHERMAN

**Builder:** Powercat Marine, Cessna Drive, Caboolture, Qld  
**Website:** [www.powercatmarine.com.au](http://www.powercatmarine.com.au)  
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**Configuration:** Power catamaran, cuddy cab offshore fisher

**Hull material:** GRP  
**Length:** 7.5m  
**Length overall:** 7.7m  
**Beam:** 2.5m  
**Deadrise:** 28 degrees  
**Hull weight:** approx 2,260kg  
**Towing weight:** approx 2,980kg  
**Fuel capacity:** 2 x 200L (test boat optioned 2 x 250L)  
**Freshwater:** 60L  
**Draft:** 0.51m (motors up)  
**Freeboard:** 1.07m

### RATINGS

**Min power:** 2 x 90hp  
**Max power:** 2 x 150hp  
**Tested power:** 2 x 140hp  
**Transom height:** X-long shaft motors

**Standard features:** Anchor/chain/rope; nav lights; 4 x s/s rod holders; targa arch/rod rack; fully lined cabin; chemical toilet; cabin lights; switch panel and circuit breakers; dual ram hydraulic steering; lockable cabin door; helm and passenger seats; 2 x 60L iceboxes; 2 x 220L in-deck fish boxes; 2 x live wells; cockpit lighting; spreader lights; glovebox; 4-drawer tackle locker; 2 x 200L fuel tanks; 60L water tank; bilge pumps; auto pressure system and rear hand-held shower; Clarion marine stereo system; dual engine batteries plus house battery w/isolators and BEP VSR system; full instrumentation; compass; EPIRB; fire extinguisher; safety and mooring pack; 2 x 115hp Yamaha two-stroke outboards.

**Options:** Humminbird or Raymarine colour chartplotter/sounders; engine upgrade to 115 four-strokes or 140hp Suzukis; electronic binnacle controls; hardtop; folding targa arch; full clears and side curtains; aft canopy; cockpit carpet; Flexitek decking; 20L heat exchange hot water system; 2 x 250L fuel tanks; 12/240V fridge; electric anchor winch; cabin reading lights; spotlight; foam filled hull; deckwash system; bow ladder; bait board/s; VHF radio; anti fouling; outriggers; electric toilet w/holding tank and pump-out; Powercat Ezy launch trailer.

**Notable features:** Super comfortable ride, extra-high safety factor, huge cockpit and excellence for serious offshore fishing.

**Negatives:** For some types of fishing, the reach over the motors is inconvenient.

**Pricing:** Basic packages, approx \$131,800.00 without trailer; the test boat, approx \$161,700.00 inc options and trailer.