

POWERCAT 2400 SPORTS CAB



Viewed from aft, the transom walkthrough and folded boarding ladder become visible.

It's a bit misleading to refer to Powercat's new 24-footer as a 'small' boat. Because, although the 2400 Sports Cab is the baby sister to the other siblings in the Powercat stable, and yes, she is trailable (if you have a tow vehicle rated to 3 tonne that is), a small boat she ain't.

Being a cat, it's reasonable to compare this boat with considerably larger mono hulls in terms of interior space and, especially, bluewater handling. In fact, if anyone's looking for an excellent offshore fishing boat that is still trailable, safe in remote areas, capable of housing two people in comfort for a few days and can really handle the rough stuff, here it is.

But if you want to use a 2400 Sports Cab as a pure fishing boat, you'd have to seriously consider whether you wanted the optional aft lounge seen in these photos. We thought it was a worthwhile option, because it makes the boat ideal for cruising and a great fishing boat.

For fishing days, the lounge can be easily removed and left at home. If

you optioned the table, which again we suspect most new owners would (for social use), this is also quickly removed and left behind when not needed. But the upholstered seat squab around the cockpit's periphery stays, because these make a comfortable structure to brace against when fishing.

Serious fishos will take up the workstation option, which drops into place on the aft covering board. Set-up like this, you retain a roomy and comfortable cockpit in what is an awesome fishing platform.

Still on fishing, one of the two bait wells in the covering board could be plumbed as a live-well. The under-deck locker, beneath the starboard side of the centre console, can be used as a fish box and the standard fitment stainless steel Targa bar holds six fishing rods.

But the good news is that this boat has a work/fishing space comparable to mono hulls almost 2 m longer. And these monos aren't trailable, nor do they ride anywhere

near as well as a good power cat can.

Every time I cross northern Moreton Bay in a Powercat, that hit song from the film *Easy Rider*, *Magic Carpet Ride* keeps playing in my head. Why? Because when you've had as many poundings crossing Moreton Bay over the past quarter century as I have, a 'magic carpet' is the only way to describe a Powercat's ride.

About the only thing the 2400 Sports Cab compares poorly with on northern Moreton Bay is a larger Powercat. The breed quite clearly defines all that's good about power catamarans in rough water. And these days the Powercat marquee has, in many correspondents' opinions, ascended the heights to pre-eminence in this category. Then, on top of all this is the boat's stability at rest, which can only be described as monolithic!

Slip the lounge and table back into place in the cockpit and this time leave the workstation at home. The bait-wells and the fish box are great for cooling drinks and keeping the salad fresh for a social day out.

Then, take a peek inside the lockable cabin doors. Being a cat, you can't stand up in the cabin proper, but there's a large comfortable bunk; and you can stand up in the starboard sponson as you enter.

A chemical toilet is supplied with the



From a high viewpoint you can see how much cockpit space there is, once the lounge comes out!

'Sports Cab' package, but there is an up-market version of this new Powercat hull. Called a 'Targa', the non-fishing 2400 Series Powercat (which actually means little, because the lounge can still be removed just as easily) comes with an electric toilet with holding tank, but the stainless Targa bar (seen on the test boat) becomes a moulded one that's incorporated into a hardtop.

Pressurised water from an inbuilt water tank is standard, as is a shower. There's a stove in the centre console and an electric anchor winch on the bow. Plus, you still get that 'magic carpet ride' hull in a more luxuriously appointed boat. It's an ideal trailable cruiser for two with unmatched rough water handling abilities.

For those unfamiliar with Powercats, the 2400 Series (in either version) is a scaled-down version of its larger siblings, so it has the usual Powercat centre console. But in this boat the console incorporates a sizable sink unit with a 65 lt icebox stowed beneath. Curved doors give access



With the aft lounge seats in place, the cockpit is a social sort of place...

to storage compartments located on each side of the console.

A portable stove can be used on the bench top and there's a rail around its periphery to hold onto if necessary and to keep anything sitting on the top of the console from falling off. On the front of the console is another great piece of Powercat engineering, a forward facing seat for the helm and a passenger. It has a flip-up cushion that becomes a bolster seat when folded away. That'll keep the skipper happy.

Powercats always seem to have small steering wheels, which nonetheless control the boat effortlessly, thanks to the wonders of hydraulics. The dash area in the 2400 is enormous and there's even a small glove box to secure valuables.

Another big plus on this boat is the walkthrough transom and the folding swim ladder between the outboards. There's no denying this is one hell of a boat. And yes, it is legally trailable.

The test Powercat 2400 ran a pair of

90 hp Suzuki four-stroke outboards.

Powercat recommend outboards between 80 hp and 140 hp for this hull, but we'd have to say that any other engines would be hard pressed to match the two Suzukis on this boat. The brand is now well known for its quiet and smooth running motors, which deliver ample power right across the rev range.

But what makes these outboards even more noticeable is that they are *so* quiet. You could hardly hear them at low revs and at speed, we were conversing inside the boat without raising our voices, even near the top speed of 33.7 knots.

The minimum planing speed of the 2400 was recorded as 7.3 knots—mightily impressive for a power catamaran and sure to make those 'bad weather' trips home even more comfortable.

If you haven't experienced the performance and handling of a power catamaran, then do yourself a favour and have a close look at Powercat's latest 2400 Series. They'll blow you away. ■



Just to prove a point, the 2400 Series Powercats are legally and easily trailerable behind 4WDs like the Nissan Patrol.



LEFT: The dash is enormous. There's plenty of room for any amount of electronic fish finding gear here.