

Horizon 438 Stryker SC with 50hp Suzuki

BRISBANE

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This neat 4.5m Horizon side console rig has a lot going for it. While a team of keen anglers could put the well turned

out alloy rig to good use for some serious fishing in bay or estuary, there's no denying the craft's tremendous family boating appeal given the generously wide layout, ample interior work room plus a red hot price, at under \$21,000 from the

dealer's yard. And that's with electronics as well.

And, as I was to find out during test runs with Scott from Horizon Boats, it also has a very easy and totally forgiving ride, in many respects better than you might expect from an alloy craft of such modest



Interior work room is a great feature of this craft, as can easily be noted here.

dimensions.

Available in several sizes and configurations – extending to 438 and 454 runabout or tiller steer models – the Horizon Stryker range are quite new and for a fishing team or small family boating enthusiasts looking for real bang for the buck are going to be very hard to overlook. So let's take a closer look to see what all the fuss is about.

GENERAL LAYOUT

Up front there's a handy grab rail, plus a quite large drained anchor well just ahead of the carpeted, 250mm high, casting deck. Note that the Stryker's option sheet covers an electric motor pad up front. Stepping down from the carpeted cast deck with its large under floor storage compartment, plus useful seat spigot, and into the main work area easily allows us to note one of the great advantages of side console rigs; the side console with its helm station was right out of the way. Also, the windscreen and grab rail equipped

SPECIFICATIONS

Length.....	4.5m
Beam.....	2.06m
Length on trailer.....	5.3m
Height on trailer.....	1.95m
Construction.....	3mm sheet sides and bottom
Weight hull.....	350kg
Deadrise.....	13°
Fuel.....	tote tank 25L
Engines.....	30 to 50hp
Engine fitted.....	Suzuki 50 four stroke
Towing.....	Family sedan, ute or 4x4
Persons.....	5

side console offered ample legroom below, being open through its lower section.

I found the seating position within the high backed pedestal skipper's seat certainly was quite comfortable given the easy leg placement under the console. Steering wheel and engine forward controls were also within easy reach while the modest engine gauges plus Humminbird 788d HD sounder set onto the upright section of the console was very easy to keep an eye on. A modest yet quite useful dash layout saw instruments and sounder uppermost, switches and marine radio

lower on the console's face. Note that a side pocket was handy for the skipper's use.

I liked the seating options within the Horizon Stryker, in that a seat spigot was installed up front, another to port just ahead of the side console, plus a fourth beside the skipper's helm seat providing for a side by side configuration or with one person further forward to keep the craft trimmed, a handy option in smaller craft.

Current production models of the 438 Stryker also have a quite large under floor storage compartment set to port of the console, no doubt going



Top: The Stryker's flexible seating system, maximizing interior room, is a great feature of this craft. **Middle:** On the beach and ready to go. Note the generous beam of the Horizon 438 Stryker. **Above:** Side consoles make sense in a fishing craft: the Stryker's console taking up very little room.



A generously large anchor well is a handy feature of this neat fishing craft.