

Tested
Seacat 565

An Anglers Best Friend

If you're in the market for a new boat, and happen to be an avid offshore angler at the same time, the Seacat 565 CC (centre console) may very well be the perfect boat for you. The Seacat 565 Centre console is a boat tailor-made for any serious angler looking for the perfect craft to take on fishing trips.



It has been designed with the new four stroke motors in mind and has high flotation sponsons ideally suited for carrying the extra weight without sacrificing performance or comfort. The one we tested was armed with two four stroke 60 hp trim-and-tilt Yamaha motors, and even though we were at altitude it achieved planing very easily, I can only imagine what it would perform like at the coast.

If you want a bit more grunt though, you can opt for dual two stroke 70 hp motors. The 60 hp four stroke motors we used performed exceptionally well plus they're more environmentally safe and easier on the wallet due to being more fuel efficient than the two strokes. At the end of the day it comes down to a matter of personal preference though, whether you decide on the two stroke or the four stroke motors.

Either way, you'll find more than adequate power no matter which you choose. The controls are also smooth and easy to operate and a hydraulic steering system comes as standard.

The Seacat 565 has a similar hull design to that of the Unique 575, being wide and having large shoulders also makes the boat look a lot bigger than it actually is. It may look big, but you shouldn't have too many problems getting it loaded or into the water, we managed fine with only three people.

As far as trailering goes, the Seacat 565 comes standard with a "Steelcraft" braked, galvanised break neck trailer complete with spare wheel that will reliably carry the 565 wherever you want to go without any trouble.

Once out on the water, the 565 obliges with ample power and maneuverability where and when you need it. It is an extremely agile, well-handling boat perfect for tricky surf launches yet it will soak up the chop on a long fishing run.

And performance isn't all you'll get out of the Seacat 565, as we mentioned earlier this is an anglers boat first and foremost, so you would expect it to have a few fishing friendly features, and it does. It features large fish hatches, a see-through live bait well (which makes selecting your live bait a lot easier), an easily accessible step platform with a stainless steel boarding ladder between the motors and perspex covered housing for the echo-sounder and radio.

It also has ample storage space with compartments scattered all around the vessel, so many that I don't see how you'll ever fill them all, there is even a series of removable drawers in the front, which I'm sure a lot of anglers will



find very useful. There is also a good amount of space on the deck, so you have a lot of room to move around in, perfect for game and fly-fishing.

The boat measures in at 18 feet (5.6 m) in length and has a beam of 8 feet (2.3 m) whilst weighing in at a solid 750 kg. The centre console version is obviously aimed more at the angler at heart and less for taking the family out on the water. If you're taking passengers along though the centre console is cushioned for comfortable seating.

The fuel tanks are situated below deck along with the fish hatches for more space on deck. Other features in the Seacat 565 includes a step platform, self-draining wet deck, stainless steel keel strips, stainless steel roll bars, anchor hatch and bow roller and stainless steel rail and grab handles.

The deck also has a non-slip finish and the Flotex-lined super-high gunnels have extra rod racks recessed into them. To complement the console area, there's a windscreen with stainless steel trimmings, plus a T-top for sun protection and rod stowage.

The advantages of the centre console version also makes itself clear when you have a full 360

degrees of fishability without the angler having to climb over everything. The 565 is well suited to all-round offshore fishing, from trolling and jigging to flyfishing, and with its good performance and handling features, spacious layout and plethora of angler specific features, many enjoyable hours can be spent fishing to your hearts content with the Seacat 565.

Johan Keyter

SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Model: | Seacat 565 |
| Test Engine: | Dual Yamaha 60 hp, four-stroke |
| Length: | 18 ft. 0 in. (5.6 m) |
| Beam: | 8 ft. (2.3 m) |
| Seating Capacity: | N/A |
| Fuel Capacity: | 150 litres |
| O-plane: | N/A |
| Top Speed: | N/A |
| Price: | R320 000 |

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