



Surtees Game Fisher 700 with Yamaha 250hp V6



There is one thing for certain when we test high quality and larger New Zealand built aluminum boats – they always stop people at the boat ramp and get them talking. This was again the case at Clontarf on the Redcliffe Peninsula when Northside Marine turned up with this 7m Surtees Game Fisher.

And it's not just the cool colour. New Zealand boats are typically very well-made and have all of the additions that a serious boater and angler would want. Northside Marine import these hulls and then add them to locally built



Main: There's no doubt that the Surtees 700 Game Fisher is a great looking rig. **Above:** It is fitted with Yamaha's Digital Electric Steering (DES) 250hp outboard, which is plug and play with Yamaha's Helm Master joystick and auto pilot system.

trailers, removing the risk to customers of importing themselves.

They also add local outboards that have full local warranties. In this case it was Yamaha's 250hp, DES 4-stroke that came fitted on the rig. This is the maximum horsepower for this hull.

As tested, this boat came in at around \$220,000, and at that price, you would expect everything to be spot on. Climbing up the rear step and into the boat, you can see how well appointed and well finished everything is. This

SPECIFICATIONS

Length	7.0m
Beam	2.375m
Sides	3mm
Bottom	6mm
Fuel	325L
Max HP	250hp
Capacity	7 persons
Transom Deadrise	20°
Tow weight	2140kg

is a pilot house variation hull, which means that the rear doors can either be left open or pulled shut when the weather demands.

At first glance, you would think that this may not be suitable for Queensland's hot weather, but careful thought about ventilation in this boat, including large, sliding side-windows and ceiling mounted vents make circulation not an issue.

And southern boaters will definitely appreciate the enclosed cabin when things get cold and nasty.

All of the workable fishing space in this boat is in the main cockpit and this is fully rubber lined – from the gunwales to the floor.



Above: All of the fishing space is in the cockpit and it's definitely built to handle water nastier than this. **Inset:** This is the first boat I've seen gunwale mounted boxes in. Brilliant for tackle storage that you need close to hand.



Top: Surtees treatment of the boarding step problem is sturdy, simple and convenient. **Above:** Plenty of room in here for the windlass.

Yamaha's DES models have ultra-simple rigging and are available in blue or white.

Top: We love the room for big, flush mounted MFDs at the helm. The Surtees helm is custom built to hold everything you'll want to fit – including the rest of the Helm Master options if you want them. **Above:** Big windows that open from the front help air circulation massively.



The pilothouse doors can be held open or locked shut, depending on the weather conditions.

Now there's some cockpit space. Can you imagine fishing from this beast? Plenty of rubber decking and Nyalic coating where its unpainted aluminium.



Top and Bottom Left: There's ample cabin space for overnights, which includes a chemical toilet under the infill. **Top and Bottom Right:** Standard access hatches allow you to access all plumbing.

Top Left: The bait board has space for four rods and a lip to keep everything in. **Top Right:** The side pockets are quite high off the cockpit floor and check out the additional rod storage. **Bottom Left:** Here's the entry to the Water Ballast System at the transom. The flap can be lowered to optionally keep it in when travelling in rougher water. **Bottom Right:** A sink helps keep everything civilised.



Surtees has a knack of maximising the available storage. Gunwale mounted tackle boxes and clever side pockets allow the most efficient use of space. As a Queenslander, I also loved the extra shade offered by the canvas canopy extension.

There is also ample rod storage,

PERFORMANCE		
RPM	Speed (km/h)	Economy (km/L)
Idle	4	2.0
1000	8	1.5
2000	13	1.2
3000	22	1.1
3500	34	1.4
3700	43	1.6
4000	49	1.4
5000	60	1.0
6000	77	0.8

both in the rocket launchers, next to the side pockets and at the bait station.

Forward of the cabin doors, the luxury continues. There is a sizeable cabin, which will allow multiple anglers to enjoy an overnighter,



Top: Peak efficiency for this rig is at 3,700rpm where it delivers 1.6km/L at 43km/h. Punch the throttle and you get only 0.8km/L at 6,000rpm and 77km.h.

Above: The Surtees Game Fisher 700 beautifully balanced at rest.

complete with chemical toilet. The helm is spacious, and the dash will hold any of the multifunction displays that you want to fit. And, there is room for Yamaha's HelmMaster system, which is seamlessly compatible with this model outboard.

Performance wise, it really gets

up and goes with the 250hp on the back. At wide open throttle and 6000rpm, this boat travels 77km/h while delivering 0.8km/L burned. To maximise efficiency, drop that throttle to 3700rpm and you'll get twice that distance per litre - 1.6km.

With a 325L fuel tank, you'll be

scaring a 500km theoretical range if you're not driving like a mad kiwi.

At the helm, you'll notice that the hull is quite weight sensitive and you'll be spending a bit of time on the trim tabs getting it all level. That's not unusual on a hull like this, but be aware it will need to become part of your driving procedure.

And if you are looking to tow this rig with a standard, twin cab ute, you are in luck. Just over 2,000kg on the trailer when unloaded and, even loaded for a trip, you should be able to pull it with most models on the market.

The Redco trailer is built locally, is twin axle and has electric/hydraulic brakes standard.

Like what you see? The man to talk to at Northside Marine is Jason Comino who can quote you the Surtees package that will suit YOUR type of fishing. Just quietly, he's pretty handy on a rod, so it might be nice to deal with a fellow angler when putting your rig together.

Visit www.northsidemarine.com.au.



Left: You can see the spray chine doing their thing and deflecting water down and away from the hull.

Right: Talk to Jason Comino at Northside Marine in Brisbane for more details about this beast of a rig.

