

FISHING BOAT PROFILE



Quintrex 480 Coast Runner CV

From Australia's largest aluminium boat builder comes the Quintrex 480 Coast Runner CV, a versatile and affordable package for the young family or those new to boating. Freddy Foote spent a day's fishing in this versatile little boat and even though the fishing wasn't stunning, had a great day out in this little runabout.

Value Packed

Quintrex's Coast Runner range has 10 models ranging in length from 4.45m-6.35m. They also offer what they call CV models, which means Customer Value. This CV option comes with only the necessary boating accessories, and is a great way to get first time buyers into boating, and also gives them the option of adding things to meet their needs such as ski hooks, rear lounge seating, or a fish finder.

It was decided that for this article, a fishing trip was in order. So I arranged with Andrew Hope of Auckland Marine, the Auckland Quintrex dealer, and along with Pat Langevad of Auckland Fishing Tackle and NZ Propeller fishing writer, the three of us would get out on the water for a day of fishing. The aim was to use the boat to the best of its abilities and also to enjoy the last of the nice weather before winter arrives.

After meeting with Andrew and Pat at Army

Bay on Auckland's Whangaparaoa Peninsula (very early one morning, 6am to be exact!), we launched the boat from the beach, which with a little boat like the 480 was really easy for two people to do on their own. We headed out in search of live baits for some kingie action later on at a few spots that Pat had in mind. We soon found a school of small kahawai at the entrance to Mahurangi harbour and after dragging a few lures we soon had five small specimens in our homemade live bait tank. This consisted of a fish bin filled with water which we replenished every 10minutes or so. Moving to Saddle Island, we set up a couple of live baits and also stray lined in the hope of a couple of snapper. With only a little bit of luck and a few small kingies swimming around beneath the boat but no strikes, we then moved further out to Flat Rock and again set up the live baits and bottom fished for snapper. We landed a couple of legal sized



Launching and retrieving from the beach was easy.



The cockpit is quite roomy, big enough for three to fish comfortably.



The helm is tidy and stylish, and the seats are able to swivel.

snapper, but the kingies were still remaining a little bit elusive.

Later in the day we decided to head closer to home and beat some nasty wind that was on its way. On the way back we had a fish for an hour or so on Wellington reef, where we managed to get a few more snapper on board before heading back into Army Bay.

Three of us fished easily aboard the 480 Coast Runner, even though we had a small arsenal of fishing weaponry that Pat had brought with him to ensure that we were prepared for any event! The boat was also fitted with six rod holders, so when re-baiting (which I spent a lot of time doing!) there was always somewhere handy to put my rod.

Seating was made up of two pedestal seats forward, while for a third person we utilised a padded fish bin. For additional seating, Quintrex offers a rear folding lounge seat with backrest, which is easily removable to open up the cockpit for more space.

Storage areas are plentiful, with space available for'ard under the foredeck for jackets, bags etc. A glove box is positioned in front of the passenger seat and as well as being lockable is a great place to keep cellphones, etc. Side shelves are located on both sides of the carpeted cockpit and are big enough for rod and water-ski storage.

Further for'ard, Quintrex has changed its anchor wells slightly, making them larger in volume, and lining them with a plastic mould that really quiets down the noise that can occur when underway.

Access forward was via the split windscreen that was easy to get through, and while it was possible to lean forward to perform the anchoring duties, we preferred to sit up on the bow and bring the anchor in and out that way. The tidy and stylish Quintrex helm is a moulded plastic unit that houses the Mercury gauges, VHF and a Humminbird fish finder, mounted on a bracket above the dash.

Dry Ride

The Coast Runner models also feature Quintrex's famed Millennium hull with its flared bow. I got a good opportunity to see this design at work on our test day, as the sea really chopped up quite heavily on our return trip from Flat Rock. We were encountering a breaking quartering sea that in any boat is not the most comfortable ride. This required us to really drive the boat, having to steer away from or into the odd rogue wave. The hull softened up the ride quite substantially and the flared bow ensured that we remained very dry even though we did have the canopy cover up, and we only got a couple of small specks



of water on the windscreen.

The seating position was comfortable with the steering wheel and throttle positioned well. However I found myself either peering over the windscreen and through the canopy

Plenty of storage space available.



Flat Rock produced little results.



Quintrex's new anchor well with plastic liner.

clears, or looking out below the top of the windscreen – the compromise you have to take sometimes to be out of the wind!

Quintrex also builds its boats with what they call the 'Maxi 2 Transom'. This has changed slightly from the original Maxi Transom, and now has more of a curved trailing edge which Quintrex claims it aids the boat's ability to plane and increases buoyancy.

Like all others in the Quintrex Coast Runner range, it also comes with the Maxi Bracket, which is a simple way of being able to attach such things as a berley bucket, auxiliary motor bracket, live bait tank, or the boarding ladder that we had fitted to our test boat.

Recommended power range for this particular model is from 60hp to 80hp, with our test boat being fitted with a 75hp Mercury two-stroke which is fed by a standard 95litre fuel tank.

The 480 Coast Runner CV is sure to be an absolute winner with the first time boat buyer or serious fisho as it offers so much, and takes a lot of the guesswork out of deciding what you actually need. Everything's pretty much all there already! It's a well-appointed boat that is ideal for family fishing trips; social skiing or picnicking, and given that the boat only weighs 700kg on the trailer, a big tow vehicle isn't needed.

With packages starting from \$27,995 and this boat as tested at \$31,275, it's hard to ignore it.

