



For its size, the baby of Quintrex's Renegade range packs a remarkable amount of fishing space and is happy to roam semi-open water fishing. Test report James Hill.

Last issue we were able to test the big 520 Renegade from Quintrex. So it seemed only fair this issue of *TBF* to take a look at her 'kid sister', the Renegade 420!

Normally, coming down a metre in size makes a big difference to the feel and space of a boat. However, not so much in this case because the 420 Renegade is an exceptionally roomy boat and handles well for a 4.2 metre (14 foot) craft.

In fact, what is so appealing about the smaller 420 Renegade is that it is so affordable – either as an outright purchase or as a pay-by-the-week investment craft.

All the Renegade models offer pretty much the same concept, regardless of size. However, this particular model offers the option of a TS (tiller steer) version as well.

Most buyers will select the side console because it offers such a neat and comfortable helm position. That said, even the TS version comes with an electric start button located on the side coaming, plus helm seat.

Having tested the 420 Renegade in both versions I can give this Quinnie a big tick either way. It's a great design in either form and well suited to the coastal estuary fishing most of us enjoy.

The design is also small enough to access upstream rivers and lakes. It is also a light craft to launch at the beach or river bank when concrete ramps are not available.

The 420 Renegade also delivers quite good stability for a small craft

due to its generous 2.06m beam. This means you can stand-up cast with some confidence in bay waters. It is therefore well suited to flicking soft plastics, or flies.

So what's the drawback? Not a lot really because the 420 Renegade provides a very versatile interior and has underfloor stowage for fishing and personal gear. It also has raised side pockets, which are always handy for hand lines and other fishing gear.

It's right at home in coastal waterways like Port Stephens and it's not out of the question to take it near reefs on good days with the right PFDs and safety gear.

The obvious advantage of the 420 Renegade is the price and lower running costs. The price kicks off around \$17,439 with a Yamaha CV two-stroke motor from Sydney Quintrex dealer, Hunts Marine. However, the boat we ended up testing from Hunts in this article has an Evinrude 40hp ETEC that is a bit more sophisticated. It also has a bow mount, extra live bait/catch tank and stainless steel propeller. All for just \$22,603.

Design: It might have an 'outlaw' name but Renegade is a boat that is quickly accepted into the fishing family because of its modern, smooth appearance and great fishing interior.

This is a true 360-degree fishing machine and comes standard with four rod holders, live bait tank (aft), optional live bait/catch tank (front) and slot-in fishing seats.

Our test boat looked a beauty on its trailer with its white painted hull and stylish graphics. Its freeboard also makes it very suitable craft for fishing on places like Botany Bay where we conducted this test.

The elevated casting decks definitely suggest the 'plastic fantastic' style of fishing is the go with this boat and that's going to please the young generation of anglers.

The long, Vee-entry bow not only enhances the boat's look but also helps to create a softer ride in choppy waters. The dimensions are 4.26m hull length, 2.06m beam width and 96cm hull depth (keel to mid-gunwale).

The hull features smooth 3mm alloy panels in the topsides and 3mm bottom

Quintrex 420

SPECIFICATIONS

Construction	alloy
Configuration	hardtop cabin
Length	8.6m
Beam	2.5m
Rated power	250-350hp
Trail weight	3500kg
Fuel tankage	500L
Water ballast	600L

Further information:
www.surtees.com

Standard features on the Surtees 8.5 Game Fisher are as follows:

- Water ballasted hull for superior stability
- Six fully welded stringers
- Fully welded tread plate floor
- Sealed underfloor buoyancy
- Under floor storage bin
- Large dashboard area
- Toughened glass screens
- Large forward hatch
- Portofino stern
- Boarding ladder
- Large side shelves side
- Separate anchor locker
- Rod holders
- Rocket launcher
- Bow roller and bollard
- Bow, side and stern rails
- Ample hand /grab rails
- Toilet as standard
- Three berths
- Fold away galley table
- Side graphics
- Smooth non-pounding hull design
- Hydraulic ballast shut-off flap

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Renegade SC



with pressed strakes that help ensure a cleaner wake.

A lot of design focus is on spray deflection. You get an extra chine edge above the main chine to help deflect spray. Also the main chine edge has a small, down-deflection spray rail to help suppress the bow spray.

The hull features an unpainted bottom and also a small keelson, which helps to protect the bottom on the trailer, or the beach.

Like the bigger 520 Renegade, this model comes with a transom step and grab rail on the port side of the transom. This is all part of the user-friendly package approach that makes the boat very easy to board.

The carpeted floor is comfortable for barefoot fishing and the dark grey colour of the carpet helps to reduce glare on bright summer days.

Other features of the 420 Renegade include low bow and stern handrails and the side sports console located on the starboard side of the boat. I might mention there's a choice of topside colours, including bright red, burnt orange, lime and light blue. And if you

wanted to really stand out from the crowd Quintrex also offers vinyl wrap design for the topsides. This can be your own design, or one provided from their stock file of 'fishy theme' designs.

Structurally, the 420 Renegade ticks the box with 3mm hull skin backed by strong internal framing and under floor framing. The hull also has foam buoyancy, however only to the Basic flotation level under the ABP standard.

Our test boat was also fitted the optional for'ard bow thruster plate that takes an electric motor. The welded side decks are also a standard feature and come with four rod holders.

The total trail weight of the test rig was approximately 700kg, including the optional bits and pieces and this fits comfortably within the range of smaller cars like the Holden Cruz with a 1200kg towing capacity, or new Mazda 3 hatchback (900kg tow capacity).

Performance: After a few days of rainy conditions we finally got the chance to take this baby Renegade for spin on Botany Bay. The lack of sun had somewhat damned our summer

spirit, however, the sight of this beauty soon had me dreaming about summer snapper and lazy days with the lizards!

The clean interior just whets the appetite for piscatorial action. Indeed, if we'd had more time and no deadline we would have done exactly that!

A feature I especially like is the pedestal skipper seats and choice of three floor slots so you can have the passenger alongside the helm, or further forward.

Sadly, there's no seat slot in the bow casting deck, however, I guess that's to ensure people aren't sitting up there in bumpy waters. That said I would add a 'fourth' slot up there and in combination use a bum-bolster. It would go well with an electric bow thruster.

Underway, the 420 Renegade slipped easily to the plane and moved quickly with the urging of the ETEC 40hp motor. Performance on the day wasn't as fast as the bigger 520 Renegade, however, fast enough as we cruised over the Georges River at 24-26 knots.



Like her big sister, this tinnie zips along quite quickly once you've got over the 'hump' and it rides quite comfortably thanks to the blade entry.

I was also pleased to find the 420 Renegade's trim is not overly worried by just having one person aboard and driving in the side console position. This can be a problem in some small side console but not in this boat.

Any heel we had with a heavier helmsman would be easily balanced up by a heavy tackle box and an esky! Also, keep in mind that once you add an electric bow mount motor (and battery) you are compensating for the skipper's weight pretty much.

The hull's stability and dry ride was most noticeable as we sped over the light wind chop. Even when the wind blew up a nasty chop we still found the hull easily throws the spray aside.

Underway, the 420 Renegade delivers a sports car-like response as you drive it fast through turns. I can only imagine that it's going to easily top 30 knot plus with maximum power of 50hp.

The steering position is very comfortable and gives you a padded pedestal seat, which can also be

rotated for fishing needs. On the dash are motor gauges, drink holder, Perspex glovebox and sports steering wheel with mechanical steering. There's also space here to mount an optional VHF radio plus sounder/GPS chartplotter.

Power: This hull is rated for Long Shaft outboard motors of 30-50hp, however, in most cases buyers will probably go for the 40hp size motor for good all round performance and low entry cost.

The Evinrude 40hp ETEC certainly impressed us with its quick hole-shot performance; however I'm sure you'd get similar results with the Yamaha 40hp CV two-stroke, or even the Yamaha 40 and 50hp four-strokes. The boat is designed to accommodate the slightly heavier transom weight of a four-stroke motor and that's going to please a lot of buyers.

And talking of outboards you can order this boat with the Vortex 40hp that are also sold by the Telwater Group, builders of the Quintrex range. These are more basic motors, however, do shave a good 30 per cent off the motor price.



The test results with the Evinrude 40hp were as follows:

3500rpm	15 knots
4500rpm	21 knots
5500rpm	26 knots

These are pretty good speed levels for the average fisho working around estuary waters and that's why most buyers will go for a 40hp size motor. That said, I would love to see the new Quintrex 420 Renegade saddled up with an ETEC 50hp or similar sized Yamaha or Suzuki and see how it flies. My guess is that with maximum power this would be a pretty exciting craft and very effective in tournament events where you need speed for point-to-point fishing.



I think we're going to see the Renegade trend expand wider in coming years as money remains tight and Australians are no longer prepared to pour their entire leisure dollar into one particular toy. So, a tinnie that's smaller, more specialised and easy

to tow and park makes a lot of sense! Therefore, Renegade it is! If you want to find out more about this model or any of the other Renegade models (440, 460, 490, 520) contact your nearest Quintrex dealer.

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windscreen to ensure fishing lines are not caught during casting.

The freeboard and the pedestal seats ensure this boat could well be used for family day trips, and or a platform to teach the kids fishing. It's not an extreme fishing boat like the low-slung bass boats so it does have that extra capacity to be used as a normal boat.

As standard, the 420 Renegade has two transducer brackets, plus a rear boarding step. Factory options include a VHF marine radio, which are always handy for listening into the 'fishing chatter' and for keeping up-to-date with weather warnings.

Verdict: Quintrex is going very strong on open fishing boats this year because it understands boat buyers are very price sensitive and want maximum value in any new craft. In essence, fishing boat buyers are focusing on boats that deliver maximum 'bang for your bucks' and this is exactly what the Renegade range is all about.

In many respects with this style of open boat we're catching up to the USA market trend. Fishing as a sport has become very specialised and it only makes sense the boat itself reflects that approach, rather than be a general purpose runabout or cabin boat.

BOAT TEST ANALYSIS

Boat supplied with Evinrude ETEC 40hp, single-axle Quintrex trailer with brakes, tie-downs, painted hull in white, bow mount plate, front live bait tank, console steering, four rod holders, inshore safety gear and boat/trailer rego. Price \$22,603 from Hunts Marine NSW phone (02) 9546 1324.

SPECIFICATION CHART

Brand	Quintrex	Stacer	Brooker	Savage	Polycraft
Model	420Renegade	429Nomad	410Adventurer	435Piranha	410Challenger
Material	alloy	alloy	alloy	alloy	plastic
Style	console	open	console	console	console
Length	4.2m	4.3m	4.2m	4.3m	4.1m
Beam	2m	1.9m	1.8m	1.8m	1.8m
Rated power	50hp	40hp	40hp	40hp	50hp
Power as tested	Evinrude40	Mariner30	Yamaha30	Vortex40	Yamaha40
Hull weight	300kg	274kg	210kg	295kg	295kg
Fuel capacity	portable	50L	50L	50L	portable

STAR RATING

Finish	★★★★★	Helm Set-up	★★★★★
Fitout	★★★★	Fishability	★★★★★
Ride	★★★★	Safety Features	★★★★
Dryness	★★★★	Value for Money	★★★★★

*Data ESTIMATED by the TBF team when accurate information is unavailable. Maximum star rating 5 stars.



We found the stainless steel propeller helped to sharpen our performance and made the most of our available horsepower. The console steering station also enhances the driving experience and gives good all round vision.

The boat comes standard with portable (25-litre) fuel tanks but as an option you can have an in-floor fuel tank of 50-litres capacity with a deck filler and fuel gauge.

Deck layout: In typical Quinny fashion the 420 Renegade is well equipped with deck gear. There's a welded bow anchor roller and alloy cleats on the foredeck. There's also a roto-moulded anchor well to ensure you won't get anchor chain rattle over choppy water.

There are LEF navigation lights incorporated into the bow rails and a white stern light, which is removable, back aft.

The front casting deck has three in-floor lockers. The middle of these was fitted in our test boat with optional kill/catch tank with a baffled compartment and polished metal lid liner to keep things cool.

Also fitted is an optional side thruster plate to mount an electric motor. The battery for the motor would fit into the portside locker.

The rest of the cockpit is just one easy step down from the casting deck and provides a clean fishing space right through the boat to the stern casting deck. This is a great layout and the low

side rails ensure added safety. These side rails are also good for attaching keeper-nets, or clamp-on rod holders for trolling.

The boat comes standard with four rod holders and plenty of deck space to add more rod holders if you desired. The console is kept fairly compact and has a low hand rail around the

