

ALLOY PRODUCTION FAMILY BOATS



WINNER
 Quintrex 510 Freedom Cruiser
 (price not specified)

Sterndrive trumps in a bunch that was tough to split.

This category was perhaps the most competitive of the entire awards, with single digit scores separating the final four contenders.

Telwater (the manufacturer of Stacer, Quintrex, Savage and several other brands) dominated this category with three out of the four boats coming from its stable. These were the Quintrex 510 Freedom Cruiser, the Savage 455 Bay Cruiser and the Stacer 539 Sportster.

The Webster's Twinfisher 490 Runabout was the odd one out here, not only because it wasn't from Telwater but because it was the only powercat in the entire awards. With its attractive flat sides (it's also available in clinker), fine handling and excellent stability, it's a

difficult boat to categorise, and deserves a special commendation for being a terrific product with a distinctive style.

However, every competition needs a winner and the sterndrive-powered Quintrex 510 Freedom Cruiser perfectly characterised what a genuine alloy "family" boat is about. Add some impressive features and this boat was made for water enjoyment in the true sense.

To quote Kevin Smith who first tested this model in *TrailerBoat 257*: "The new Quintrex 510 Freedom Cruiser is not only appealing to the eye but is most definitely a boat suitable for cruising and soaking up a few rays with family and friends on the water."

Above: The Quintrex 510 Freedom Cruiser, a "sit back and relax" kinda boat, proved easy to launch and retrieve. It offers a huge range of optional fittings, would make a good fishing boat with some of those accessories on board, and ran quietly and efficiently through MerCruiser's Alpha sterndrive.

Right: Savage's 455 Bay Cruiser impressed our judges with its uncluttered open space and stylish lines.

WINNER

Quintrex 510 Freedom Sport. Tested in *TrailerBoat 257* (price not specified).

FINALISTS

Webster's Twinfisher 490 Runabout. Tested in *TrailerBoat 256* (\$45,450).
 Savage 455 Bay Cruiser. Tested in *TrailerBoat 256* (\$28,990).
 Stacer 539 Sportster. Tested in *TrailerBoat 248* (\$34,795).



FINALIST
 Stacer 539 Sportster
 \$34,795

Above: Testers noted the Stacer 539 Sportster for its improved spray deflection, faster planing, and enhanced stability. This boat is a product of continual refinement and it shows. We liked the soft ride, soundproofed enginebox and the bowrider cockpit door. Most buyers would also add a GPS/sounder to the package. Our boat test was published in September last year and Stacer has since upgraded this model to the 549 Sportster, which is tested in this issue.

Right: "Cat Fishin' Funabout" was how we introduced the Webster Twinfisher 490 back in June this year, so yes, we thought this was a horny little boat. Surprisingly, it lacked the dreaded "lean outward" in turns, a trait common to many cats. We have no idea how the manufacturer achieved that feat.



FINALIST
 Webster's Twinfisher 490 Runabout
 \$45,450



FINALIST
 Savage 455 Bay Cruiser
 \$28,990