

Boat REVIEW

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Cross-over boats have been the flavour of the year with a flood of anglers now wanting their one vessel to tick as many boxes as piscatorially possible. Now if you're sitting there scratching your head wondering what a cross-over boat is, it's a boat that has capabilities to fish offshore whilst still taking inshore and estuary fishing in its stride. Alas, Savage boats, a name synonymous with Australian boating, has answered the call releasing an all new size to its renowned Scorpion range. The 525 Scorpion is guaranteed to

cover even the most versatile angler in their fishing quests or pose as the ideal boat for larger families to enjoy a day out in the Australian sunshine.

INTERNALS:

First glance at the internal layout of the Scorpion 525 and you will quickly come to realise these boats are made by fishermen for fishermen. Even just the layout of the internal space itself reeks of 'extra fishing room'. Sporting a skeleton side console there is ample deck room to fish 3-4 people comfortably in the right

conditions without hassle. Or, if going for a cruise down the river is your thing, then this bad boy will happily take 6 people and it still won't feel cramped. Seating options allow 3 x 360-degree pedestal seats to be positioned in the main deck, leaving the front and rear casting deck free from obstruction and clear to focus on the more important tasks at hand. In terms of storage there are 5 hatches in the front casting deck ensuring excess tackle or boating gear isn't left on the deck for someone to trip over. The hatch in the centre of the



casting deck can also be optioned up to hold a large roto mould storage container which can be plumbed to become a livewell for tournaments. For livebait storage there is a bait tank recessed into the back casting deck for easy access while fishing livies. There is also additional storage under the rear cast deck to house a marine battery to power the motor and electronics. Did I also mention the side pockets for all the handy items like pliers, leaders or water bottles? Well there's two of them! Fuel storage should never be an issue either with a 77L underfloor tank to ensure jerry cans are a thing of the past on your boat.

The anchor and accessories are positioned conveniently at the bow of the vessel in a large open Roto tub for absolute ease of use and to not use up any of that valuable underfloor storage. The extra wide gunnels are fitted with 4 flush mount rod holders and grab rails at the bow and stern. These rails would be perfect for mounting additional trolling rod holders to allow for more rod storage and spreading trolled lines out further.

THE HULL:

Made from 3mm alloy on both the bottom and sides, there is no doubting the toughness of

this beast. The 'ultralift' hull slices through chop and swell, guaranteeing a soft smooth ride for the captain and crew without compromising its agility in the water. The same attributes in the hull allow for a nice stable platform at rest even with multiple people fishing to one side or at either end of the boat. The transom material is also a sturdy 3mm alloy allowing for a max horse power rating of 115hp. On a 525, the a 115hp punches the hull out of the hole and gathers a head of steam in a matter of seconds. In the right conditions this boat would really haul ass! The transom also sports a step to aid in access and egress, as well as a transducer bracket to allow easy installation of your marine electronics.

FISHABILITY:

When you look at the 525 Scorpion out on the water you really struggle to come up with a situation where it wouldn't do the job. It's the perfect size for a boat that could successfully dabble in just about any style of fishing. Realistically it wouldn't be a stretch of the imagination to see the Scorpion chasing bass in a local impoundment one day, then out trolling for gamefish or popping for GT's the very next. That's what makes this style



of boat so attractive, it's pretty much the Swiss army knife of boats.

The layout of the deck makes it the perfect candidate for all forms of lure fishing. There's nothing to obstruct your casting and plenty of room to spread out the anglers so no one's fishing in anyone's back pocket. That's all aided by having the ability to keep your tackle in the underfloor storage and off the deck. It also allows the option of rolling a couple of swags out if you planned an overnight trip to somewhere a little more off the beaten track.

Having the option of upgrading a front hatch to the larger livewell also means aside from tournament fishing there is plenty of opportunities to utilise the livewell as a large bait tank and hold larger livies to fish for marlin and the likes.

For a mid-sized boat it's relatively simple to launch and retrieve with just two people, but I have no doubt that once you're used to the boat it would be easy enough to do it single handed.

The Savage 525 Scorpion is the perfect example of a 'cross-over' boat capable fishing in a huge variety of situations. It's the kind of boat you'd want to tow around Australia because you knew where ever you ended up you'd be covered. The ability to option up or customise the

FWF Fact Box STANDARD FEATURES:

- Carpeted front and rear casting platforms
- Carpeted main deck
- Side console
- Large roto anchorwell
- 77L underfloor fueltank
- Transom step and rail
- Transducer mounting bracket
- 2 x pedestal seats
- Side pockets

FWF Fact Box OPTIONAL EXTRAS:

- Plumbed front livewell
- CD stereo and speaker kit
- Drum winch for anchor
- Rod storage side pockets
- Electric motor mounting bracket
- Bimini kit

vessel with any number of the additional features only adds to the fishing potential that these boats deliver. It won't be long before you start to see a lot more of these boats on the water. For additional information on the Scorpion 525 or any boat in the scorpion range check out the Savage boats website at www.savageboats.com.au or drop in and see your local savage dealer.

THE SAVAGE BRAND WAS THE FIRST MANUFACTURER OF ALUMINIUM BOATS IN AUSTRALIA, AND AS SUCH NEEDS NO INTRODUCTION TO ANGLERS WHO SEE THE BRAND AS BEING BUILT TO THE HIGHEST OF STANDARDS TO SUIT THE AUSTRALIAN MARKET AND BOATING CONDITIONS.

FOR THE ANGLER WHO WANTS IT ALL, THE SCORPIAN 525 IS A GREAT CROSSOVER BOAT THAT CAN BE TRICKED UP JUST THE WAY YOU WANT. ALL THAT'S LEFT FOR YOU TO DO IN FACT IS TO LAUNCH IT AND GO FISHIN!

