



CENTRE OF ATTENTION

We tested its big brother in the previous issue which impressed with its toughness, so we wanted to know how Senator performs with one of its smaller boats.

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The Senator Typhoon MH630 as reviewed in the February issue definitely meant business for the keen fisho who wanted a tough boat. So we were interested to see how Senator's third-smallest boat, the RCC450 Centre Console would handle.

There are five models available in its centre console range. The RCC450 is recommended for a 40-60hp engine. Our test boat had a new 60hp Mercury four-stroke which looked rather large for the size of boat. It definitely got a lot of interest from other fishermen at the Westhaven Marina boat ramp who noticed the size of its motor. The little boat's striking blue decals also helped attract such attention.

With a smaller boat it is essential to have uncluttered space to fish from and having good storage for your tackle and rods is vital. This boat was stacked with great rod holders, with six on the sides and rear and another six beside

the centre console. The layout was also impressive with plenty of room for three anglers to fish from comfortably. The seats could conveniently lock into the sides, with a large storage locker in the

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centre console and two handy drink holders. It had a large anchor well with a lid and a good storage shelf running around the sides and rear.

The boat definitely looked like it was built to fish from.



ON THE WATER

Taking the boat out into the upper harbour, I struggled to keep the speed down. The 60hp wanted to take off and cruising at 23 knots in calm waters the boat was very comfortable and fun to ride in. The real test would be when it wasn't calm. I didn't have to wait long to find out; with a changing tide and gusts to 25 knots, the harbour became very choppy. This was however a great surprise, as the boat pushed on with very little water coming into the boat. One would think a centre console would be wetter in such conditions.

Fishing from it provided a good stable platform to cast soft baits. A centre

console is really the ideal boat for the lure fisherman. The Raymarine Dragonfly installed on this boat was a superb GPS/fish finder to hunt with while on the drift.

This boat would appeal to the serious fisherman who liked to get out on their own or fish with just one other person. There are many Kiwi-made centre console options on the market now, but the Senator RCC450 should be on your shopping list if you're looking for one. ☘

Test boat kindly supplied by Auckland Marine Centre.

To test a Senator, contact Auckland Marine Centre on 09 579 7981 or visit www.aucklandmarine.co.nz

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RCC450 CENTRE CONSOLE

Length overall: 4.74m

Beam (external): 1.87m // Hull: 4mm

Sides: 3mm // Transom deadrise: 18 degrees

Weight (hull only): 350kg

Floor to gunwale height: 550mm

Fuel tank: Tote tanks 2 x 25 litre

Price: From \$27,490
(as tested \$36,990)

