

# TYPHOON GOES LIKE THE WIND

When it comes to building them tough, it would be hard to beat Senator boats, but how does the new Typhoon MH630 perform? John Durrant joined Auckland Marine Centre on one to find out.

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOHN DURRANT

**There's something** kinda intimidating about Senator boats. They look like they mean business.

It might be that big, bulbous-looking bow, or the way that the hulking solid construction gives the impression that it could stand up to anything. They are beefy boats and they are built to handle serious

weather. Park one up against one of its lesser competitors and it could look like a bit of a bully, actually.

Big isn't always beautiful though. The Typhoon MH630 could never be described as elegant. That would be like describing an All Black prop as elegant.

No, it's certainly no show pony but

chiselled good looks? Yes, definitely.

This boat is a handsome brute. A big handsome brute. And it has plenty other attributes to make it a serious competitor when vying for your hard-earned buck.

*NZ Fishing World* was lucky enough to get its hands on a test model thanks to the good guys at Auckland Marine Centre.

First impressions count and with the Typhoon MH630, it's hard not to be impressed. It inspires confidence, just by the very look of it, and that's before even stepping aboard.

Senator has done a very good job at making a boat in the 6m-plus category feel much, much bigger once you're in it.

That's probably down to the no-nonsense configuration that serious fishos will lap up. It offers a big cockpit, roomy, uncluttered cabin, wide and high gunwales and a wide beam.

That sentence right there would be enough to have most hardcore anglers asking who to make the cheque out to.

With some well-thought out planning and an obvious focus on the practical things that Kiwi fishers want from their boat, Senator has come up with a rig that is a sure-fire hit.

Indeed, Senator is seeing a large number of Kiwis buying this very model, game rigging them and taking them offshore.

If there was ever a testament to confidence in build quality and performance, that would be it.

The weather was far from perfect for the test with a nasty wind kicking up Auckland's Hauraki Gulf. The Senator Typhoon didn't seem to mind though.

It ate up the waves with very little hard pounding from the hull. When a bigger

Another point that makes a big difference to the performance of this machine is the hydraulic steering.

It's still not that common in most boats in this category but makes a big difference, especially to responsive control in heavier seas.

As we all know, there's no such thing as the perfect boat. There's no one size that fits

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wave did catch the Senator, it was a little noisy on the hull but probably no more so than most other alloy boats.

The point is the ride was smooth and comfortable and it showed that the boat could easily handle much, much worse.

That's exactly what you want to see from a boat in this category.

When we stopped for a fish it was also pretty stable at rest. The sea got up reasonably high with a decent swell working through but there was no real feeling of rolling.

Space is the ultimate commodity on any fishing trailerboat and the Typhoon has it in spades. Four burley blokes could easily fish out of it with room to spare.

The space abounds in the cabin too, making it a genuine overnighting platform for those who don't mind roughing it a bit.

The Mercury 150HP EFi four-stroke was a beauty of a motor to be coupled up with this hull. The power and response from it was stunning, and would put many bigger outboards to shame.

all and the Typhoon might not be to the taste of those who like their boats to look flash.

But for those who are looking for a serious fishing machine that performs well in rough seas and comes with a big, grunty high-performance four stroke on the back, there can't be many other boats around that could match this one.

Then you throw the price into the mix and suddenly this boat becomes even more desirable. At less than \$80k the Typhoon is considerably cheaper than many of its competitors.

Senator might not always be the first name that fishos think of when looking to buy a new boat, but with quality models like the Typhoon MH630 being produced, it's likely it soon will be.

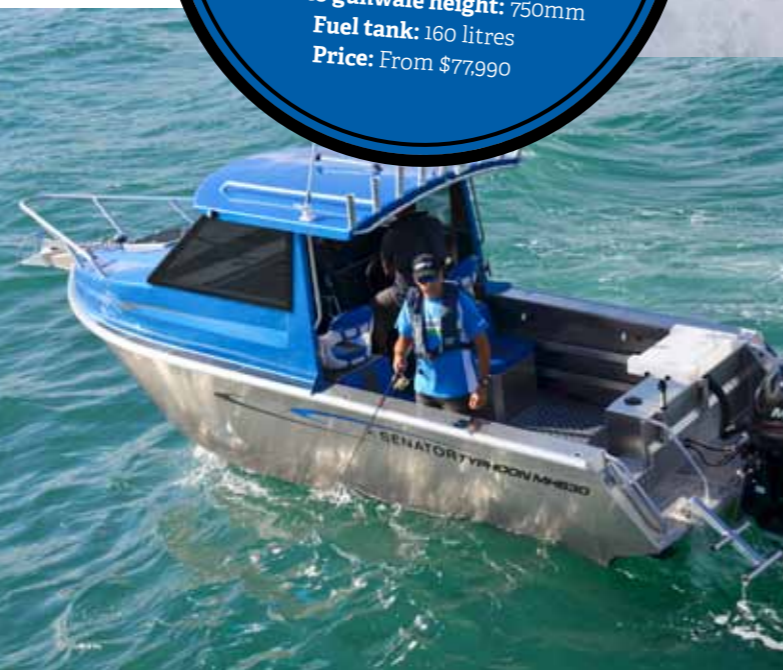
Test boat kindly supplied by Auckland Marine Centre.

To test a Senator Typhoon, contact Auckland Marine Centre on 09 579 7981 or visit [www.aucklandmarine.co.nz](http://www.aucklandmarine.co.nz)



**TYPHOON MH630**

- Length overall: 6.49m
- Beam (external): 2.38m
- Hull: 5mm // Sides: 4mm
- Transom deadrise: 18 degrees
- Weight (hull only): 900kg
- Floor to gunwale height: 750mm
- Fuel tank: 160 litres
- Price: From \$77,990



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