

Weekend Warrior

EdgeWater's 335 Express boosts comfort without compromising fishability. **BY CAPT. DAVE LEAR**

EDGEWATER POWER BOATS has established a successful niche in the recreational market. That's because its lineup of solid, quality boats never loses its family focus. So when others scaled back because of the economic downturn, EdgeWater launched its biggest cabin boat yet. And while the new 335 Express is nicely outfitted for overnight adventures, where it counts in the cockpit, it's all business.

TEST CONDITIONS



LOCATION: New Smyrna Beach, Florida

WEATHER: Sunny, 84 degrees

WIND: Southeast 10-15 knots

SEA STATE: Three- to four-foot seas

TEST LOAD: Seven people on board with full ice, fuel and gear. Performance data supplied by Yamaha Outboards.

That was driven home when I joined EdgeWater's Peter Orlando and Roger Taylor and their buddies for an early morning trip this spring. After clearing Ponce Inlet we ran to a nearby wreck to load up on bait. Sabiki'd goggle-eyes and cigar minnows soon joined the mullet netted earlier, and with two standard baitwells — 45 gallons in the tackle center behind the helm and 28 more in the port transom corner — it was no problem separating the load of baits to keep them all frisky.

The forecast called for calm seas, but confused and tightly-stacked swells greeted us as we made our way 40 miles offshore. The optional set of powerful Yamaha V-8 four-strokes strapped to the stern let us maintain a fairly

comfortable pace regardless. Like its predecessors, the 335 is built using the Single Piece Infusion process. With SPI, the vinylester resin is vacuum-infused into the stringer grid system and hull laminate in one step. The resins then cure at the same pace to form a durable, unitized piece. Cored stringers with interwoven carbon fiber strands and composite foam-filled flotation add to the high strength-to-weight ratio.

As with previous models, EdgeWater enlisted the Cape Coral-based Marine Concepts to help develop this new Express and build the tooling. Computer design and three-dimensional modeling created a hull that runs efficiently with twin Yamaha F250 four-stroke outboards. The variable deadrise, deep-V bottom with reversed chines blends stability, fuel economy and dryness in the ride. It is backed by a lifetime transferable warranty.

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SPECIFICATIONS

EDGEWATER 335 EXPRESS

LOA: 34'6" **BEAM:** 11'2" **DRAFT:** 2'3"

WEIGHT: 13,790 lbs. **MAX HP:** 700 hp

FUEL: 300 gals. **PRICE:** \$360,852

With twin 350 hp Yamaha four-strokes

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PERFORMANCE	RPM	MPH	GPH
	4,000	29.4	26.2
	4,500	34.2	33.4
	5,000	39.7	43.3
	5,500	44.3	56.2
	6,100	49.7	69.0

With twin 350 hp Yamaha four-strokes

After reaching the first of many stops, the crew dropped baits to the rocky formations more than 100 feet below. Groans and shouts of laughter subsequently echoed around the 130-square-foot cockpit as quality red snapper, scamp and grouper came over the side. The insulated 600-quart fish box in the cockpit sole filled rapidly. Even with six anglers working at once, there was plenty of room to maneuver bent rods. Stainless-steel toe rails and thick coaming bolsters increase the comfort level during protracted fights.

The beefy fiberglass hardtop is standard on the 335, and it comes rigged with holders for 12 rods. Matching horizontal racks under the covering boards and lockable rod storage in the cabin mid-berth accommodate a sizeable arsenal. A second 66-quart fish box is located on the transom centerline, while an optional bait freezer can be added to the storage compartment behind the companion seating.



Both the companion and helm seats are the double flip-back-bolster style with thick padding. A foldaway transom bench seat and starboard jump seat add to the overall seating capacity.

The starboard helm is protected by the tall, tempered glass wraparound windshield and three-sided weather curtain. A power vent helps circulate natural air. The 12,000 Btu heat/air conditioning system is part of the standard cabin package, although piped air to the helm is available as well. The Fischer/Panda 8 kw diesel generator with a 21-gallon tank is standard. A Lewmar windlass with remote control, Lewmar bow thruster and Yamaha electronic controls/gauge package are also included as part of the base price. Notable options include TACO radial outriggers, a folding upper station with controls, and various Garmin marine electronics and entertainment choices.

The 335's signature cabin is entered through the sliding Plexiglas door to port. With more than 6 feet, 6 inches of headroom and a spacious layout, it feels much bigger than its actual size. An overhead foredeck hatch and dual port lights provide natural lighting, while LED lamps illuminate after dark.

With the main berth in the forepeak, the convertible galley table/sleeper and large aft berth, the 335 can sleep a family or friendly couples easily. The aft berth includes a U-shaped seating area for relaxing. On the starboard side, an enclosed head with electric toilet and shower comes with a 4.2-gallon water heater. The forward galley is equipped with a two-burner flush cooktop and a refrigerator/freezer. Wood laminate cabinetry, marble countertops and ultra-leather upholstery add to the rich, yacht-like finish. Although the cabin served as the typical gear depository during our trip, I wouldn't hesitate to use it as a floating condo on weekends or vacation.

With the deck box crammed full, partly with Orlando's trophy 40-pound black grouper and a limit of snapper up to 16 pounds, we made the run back to New Smyrna Beach in less than two hours. This is one comfortable cabin boat that passes the fishability test with flying colors. ~