

SEA ROD HAS FISHING CRED



Formosa Boats need little introduction, having quietly gained a reputation for turning out quality alloy fishing craft over quite a few years. Formosa doesn't spend a motza on fuss and fanfare but just goes right on producing good boats for appreciative owners.

In common with most progressive boating manufacturers Formosa do not stand still, hence the introduction of their

all-new Sea Rod range from 4.8m to 6.2m.

Design changes for the Sea Rod range include noticeable chine sheer and four water ballast tunnels to enhance the already good stability at rest.

Along with these noticeable changes there are sufficient standard fishing features to appeal to the dedicated offshore angler and the family fisho seeking a robust craft for the team.

Construction is of 4mm bottom, 3mm sides and nine ribs mated to a series of underfloor stringers ensure a high standard of rigidity. The four under-hull tubes form part of the structural strength of the hull.



The Sea Rod 5.5 rides smoothly and has plenty of room for active anglers.



There's more storage in the elevated side pockets.

DESIGN, LAYOUT

Serious fishing rigs need a certain number of 'standard' features to make them successful and the Sea Rod Classic Centre Console makes it easy to tick off down that list.

A large, carpet-lined anchor well and decent bowsprit are standard, as is full carpet for all floors. The bow rail offers decent hand holds while up forward attending the pick and there is plenty of storage under the raised casting deck, along

with along with a rod holder each side up there.

It's a 20cm step down into the cockpit, with its 1.5m side pockets, handy-sized centre console and plenty of fishing room.

The fold-down console has a flat surface behind the windscreen ideal for top-mounted electronics and a decent grab rail all round. There are two shelves in the console, the upper one carpeted.

The instrument panel has plenty of room for the two engine gauges, the hydraulic helm and an array of switches.



The anchor well is reinforced for extra strength. The carpet means you won't ever have to worry about the chain banging around in a chop.

Specifications

Length:	5.50m
Beam:	2.45m
Length on trailer:	7.10m
Height on trailer (console folded):	2.05m
Transom deadrise:	17°
Hull weight:	640kg
Fuel underfloor:	115L
Power:	90hp to 140hp
Capacity:	6
Towing:	Family six or 4WD

ample seakeeping ability thanks to the high sides, and great stability under way and at rest.

The raised side pockets allow somewhere to brace the feet when playing a strong fish in a bumpy sea. In all, this is a very sound fishing set-up.

PERFORMANCE

The Sea Rod's fine bow slices through waves while plenty of flare limits spray. Reversed chines also deflect spray under way and offer stability at rest, while the 17° transom deadrise provides a soft ride. The keel also plays its part in the easy tracking and handling.

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The engine controls were on the starboard side of the console. A seat was not fitted to the test boat, on the buyer's instructions.

The removable bimini top is standard.

FISHABILITY

The 700mm deep cockpit gives the Sea Rod definite offshore fishing qualifications. There are two rod holders per side, wide gunwales, and a decent-



The transom treatment is clean, functional and good-looking. Access in and out of the Sea Rod is easy.

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Plenty of room around the console allows easy forward access. Note the abundance of full-height ribs.

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The Sea Rod offered an easy and totally predictable ride throughout the test. Wave action in the Seaway offered no challenges; the hull simply rode over chop and swells with an easy grace.

As we stopped in the swells to test stability, the

hull settled and sat very steady, even with two of us walking from side to side. Stability is ideal for offshore fishing.

The Sea Rod is a very easy-handling rig, and the hydraulic helm made steering a fingertip exercise. Such was its

ease of handling, this craft would suit a newcomer to boating just as much as an old hand.

Engine rating is from 90hp to 140hp, putting the 115hp Evinrude E-Tec in the mid-range in power but it lacked little in performance.

The rig planed at 7.7 knots (14.4kmh) at 2350rpm and at 3000rpm recorded 12 knots (22.4kmh). At 4000rpm we were running at 17 knots (31.6kmh), at 5000rpm a lively 29 knots (54.1kmh) and at a wide-open 5800rpm we hit 33.8 knots (62.6kmh).

Sound levels were very good with only the higher engine revs intruding into the cockpit to any degree.

At a cruisy 18 knots (33.8kmh) at 3600rpm the Evinrude I-Command gauge



A fine bow entry and plenty of flare strongly hint that this will be a very dry boat in most conditions.



The full-height transom allows plenty of security in a seaway.

showed 18L per hour fuel burn, or a nautical mile per litre – good economy for a boat this size.

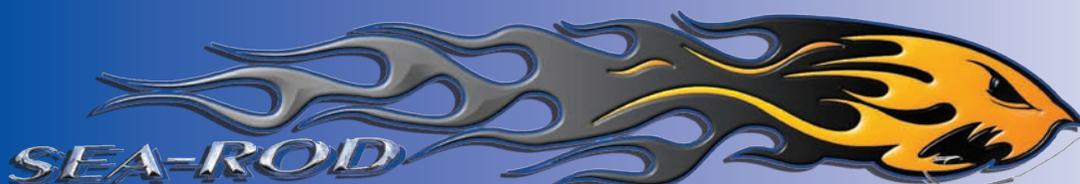
The new Formosa Sea Rod 550 is an angler's boat through and through, yet it will have appeal to family groups as well. The new hull design is certainly a winner and offers enhanced ride overall plus easy performance from modest power.

Finish was quite good, with an excellent paint job and neatly smoothed welds.

As supplied by Bermetto

Marine of the Gold Coast on a Dunbier Centre Line trailer, price as tested is \$41,935. For more information call Bermetto Marine on 07 5568 0904, or email info@bermettomarine.com.au.

Quoted performance figures have been supplied by the writer in good faith. Performance of individual boat/motor/trailer packages may differ due to variations in engine installations, propellers, hull configurations, options, hull loading and trailer specifications.



BUILT BY FORMOSA



**SEA ROD
BUILT BY FORMOSA**

These new plate alloy boats feature all their great build qualities and this new design incorporates a unique set of buoyancy chambers to pull the boat down to the water at rest, thus improving the crafts stability. The transom design incorporates a set of water-line boarding platforms, and the striking graphics let people know you mean business!

**Many Options And Motor
Combinations Available**

**As Tested
\$41,935**



**12 MODELS
3 SIZES
520> 550> 580>**

Priced from only

\$42,990



550 CENTRE CABIN

Features 4mm keel sheets, 3mm side sheets, longitudinal hull structure, anchor well, bow sprit and roller, side pockets, windscreen, port windows, wiring harness, 2 x rod holders, front & rear rails, white paint & graphics, boarding ladder, underfloor fuel tank, hydraulic steering, 2 x pedestal helm seats, folding alloy targa with rockets, bimini, sounder, VHF radio, marine battery, galvanised trailer, safety gear, 12 months QLD rego and a 115hp Evinrude ETEC direct injected outboard.

Priced from only

\$33,990



520 RUNABOUT

Features 4mm keel sheets, 3mm side sheets, longitudinal hull structure, anchor well, bow sprit and roller, side pockets, windscreen with door, glove box, wiring harness, 2 x rod holders, front & rear rails, white paint & graphics, boarding ladder, underfloor fuel tank, mechanical steering, 2 x pedestal helm seats, rear folding lounge, bimini, sounder, VHF radio, marine battery, galvanised trailer, safety gear, 12 months QLD rego and a 90hp Evinrude ETEC direct injected outboard

web
www.bermettomarine.com.au

email
info@bermettomarine.com.au

phone
(07) 5568 0904

address
2 Junction road Burleigh