



Rigidity within the extra strong framework is one feature that should ensure a long working life for the Bullshark P420.

deck area, plus the framework associated with the aft lockers.

Surveying other Bullshark hulls in varying stages of completion revealed continuous welds throughout, not merely tacks. Which, of course, explained the lack of vibration I'd noticed with the test rig.

LOWRANCE GOT THE NOD

Given my penchant to be fishing at the back of the big

dams at times of low or nil light, I wanted a GPS unit to facilitate the run home.

The logical move was to purchase a sounder GPS combination so we chose the Lowrance LMS-522c IGPS for the job. The old craft had been set up with an X87 black and white unit but the definition of that LMS-522c in bright daylight certainly makes the outlay worthwhile.

I find the unit is particularly

user-friendly with the option of full sonar and full GPS or joint sonar and GPS operation as an alternative.

I run mine in auto sensitivity mode but usually reduce sensitivity a little if impoundment fishing, which is a two touch operation. Fishing for whiting I would not alter the sensitivity one iota but dams are a different matter as they always seem to have lots of suspended matter in the water column, which can interfere with readings.

Installation of the GPS was rather special. TABS had supplied a cake, a sort of mini console, which my marine mechanic son, Scott, mounted on the starboard gunwale at just the right distance ahead of the skipper's seat. This allowed easy access to the bank of switches within the craft, such as the bilge pump, master sounder, electric motor switches, and running lights. The sounder was attached to the cake but not directly, as you will see.

SNAKES ALIVE

After the excellent run we had with the 44lb thrust bow mount Watersnake on our old faithful craft, we stuck with the brand. For the Bullshark we ordered a foot control operated 54lb thrust bow mount SWDR54/48lb motor (with dedicated quick release bracket). It was installed on the mounting pad on the P420

Bullshark's port bow. The 54 Watersnake operates from a single 12V battery, which fitted my requirements exactly.

The 54lb thrust bow mount is a real goer, pushing the hull at 6.6km/h at full throttle. There is instant, quiet response to operator input courtesy of the power wheel speed activator on the foot control unit. It also features dual tabs each side to activate the turning mechanism. A gentle touch brings instant turning, which is

design. The flexible shaft is easy to deploy and lift thanks to good balance plus there's an adjustable collar that will see just the right amount of the shaft in the water for best results. In all, the Watersnake is trouble free and user-friendly.

PARTING WITH CASH

Taking stock of just what the completed rig offered I noted a beamy and smooth riding craft with every attribute Denise and I needed as a worthwhile upgrade to old

variable seating to suit fishing or travelling circumstances. In all it was a package that would literally expand our horizons and give us room to really enjoy ourselves on the water.

The TABS impressed me with its sweet ride, great freeboard, rock like stability and above all ample workroom. After looking at the impressively strong construction of the craft at the TABS factory, the cheque book was opened and an order



A bird's eye view of the Bullshark P420: with heaps of features and great stability this craft is really going to widen our horizons.

again very user-friendly.

I found that after very little practice I could use the set up without even a glance downwards; which is handy when fly or lure casting.

The Watersnake's three blade propeller is of a weedless

faithful.

The Bullshark offered levels of comfort that were out of sight of the old rig. A vastly improved ride, storage aplenty, a 65L live well, bow mount bracket for an electric motor, a forward casting platform, plus

placed for a Bullshark P420 to come home powered by a 25hp outboard.

For information on dealers stocking these craft best give TABS boats a ring on (07) 55946333 or fax (07) 55947188.

KEMPSEY MACLEAY HOLDEN & MARINE

TABS Boats

HONDA MARINE

4.2MTR BULLSHARK

\$18,990

FLOAT AWAY

- 40Hp Honda 4/S
- Saltwater Punt
- Side Console
- Dunbier Trailer
- Storage Aplenty
- Optional Live Well
- Generous FreeBoard
- Heavy-Duty Construction
- Beamy & Smooth Riding Craft
- Vastly Improved Ride



As tested in Boat test page 98-99



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