

Go-Anywhere Bay Boats



PHOTOS (3): JOHN LINN

NOTABLE FEATURES

- **Optional Power Pole** at the transom is a hydraulic piling that can be staked into the bottom at the flick of a switch.
- **Eight-inch-wide gunwales** are generous enough for an angler with decent balance to literally walk down a fish from bow to stern.
- **Any storage compartment** could theoretically be used as a cooler because of insulating foam throughout the boat.
- **All three livewells** (two in the stern and one in the bow) are on the centerline to enhance the boat's balance.
- **Two storage compartments** in the bow will secure 15 to 20 fishing rods.
- **There are 14 vertical rod holders** positioned for quick access.
- **The backrest across the transom** becomes a passenger seat for two, though you could fit three people. The bases for the backrest can also be used as vertical rod holders.

➤ RANGER 2200 BAY

By Robert Stephens

It was an oops moment, one familiar to most nearshore boaters. Our eyes were fixed on a school of feeding fish atop the glass-calm surface of Sarasota Bay as we motored closer at 30 mph. Not until the Ranger 2200 Bay was nearly on top of the action did we notice that the water depth had thinned from 10 feet to 10 inches. The boat fortunately stayed on plane while we turned around and headed back into deeper, safer waters.

Fast-forward eight hours. The sea breeze had picked up. So had boat traffic in the bay's main channel. While waves slapped runabouts square in the



The 2200 is rock-solid on the run, and interior adjustments give it vast walking areas and storage.

nose, two passengers stood at the console of the 2200 Bay while its long bow ran on top of the rough stuff.

We think the bay-boat name has wrongly pigeonholed boats like the 2200. This 22-foot boat can sneak into

shallow water, forge ahead in two- to three-foot seas and provide a wide-open fishing platform at rest. It belongs on rivers and big lakes as much as it does in bays.

We wouldn't say that about every 22-foot bay boat. But Ranger builds the 2200 with the same structural qualities as in its popular bass boats. Foam is shot into every open cavity, which adds unsinkable strength. We crowded four men on one side of the cockpit and it didn't get tipsy. This would have been more important had we been trying to boat a sizable redfish or snook. Another impressive quality of all Ranger fishing boats is the absence of play or walk in the hulls. The keel and chines are

coordinated so well on the 2200 that it tracked on and off plane without much driver input.

The ideas for the 2200 came from Ranger's nationwide field of anglers. The input helped them develop a comfortable stern seat, a streamlined

console and enough storage in the bow for a weekend's worth of camping gear.

Admittedly, our test boat came rigged with ideal power to ensure an impressive review. The Evinrude 250 E-Tec would be our choice if money were no object. It refutes any declaration

that four-strokes are the only way to go. The E-Tec is a two-stroke direct-injection engine that burns fuel efficiently, and the low-end torque and low weight made our boat perform like a tournament model. It also helped us escape at least one memorable oops situation.

At a Glance

RANGER 2200 BAY		VITAL STATS	TEST DRIVE	PROFILE
<p>The 2200 Bay is a professional-level fishing boat with wide-open walking spaces from bow to stern.</p>	<p>LENGTH OVERALL: 22' BEAM: 8'4.5" DRY WEIGHT: 2,075 LB. WEIGHT CAPACITY: 2,200 LB. FUEL CAPACITY: 60 GAL. MAXIMUM HP: 250 MSRP (W/ EVINRUDE 250 E-TEC): \$42,100</p>	<p>TEST ENGINE: EVINRUDE 250 E-TEC TEST PROP: 21 VIPER TEST LOAD: PEOPLE (600 LB.), FUEL (45 GAL.) TOP SPEED: 51 MPH @ 5,500 RPM TIME TO PLANE: 3.4 SEC. TIME TO 30 MPH: 8.0 SEC. MINIMUM PLANE: 17 MPH @ 2,700 RPM</p>	<p>Recreational Hard-Core Fresh Water Salt Water Protected Water Open Water Value Premium</p>	
	<p>MMMO CERTIFIED</p>			

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