

SETTING UP FOR SPORTFISHING

By Grant Dixon



Stabicraft MWS 2570

– an angler's pocket battleship



Bi-fold doors create an image of extended cockpit space and can be closed to varying degrees depending on need.

There is no doubt today's offshore trailerboats are becoming more and more sophisticated, and contain many features once the preserve of larger launches and gamefishers.

A case in point is the Stabicraft MSW 2570 Supercab *Got 'em On*, fitted out specifically by *The ITM Fishing Show's* presenter, Matt Watson, when filming his offshore adventures.

The Stabicraft MWS (Matt Watson Signature) 2570 Supercab is an evolution of the marque's 759 Supercab. The most notable changes are: the increase in fuel-tank capacity (2 x 265 litres); the development of a hinged fish bin with gas struts; a wider walk-around to access the bow; and increased cockpit space.

Given the basic parameters of the hull and topside design, Matt went to work with Stabicraft's team to develop a hard-out day-fishing boat. Matt has spent hundreds of hours as a crewman on some of the country's top charter boats, so has a fair idea of what works and what doesn't. The collateral extent of that knowledge

can be seen in *Got 'Em On*.

The model available to the public will feature many of the upgrades Matt has implemented, including a shorter cabin and rear wall, seating systems and transom layout, the dedicated workstation, and improved storage systems.

This is a show boat – and not just for the manufacturer and *The ITM Fishing Show*; it is also a vehicle for displaying the latest kit, with the installation and maintenance largely the work of the team at Marine North in Whangarei.

The electronic set-up is sophisticated enough to sit comfortably on the bridge of the best-found game boats. At its heart is the Furuno Navnet 3D MFD12 sounder/plotter/radar. It has features too many to mention in this short space, but one that took the writer's eye was the temperature-change indicator. Surface temperature breaks were recorded as a different colour on the ship's track – a real advantage when targeting billfish or tuna and trying to find the current breaks.

The Furuno is interfaced with the autopilot as well as a remote joystick helm station, allowing the skipper to run the boat from the cockpit – great when you are hooked up or short-handed, since the skipper is ‘Johnny on the spot’ when the fish is close at hand.

The twin Evinrude E-Tec 150hp outboards can also be run from the helm or cockpit station. A feature of these engines is the sophisticated Icon controller’s gauges, which allow you to synchronise both power plants for maximum efficiency.

At the sharp end is a Stress Free anchoring system that stores the warp and chain on a large drum, operated from the helm, and Sarca is the anchor of choice.

There is a casting platform up forward, with a high bow rail for safety, and plenty of room to walk between it and the cockpit unhindered, due to the Top Shot ‘riggers’ being set into the roof, out of the way, and supported with halyards.

There is no shortage of rod storage, with plenty of holders in the rocket launcher and Manta stainless steel holders around the gunwale. All are designed to safely store or run the heaviest of tackle.

On top of the cabin is a spot-

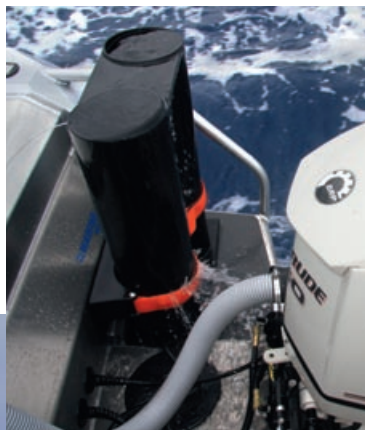
ting/filming support frame as well as a solar panel. With the boat running so many electronics, and being required to charge camera batteries while filming, its Hella Endurant batteries must be kept topped up. A CTeK charging system optimises the charging process.

A side-opening roof hatch not only enhances ventilation, but also allows the skipper to converse with whoever is filming or spotting above him.

Storage is a big feature of the Stabicraft MWS 2570, with Matt having set the boat up in a very practical way. All the internal space that can be practically turned into storage has been, with the hinged tops supported by gas struts, including under-floor storage.

There is a dedicated rigging station behind the port seat, an under-floor fish hold towards the rear of the cockpit, and the central bait-station is a delight to work at, being just the right height.

Matt also has various modular containers he stores at home; depending on what type of fishing he is engaging in, the bins are selected and stored in the bait-station, where they are easily accessed in seconds. There’s a place for everything and



Left: the tuna tubes can be fitted or removed in a minute.

Below: guide poles help to position the boat on the highly spec'ed Voyager Elite trailer.



everything is in its place!

Large side pockets hold everything from an extensive array of Top Shot gaffs, de-hookers, tag poles and landing nets, to a selection of other fishing paraphernalia you need close at hand, but stored out of harm's way. Further customised storage drawers created by Hi Tech Plastics fit under the transom – ropes, flying-gaff heads and sea anchors are kept there, along with brushes and cleaning gear, including Salt Free product.

Hi Tech has also provided the basis of the two tuna tubes, which Matt has customised, so they can be added or removed from the transom in less than a minute.

Further live-bait storage comes in the form of a large tank in the transom, the clear front panel enabling the bait condition and situation to be monitored.

Catching bait is aided by two sets of OceanLED lights set into the stern. The blue lights are directed onto the propellers, where they deflect out as shafts of light, just as a bait school might.

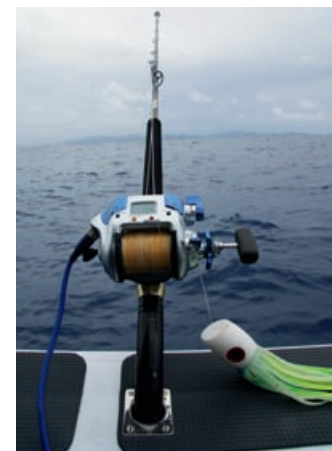
Further fish attracting comes courtesy of the Fusion iPod head deck that runs through seven-inch marine speakers and a 10-inch sub-woofer. An amp sends out a mean sound, with the bass, Matt believes, helping to attract gamefish to the boat, especially when Bob Marley is played full noise!

There is no refrigeration on board, so keeping the catch and bait cool is taken care of by a range of Icy-Tek bins, the model selected depending on the mission.

Around the gunwales are 12-volt sockets for Shimano electric reels. Matt has these set up on special rods crated by Kieron Olsen of Reel Rods



Left: at the heart of the helm station is the Furuno NavNet 3D which interfaces the sounder, chartplotter and radar functions. Right: Got 'Em On features great use of stowage space.



From left: the Icon controllers can be operated from the conventional helm-station or the cockpit one. The Shimano electric reels and customised Reel Rods rods are used for running the teasers, as well as deepwater fishing.

for use as teasers when gamefishing. They also come in handy for pulling 'puka and bluenose out of the depths if the crew is feeling a little lethargic!

There is Hella LED lighting throughout the boat, with both spotlight and strip lighting featuring prominently. Matt says quality lighting makes a big difference to his early morning and late night fishing jaunts, and besides that, he reckons it looks 'pimped' when all lit up!

Inside the wheelhouse, tinted sliding windows and blinds help with

vision in adverse light conditions. A diesel heater also keeps condensation under control when the starts are early, thus improving vision and consequently safety. Bi-fold doors can be set up to optimise vision to the rear, depending on what is required.

It is one thing to have all the toys, but another to get them down to the water. The Stabicraft MWS 2570 rides on a Voyager multi-roller trailer. Features include: a walkway; side guides; Brite Led Tech LED lights; and mag wheels. The braking system features Kodiak stainless steel brakes

activated by a HydraStar braking unit, which operates via the Toyota Landcruiser V8's brake-light system and a remote controller that plugs into the vehicle's 12-volt circuit.

The boat features some great graphics – the work of the team at Halvo Signs. You can't miss this mobile billboard out on the water!

Last, but not least, is Club Marine Insurance, which gives Matt and his team peace of mind, both on and off the water.

Boat show patrons would have seen two Stabicraft 2570 Supercabs at the




A side-opening roof hatch allows for good communication between the skipper and the spotter/cameraman on the roof.

recent Hutchwilco Boat Show in Auckland.

The second model has been developed more with overnighting in mind. Stabicraft has carved out a niche in the American market, and the Supercab Plus has been developed to meet this demand. Features include: an extra 500mm length to the cabin; a portside bench behind the standard ocean bolster; and a small workbench and set of cupboards to starboard.

Commenting on the new boat, Matt says he didn't think the team at Stabicraft could improve the ride from his last Stabicraft – but they have.

“It eats up the ocean. Over decades of fishing from trailer boats, I've come up with ideas and improvements to incorporate into a design, and somehow Stabicraft has managed to include them all in this boat. And, more importantly, everything works just as I wanted it to,” he says. 



There is plenty of space for the catch in the underfloor kill tank.

Specifications

Length:	25.7 feet / 7.85m
Max adults:	9
Recommended horsepower:	225hp
Maximum horsepower:	300hp
Fuel tank:	2x265L
External beam:	2.49m
Internal beam:	2.04m
Deadrise (measured at transom):	21.8°
Tube thickness:	4mm
Hull thickness:	6mm
Reserve buoyancy (approx):	3300L
Dry hull weight (approx):	1280kg
Tow weight (approx):	2550kg
Length on trailer:	9.5m
Height on trailer (approx):	3.15m