

Stabicraft 389 Matt Watson Limited Edition



Manufacturer:	Stabicraft Marine
Model:	389 Matt Watson Limited Edition
Review boat supplied by:	Powerboat Services Ltd
Length overall:	4.3m
Weight overall:	600kg
Deadrise:	16 degrees
Materials:	Alloy
Capacity:	Four pax
Motor (as tested):	Yamaha F40 (40hp) four-stroke
Recommended HP:	30hp
Cost (as tested):	\$29,985
Packages from:	\$27,575
Standard features:	battery and oil tank compartment, hydraulic steering, rod holders, side coaming rod and ski storage, self-bailing valves, upholstered bow seats and chilly-bin seats, paint, live-bait tank, bow rails, graphics, rear C/W storage and upholstery.
Optional features:	Tube matting, additional rod holders, auxiliary bracket, full paint, Nyalic coating.

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Reviewer's comments

What a great little boat! Smaller than most, it still impressed (not that the conditions were very testing), with excellent handling and incredible stability at rest.

Also, despite its small size and the space eaten up by its particularly generous buoyancy capacity – a feature of all Stabicraft boats – it still has quite a bit of storage space available: in the side shelves under the coamings, up in the bow, under the seat and in the console itself.

It is also well finished; even though the welds have been left un-ground for greater strength, they were obviously competently done, and the paintwork is smart, smooth and seems hardwearing. I was also impressed by how tidily and efficiently so many features and accessories were fitted together in the space available – including a live-bait tank. (How many boats of this size come with one as standard?) A well-thought-out design, created in conjunction with Matt Watson of *The ITM Fishing Show* fame, who gives his name to the model.

Fishing is possible right around the boat, and the sides are high enough to provide practical support. This, in combination with its stability, makes the Stabi a wonderful fishing platform. Of course, everything's a compromise, and in this case all the good things come at the expense of a rather small console, so make sure you come protected against the elements!

–MK

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