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Boat Report: Seawolf 22

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Seawolf 22 Center Console

Designed for experienced fishermen, Seawolf's 22-foot Center Console has the power, fuel capacity and performance of a larger boat.

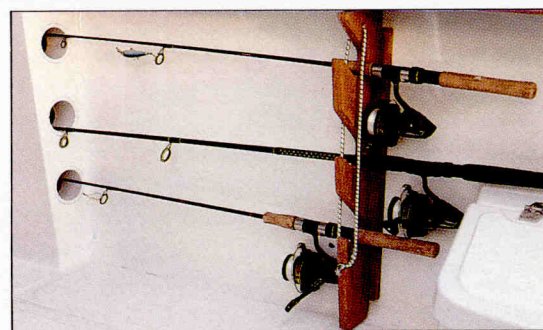
By George Poveromo



Watkins Yachts Incorporated has been associated with the sailboat industry for nearly 14 years. Having established a comfortable niche in that market, the Clearwater, Florida, company is now diverting much of its attention toward power boats. Their entries target fishermen, and consist of a 22- and a 26-foot center console, with a walkaround cuddy version available in both models. The

skiffs are marketed under the Seawolf Fishing Systems banner.

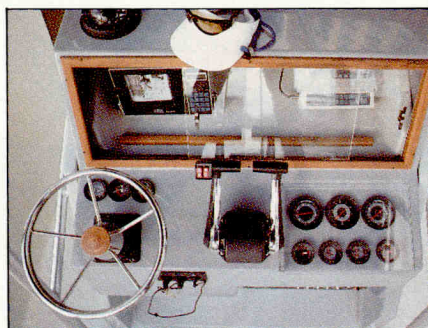
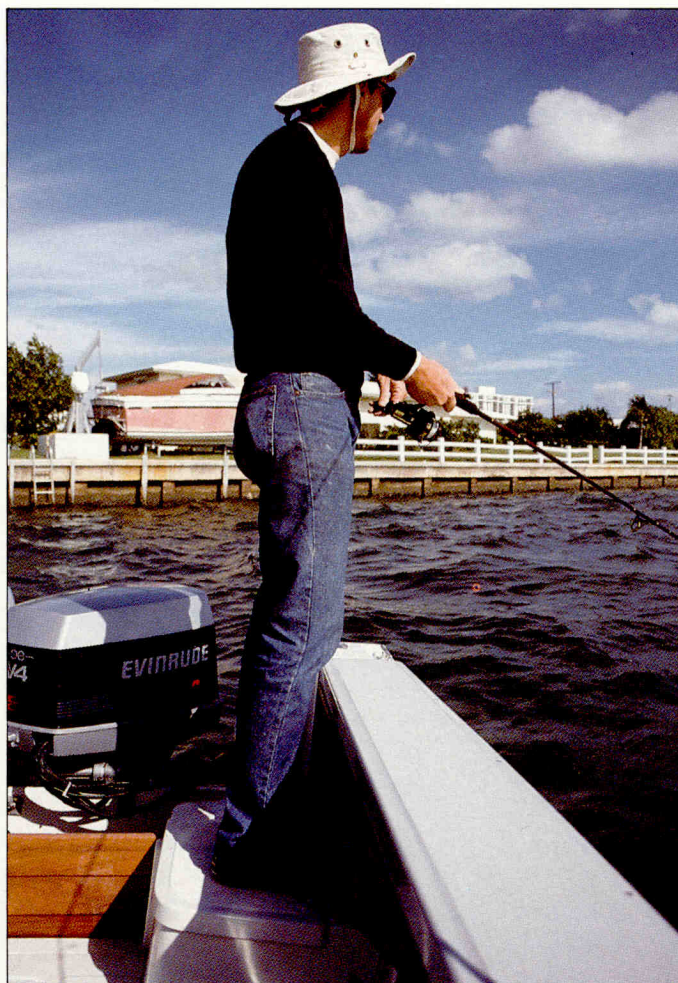
An attractive 22-foot center console was docked at the Biscayne Bay Marriott's Marina in downtown Miami, ready for a day of chasing trout and mackerel in South Bay. With a turn of the key, a pair of 140 hp counter-rotation Evinrudes came to life. Rated for dual power up to 300 horsepower (235 hp single), the Seawolf 22 is



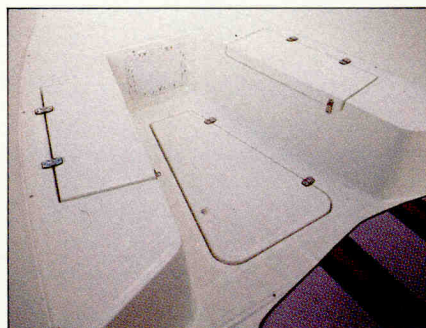
There is adequate under-the-gunwale storage space for three rods per side. More storage is available with an optional leaning post/rocket launcher.

FISH-ABILITY FISH-ABILITY FISH-ABILITY

A pair of Evinrude 140-hp outboards put our test Seawolf 22 Center Console on plane in a hurry. (below) The Seawolf's batteries and oil tanks were fitted into the cockpit compartments. The above-deck compartments make great fishing platforms.



Seawolf's console unit offers plenty of storage including a protected area for vital electronics and gauges.



A raised casting platform with built-in storage surrounds the in-deck fish box. The cockpit contains a 35-gallon live well.

Seawolf 22 Center Console

Centerline Length	22' 2"
Beam	8' 6"
Dry Weight	2,700 lbs.
Fuel Capacity	137 gallons
Standard transom height	25"
Maximum Horsepower:	
Single	235
Twin	300
Price (as tested) ...	Approx. \$35,000.00
Seawolf Fishing Systems	
Watkins Yachts, Inc., Dept. SWS	
12645 - 49th Street North	
Clearwater, FL 34622	

more than fast enough with the twins. Transferring enough power to a pair of 20-inch pitch OMC Raker props, the outboards red-lined at 5800 rpm and had little problem pushing the boat in excess of 50 miles per hour. The boat shoots out of the hole and up onto plane in dashing fashion, and cruises efficiently at 3600 rpm.

Our 30-inch transom was designed for twin power, although Seawolf offers a 25-inch transom for single outboards and a full transom for Sea Drives or brackets. An I/O version is due out by late summer. It will feature an OMC Cobra 230 hp sterndrive.

Quartering a two-foot chop at speeds nearing top end, we noticed only some slight "chine walking" of the variable deadrise hull. While the overall ride was generally impressive, the port-side position of the stainless steel steering wheel, just inches away from the optional sun shade's rear stanchion, was less than ideal.

Seawolf's console doesn't fall short on storage. Its layout includes a non-skid foot pad that can be reached conveniently from the leaning post, a starboard panel just above it containing the salt water washdown, aerator, cockpit, running and anchor lights, and bilge pump switches, a highly visible gauge panel to the right of the OMC dual binnacle controls, and an electronics compartment measuring 15 inches deep by 32 inches wide by 12 inches high. Inside was housed a King 1060 recorder, an 8002 Ioran C, and a 7000 VHF radio. The console's dash can accommodate additional equipment. Its surface is nine inches deep by 36 inches wide.

An integral three-tray tackle box can be accessed by opening the clear plastic shield on the console's port side, while a teak hatch on the starboard side offers internal storage. A bench seat caps the console's forward portion, complete with an insulated cooler. As mentioned earlier, the Seawolf 22 was outfitted with the optional sun shade. Our VHF radio and

Ioran C antennas, and the receivers for a pair of Perko 15-foot outriggers, were mounted above. You can have either an Acrylon or fiberglass top.

Rod storage consists of four holders within the gunwales, three receivers underneath each gunwale for rods up to 7½ feet, and four slots within the optional leaning post/rocket launcher. Marketed by Seawolf, this post can replace the standard helmsman and passenger chairs. The unit is heavily cushioned and comes with a foot rest. There's no internal storage, but a mini tackle station can be ordered at the expense of the two middle rod holders.

The Seawolf 22's cockpit contains a 35-gallon live well. Water is supplied through a valve in the bilge. Once the well is filled, the valve is closed and the water aerated by a pump. The width and length of the hold is 35 and 17 inches respectively. Just behind the live well is a removable teak splash gate, leading to a small bilge access lid. An oversized handle makes it a breeze to pop the lid, but the splash gate must be raised to get at the handle.

A pair of above-deck compartments contain the boat's batteries and oil tanks. They are wide and sturdy enough to serve as casting platforms. The gunwales are 28 inches high in the cockpit, provide a good deal of security, and can be trimmed with an optional bolster. Incidentally, teak gunwale boards can be special ordered.

The gunwales gain an additional four inches of height forward of the console. A raised casting platform surrounds the in-deck fish box. Within its configurations are two generous storage centers. The insulated fish box, which drains into the bilge, measures 45 inches long by 25 inches at its widest point by 11 inches deep. The entire bow section was wisely designed, offering plenty of casting space. You will also find two mini rope lockers, and a welded stainless steel rail.

The layout of the Seawolf 22 center console is quite commend-

Builder's Comment

"Our center consoles are geared to the advanced fisherman, one who isn't a first-time boat buyer. Our goal is to build a quality and efficient boat and offer it at a fair price. We offer a 5-year hull and stringer warranty, and our hardware is comparable to other major boat manufacturers. The boats are built for long-term use, and carry little wood that may rot.

"There are few center consoles in this size range (22 feet) that can support our fuel capacity and 300 horsepower ratings (twin outboards), and 8'6" beam. You'll have to start looking at 24 and 25 footers to find these features."—Sidney Shackelford, Jr., National Sales Manager, Watkins Yachts, Inc.

able. We moved continually throughout the craft and relied heavily on its gunwales as we cast over grass flats and channel edges. Because of the leaning post, sun shade and bow rail, there was always a reliable support to grasp. Furthermore, the boat's gray, light blue, and white color scheme is very appealing (optional colors are cloud grey and burgundy).

A Sea Star hydraulic steering system and the counter rotation feature of the outboards practically eliminated any torque. However, one of the most important engine features surfaced due to an oversight, as somebody neglected to check the level of the oil reservoirs. Fortunately, Evinrude's VRO2 automatic oiling system sounded a warning alarm at designated intervals, similar to that indicating low fuel in an automobile. We were only a few miles from our destination and had no problem making it back at a cruising speed. Had the level been low enough to alter the oil flow through the fuel pumps, the motors' rpms would have dropped automatically to prevent damage. ~