



ON THE WATER

By Capt. John N. Ragusa

REGULATOR 30 EXPRESS

Introduced at the Fort Lauderdale Boat Show last October, Regulator's new 30 Express is yet another one of the new breed of 30-something sportfishers designed around Yamaha's revolutionary new F350 V-8 outboard; and she's a huge step up the Regulator product line's evolutionary ladder in the quest for an any-weather canyon runner that offers crew comfort, speed and range.

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

Although the 30 Express is not the first Regulator to sport a cuddy cabin, she's the biggest to wear this nametag. Although measuring 30 feet, 5 inches in length with a 10-foot, 7-inch beam, her overall length is actually 38 feet with the standard fiberglass bow pulpit and full-width external dual outboard bracket, "significantly" larger than her nominal 30-foot tag would indicate. In an effort to fairly compare her to competitive boats, I would guesstimate that in reality she's more like a 33 to 34 footer, especially with a dry weight of 11,600 pounds.

The cockpit is the heart of any sportfishing machine and the Regulator 30X does not disappoint. The lower cockpit measures 62 inches long by 102 inches wide, which translates to 44 square feet, supported by 28 inches of depth both aft and amidships for thigh-high leg support when wrestling the big ones to boatside. You'll find a quartet of flush-mount rodholders in the

seat allows the crew a strategic cockpit spot to keep a watchful eye on the trolling baits.

Stepping up to the elevated command bridgedeck, the center helm Pompanette pedestal seat will allow the captain to see the ocean in an unobstructed 360-degree arc. The cushioned L-shaped wraparound lounge seating offers comfy seating for at least four crew members when underway, with plenty of dry stowage down below and a huge 24- x 13-inch vertical bulkhead set above the helm to flush mount a pair of 10- or 12-inch multifunction displays. Down below, the cabin offers almost 6-1/2 feet of standing headroom, a full galley, a standup head with a Vacu-Flush toilet, macerator and holding tank and hot/cold freshwater sink, an aft berth, plus a roomy forward vee-berth.

INBOARDS BEWARE

With a top speed of almost 57 mph at wide-open throttle, the Regulator 30 Express runs at almost twice the net speed of many diesel and gas inboards in the 30- to 33-foot class. And there's no worry about getting too close to unmarked sandbars in narrow channels with this big Regulator either, as you can simply tilt the engines with fingertip electronic controls out of harm's way. The fairly wide range of fuel-efficient cruising speeds is impressive too and will allow you to tailor the ride to the sea conditions at hand, but if this yearling is anything like her other siblings in the Regulator stables, the faster you push her, the better she rides. According to recent factory tests, you will achieve optimum

specs

Length-	30 feet, 5 inches (38 feet overall)
Beam-	10 feet, 7 inches
Weight-	11,600 pounds (with twin F350s)
Fuel Capacity-	300 gallons
Max Power-	700 HP (twin outboards)



gunwales, with both fresh and raw water washdown systems, a bait prep center with sink, tackle lockers, a 35-gallon insulated livewell, plus a huge 340-quart transom fishbox. A 19-inch wide tuna door positioned in the starboard corner will let you slide those trophies aboard with a minimum of fuss, while a well-positioned aft facing doublewide bench

fuel economy with the big F350s at 4,000 rpm, where the 30 Express will hit 34 mph at 26.9 gallons-per-hour, for a net of 1.26 miles-per-gallon.

If you're looking to get on that hot bite just a bit faster, simply bump the Yamaha electric fly-by-wire throttles to 4,500 revs and she will top 40 mph on the GPS at 33 gph, for a respectable net of 1.22 mpg. If it gets rough and you need to dial it back, 3,500 rpm will still get you 26.2 mph at 21.2 gph, for a net of 1.24-mpg. Overall, you will get fairly uniform fuel efficiency/performance numbers from 26 to 40 mph.

The list of standard appointments on this pedigreed sportfisher is too long to

list, but includes such notables as a fiberglass hardtop with three-sided enclosure, 7,000 BTU reverse cycle A/C, cockpit coaming pads, Sony AM/FM/CD player, and adjustable teak dinette table down below, all at a base MSRP of \$269K.

For more information, call Regulator at 252-482-3837, or visit www.regulatormarine.com.