

Regulator 23

A fishing boat you can rely on.

by Tom Thompson



Regulator Marine has a reputation for making some of the most reliable boats on the water. No matter how rough things gets, these are seaworthy craft for the serious offshore angler.

The company's 23-foot center console has long been a staple of the North Carolina boatbuilder's line, but it has been retooled for 2005. One of the numerous improvements is a liner that includes a one-piece, full-height fiberglass splashwell door flanked by 48-quart transom bait boxes. Regular also added a large in-deck hatch for convenient bilge access below the 25-gallon livewell. All hatches are finished on both sides and outfitted with lockable stainless steel hardware and gas shocks. At the bow, a larger anchor locker is now standard, with coaming pads as an option.



There are actually two versions of the new Regulator 23. The basic one features an open bow with three in-deck storage compartments. The other is the 23FS, the letters standing for forward seating—which consists of a U-shaped bench that comes aft from the bow and is fitted with cushions. The seating has two hatches, one along either side. Both 140-quart compartments drain overboard, so they can be used for wet or dry storage. There's also a large 695-quart fishbox in the center of the foredeck sole fitted with supports that have grommeted holes for storing rods.

The bench seat in front of the center console has a 64-quart insulated cooler in its base. An optional stack of tackle drawers is to starboard, and the port side has an access door to get at the backside of the helm instruments and electronics. Consider adding the T-top. No center console boat should be without one, and Regulator does an exceptional job of finishing the underside with gelcoat, so there are no rough edges to be seen. The welded aluminum tower that supports the top is anodized after assembly for added strength and corrosion resistance. The package also includes an overhead electronics box to supplement the covered electronics compartment in the helm console. Both Teleflex Seastar hydraulic steering and Yamaha's Premium 704 Binnacle Control come standard.

A new optional Supersport leaning post incorporates tackle storage in the flip-up seat. It will hold up to nine 50-class rods, and there's room for a 94-quart cooler underneath, too. Another option is a custom fiberglass tackle center that integrates the helm seat and comes with built-in storage drawers to keep your gear well-organized.

Regulator offers several choices of single and twin power, all from Yamaha. The single 300-hp HDPI engine on our test boat had strong acceleration off the line, putting the boat on plane in just over three seconds from a standing start. The 23's hull has a 48-degree bow entry that flattens out to a 24-degree transom deadrise and delivered a smooth, solid ride in the chop we encountered. Naturally, a North Carolina-built boat would have a Carolina bow flare, so we enjoyed a dry ride, too.

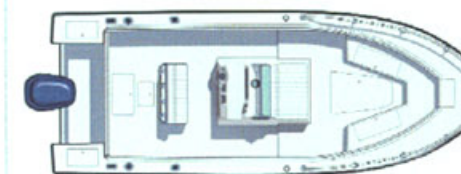
Because of a beefy layup schedule, the Regulator 23 has a dry weight of 3,900 pounds without power, so it has a solid feel at the helm. A little bit of chop isn't going to knock it around. Steering is very controlled and tight in turns—you can let go of the wheel and the boat will track a straight line to where you point it. At 3600 rpm, the Yamaha delivered an impressive 2.4 mpg and cruised the boat at 26 mph. The top speed is rated at just a tenth of a tick less than 47 mph. I also should mention that the 23 has dual fuel fills, a definite convenience when pulling up

to a busy gas dock when the wind or current isn't in your favor.

In a sure sign of attention to detail, Regulator finishes the insides of all storage compartments cleanly. It's just one example of the level of quality construction evident throughout the Regulator 23—from the way all the parts fit together to the ruggedness of the components and accessories used in building it. ⚓

Specs

LOA	23'4"
Beam	8'4"
Draft	2'5" (twin engines) 2'10" (single engine)
Bridge clearance	8'
Weight	3,900 lbs.
Fuel capacity	160 gals.
Base power.....	Yamaha F250 four-stroke
Base price	\$61,750
Power as tested.....	Yamaha 300-hp HDPI
Price as tested	\$63,400



252-482-3837
www.regulatormarine.com