

by Capt. John N. Raguso

## on the water

### REGULATOR 23 CENTER CONSOLE FS

Regulator continues to reinvent its beloved 23 CC for the better, with the current rendition even better than ever.

#### THIRD GENERATION

The folks at Regulator Marine have re-introduced one of their most successful models in their historical inventory for 2005, with two distinct versions being offered: the 23 Center Console and the 23 FS with a forward seating and storage option. After gathering information from various reliable sources, including dealer meetings, customer feedback, boat shows and owner tournaments, Regulator's President Joan Maxwell decided that it was the right time to make the move. "The changes we decided to implement have made the new 23 an even stronger and more complete sportfisher," said Maxwell. "Retooling this model line was no small task, but we feel the enhancements we made are well worth it."

Obvious to most loyal Regulator owners is the all-new liner. There is now a one-piece, full-height fiberglass splashwell door flanked by transom bait boxes, that when backed with optional durable coaming pads, add extra fishing comfort. Also aft, fiberglass scupper tubes have been added to improve drainage. The twin transom bait boxes have been expanded to 48 quarts and a large in-deck hatch has been added for convenient bilge access below the 25-gallon livewell. All hatches are finished on both sides via a process called RTM (resin transferable molds). These two-sided hatches are outfitted with 316 stainless locking hatch lift handles and stainless steel gas shocks. In the bow, a larger anchor locker is now standard. Another immediately noticeable change is the new black and chrome, flush-mounted Yamaha 704 Premium control. There's also a fiberglass console panel for flush-mounting electronics and a footrest built into the console along with a storage bin. Dual fuel fills have been



added for convenient port or starboard fueling of the standard 160-gallon tank. New power options include twin F150-horsepower Yamaha four-strokes, dual 200 HPDI's, a single F250 or the powerful Z300 HPDI Yamaha.

A very different look for the 23 is the new 2005 optional Supersport leaning post. It incorporates tackle storage while maintaining the space-saving simplicity of the standard leaning post. The Supersport accommodates up to nine rods in a huge arsenal of rocket launchers and features a flip-up seat cushion with tackle storage, space underneath for a 94-quart cooler and built-in foot and backrest. What hasn't changed is Regulator's trademark soft, dry uncompromising ride that comes from its 24-degree aft deadrise deep-vee hull and wide reverses chines. This great-looking Carolina hull features an overall length of 23 feet, 4 inches with an 8-foot, 4-inch beam, buttressed by Regulator's proprietary fiberglass grillage system for structural stability.

Also new for 2005 is a 23FS for "forward seating" version of the 23 CC. This family-friendly craft adds a forward bench seating area in the bow with snap-in upholstered cushions. Padded coaming panels serve as a backrest and extend a full 360 degrees around the boat to provide fishing comfort and luxury. There are now caverns of storage in the bow with the twin 140-quart wet/dry storage compartments under the seats, a 695-quart center in-deck fish box that doubles as locking rod storage for eight units and the integrated 64-quart cushioned cooler that also serves as a forward seat.

### REGULATOR 23 CENTER CONSOLE FS

Length	23 feet, 4 inches
Beam	8 feet, 4 inches
Weight	3,800 pounds (dry, without power)
Deadrise Aft	24 degrees
Max Power	400 horsepower (single or twin outboards)
Fuel Capacity	160 gallons

#### NEF DEALER LIST

ALPHA YACHT BROKERAGE: POBox 86  
South Freeport, ME 04078 • 207-865-9229  
OYSTER HARBORS MARINE, INC.  
122 Bridge Street, Osterville, MA 02655 • 508-428-2017  
157 Pleasant St., Hyannis, MA 02601 • 508-790-2628  
NORTHEAST YACHT SALES: Yankee Boat Yard & Marina  
54 Riverview St., Portland, CT 06480 • 860-342-1988  
BEACON POINT MARINE, INC  
49 River Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807 • 203-661-4033  
722 River Road, Shelton, CT 06484 • 203-929-7444

#### PRO AND CON

The potential competitive detractors of the 23 Regulator CC will mention that this vessel does not offer positive foam flotation, nor does it feature a removable fuel tank hatch or offer a standup livewell. However, their boats probably aren't built to the same bulletproof standards as a Regulator or ride as well out in the rough stuff. You want further proof about the near-perfection of this fishing boat design? Try to find one, new or used. The dealers that are lucky enough to get one of Regulator's limited inventory sell them for top dollar, with demand usually exceeding supply. As a result, the used boat numbers for the Regulator 23 CC are sky high, with it being a strong seller's market. The people have decided: this boat is one of a kind and the standard for comparing 23-foot center consoles.

Although the 23 Regulator is usually set up for a single V-6, with 225 to 250 two-stroke D/I or four-stroke outboard the typical choice, you can also rig up this 23-footer with twin power. I can distinctly recall doing my first-ever Regulator 23 CC test back in the early 1990s with a platform that was

OTW continued on page 16R