

# The **big** little package

Perfect for inshore and sheltered waters, the Westport Marine Sport 3 has lots to offer



**S**TEP ABOARD THE WESTPORT Marine Sport 3 and she seems like a much bigger boat than her overall length of 4.10 metres and 1.60m beam would suggest. Throw in the fact this vessel is easily trailerable behind an average family car, and you have plenty of key selling points.

Described as 'an entry level open sports boat', this sleek little number is aimed at users who want a rugged all-round vessel capable of just about anything – be it fishing, family fun, coastal trips, exploring rivers, sailing club rescue craft or tender and, of

course, just for pottering around.

Westport Marine claims the boat provides exceptional performance with modest outboards, which makes her very affordable without compromising performance and economy. For example, with a 10hp outboard, she rises quickly on to the plane, and can achieve speeds up to 15 knots, and more than 21 knots when fitted with a 15hp. Even when powered by only a 5hp outboard, she can get to six knots.

The standard boat has tiller steering, meaning you simply clamp on your outboard and off you go. An optional console with steering is also available (pictured), with and without a screen. ►





The boat handled beautifully

## SIMPLE LAYOUT

Westport Marine has kept the layout simple, which will suit most anglers looking to buy a basic inshore fishing boat. Key features include a bench seat aft with the console, if fitted, installed to starboard.

A thwart is provided midships, with further seating at the bows. Two large storage lockers are included – one aft, one forward. The aft locker is used to store the battery and fuel tank for smaller engines, leaving plenty of space for tackle, fenders and kit.

When powered by larger engines, Westport recommends that the fuel tank is located amidships, under the bench seat, which provides better trim and performance. The bow locker is more than big enough to securely stow the anchor, chain and warp, with plenty of room left over.

As mentioned, one of the key features of the Sport 3 is the huge area of open cockpit space. She is said to be a market leader in terms of space that has been incorporated into her hull, along with the amount of freeboard. Onboard safety is enhanced with the addition of gunnel rails, available as an optional extra.

Buoyancy is incorporated aft, amidships and forward, thus ensuring that the hull remains upright and stable, even when totally flooded. The non-slip deck features a small drain hole aft.

## QUALITY FINISH

As with all previous boats I have tested from Westport Marine, the build quality and finish of the Sport 3 is first class. The beautiful gloss finish of the gel coat is afforded a level of protection from abrasion by heavy-duty rubber fendering fitted fore and aft.

The hull is 4.10 metres long with a 1.60m beam and, given these dimensions, a key selling point is that she is easily trailerable with an average family car, and can be securely stored in a standard family garage.

She displaces 120kg, so should be easy to manhandle and launch almost anywhere. The Sport 3 has been classified as CE category D for carrying up to three persons, though essentially this is a one or two-person angling boat.

## IMPRESSIVE BOAT

My sea trial aboard the Westport Marine Sport 3 was arranged at Wareham, courtesy of Howard Marine Sales Ltd, which is the sole dealer for this boat.

Once we had slowly navigated our way through the speed restrictions enforced throughout the inner reaches of the harbour and reached open water, I was able to open up the throttle of the Tohatsu 15hp and get the feel of this impressive little boat.

She handled beautifully, demonstrating impressive lateral stability when driven through a sequence of tight twists and turns. Certainly, this is a boat aboard which I could envisage myself having a lot of fun. She really is a wonderful little angling boat that is perfect for working inshore and sheltered waters. ■



Two large storage lockers are provided



Further seating is available at the bow



The test boat had a Tohatsu 15hp outboard

## INFORMATION

The Westport Sport 3 comes with a tiller-steer 6hp outboard and with a roller trailer. Prices start from £5,860 including VAT. Fitted with a remote-control 15hp outboard and with a roller trailer, the prices start at £9,250.00 including VAT.

All boats are built to order with a lead time of six to eight weeks. A choice of hull colours is available.

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