



Luhrs 41 Open

A deceptively large, agile 44-footer.
by Tom Thompson

The new Luhrs 41 Open is a deceptive boat. First, it looks bigger than it is. The overall length is 44 feet, 6 inches, and the beam is 15 feet, 9 inches, but the 41 Open has a spacious feel you'd expect to find on a 50-footer, both above- and belowdeck. Second, it handles like a smaller vessel. The quick helm response and precise handling reminded me of the Luhrs 28 Open. The word "sprightly" springs to mind. With the 41 Open, Luhrs has come up with a winning combination of performance, fishability and comfort.



The 100-square-foot cockpit takes up about half of the two-level main deck. There are two insulated fishboxes in the cockpit sole and a 50-gallon livewell in the transom. A bait-prep center runs along the forward bulkhead. A sink with spray nozzle, tackle drawers and cutting board are standard, and there's space for an optional freezer. An aluminum plate is bonded into the center of the cockpit decking to mount a fighting chair. If you're one of those anglers who have a rod for every reason, you'll find plenty of room for them all. For starters, eight can be stored in a compartment in the cockpit sole.

The bridge deck is configured around a versatile seating area to port. A fixed bench seat runs along the edge, and two more benches form a U-shape. The backrests can be flipped so the occupants can face either aft or stern. The aft seat, when facing the rear, makes a great spot to tend lines while trolling. An optional removable cocktail table can be set up in the center. The 41 Open's helm seat is just starboard of the centerline and accessible from both sides. As an option, you can order a second helm seat that mounts to the right and folds down when not in use. Keeping a tally of rod storage, there's room for five more under the port-side bench.

I think one of the best options aboard the 41 Open is what Luhrs calls the "summer galley," which is situated in a molded fiberglass console just behind the helm. A single lid covers a cooktop, sink and refrigerator/freezer, all mounted on a Corian countertop. In my opinion, this is the next best thing to preparing your catch over an open fire on a beach. However, if you want an additional bait-prep station to complement the one in the cockpit, you can have one installed instead of the galley.

The 41 Open comes with a standard hardtop that's fitted with enclosure curtains on two sides. As an option, you can get the aft enclosure curtain and order air conditioning for the bridge deck. I liked the power-operated windshield vents and the two large Bomar hatches in the hardtop, which provided ample cool breezes while we were under way. The upper helm station in the factory-installed, welded-aluminum tower has full instrumentation, including electronic engine controls, and the panel has room for optional electronic repeater gauges as well. The bench seat provides plenty of hip room for three people.

The typical compromise on an open fishing boat model is made on cabin room. To provide



a spacious cockpit and deck, the living quarters below are cramped. The 41 Open, with its broad beam, is an exception, with comfortable space in all three dimensions. At the lowest point in the cabin, headroom is still 6 feet, 4 inches. Luhrs made clever use of a set of three wood-panel doors on sliding tracks. At night, they can separate the master stateroom in the bow from the salon. Sliding them away during the day makes the space much more open.

The master stateroom features a queen pedestal berth with a square innerspring mattress—no rounded-off corners—topped off with a comfortable layer of memory foam. Hanging lockers in each aft corner of the cabinet and storage bins in the berth pedestal are all cedar-lined.

The salon's L-shaped sofa, which runs across the starboard side and aft bulkhead, has a removable wood-top dining table in front of it. When night comes, you can flip up the sofa seatback and lock it in place to create an upper bunk bed. Press a button and the seat base glides outward to make a double-size lower

bunk bed. And if you're still keeping count on rod storage, seven more can be hidden away behind the aft seatback—which brings the grand total rod count to 20.

The entrance to the 41 Open's large head is located at the forward port corner of the salon. You can also access it from a door in the master suite. There's an enclosed shower stall, a Corian countertop, a VacuFlush toilet and storage compartments above and below the sink. The port-side galley features a double-burner electric stove, microwave oven, coffeemaker and stainless steel sink. All come standard, as do the separate freezer and refrigerator drawers under the counter.

The wide Carolina flare gave us a dry ride despite sloppy conditions. The hull tracked through the chop smoothly, with arrow-like precision. I was impressed by how quickly the helm responded and how well the boat held on in turns. I've driven boats 10 feet shorter that weren't this agile. There was a slight bow rise coming on plane with no trim tabs applied. The

twin Cummins QSM-11 diesels got us to a top speed of 32 knots with five people on board and nearly full fuel and water tanks.

Quick, responsive, agile and roomy—and loaded with creature comforts and conveniences—the Luhrs 41 Open could well be everything you want in a serious fishing machine. ↴

Specs

LOA.....	44'6"
Beam.....	15'9"
Draft.....	3'6"
Weight.....	32,000 lbs.
Fuel capacity.....	600 gals.
Sleeps.....	6
Base power ...T/Cummins QSC-8.3 diesels	
Base price	\$624,000
Power as tested	T/Cummins
	QSM-11 diesels
Price as tested	\$785,739

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