

# Pursuit 3480

## Drummond Island Runner & Sportfish

Take your pick: One's a cruiser,  
the other's built for angling.

by Tom Thompson



**D**rummond Island is in one of the most picturesque boating areas of the Great Lakes. Just off the eastern part of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the island lies between Lake Huron and the North Channel. Leon Slikkers, the founder and chairman of S2 Yachts, the parent company of Pursuit and Tiara, has a family vacation home there.



Slikkers and his family like to run the Lake Michigan coast from their homes in Holland to Drummond Island. The 300-mile trek can sometimes be a rough ride in anything but a larger boat and requires stops en route to refuel. Slikkers challenged the company's designers to come up with a craft that would do it comfortably on a single tankful. The result came in two incarnations: the Pursuit 3480 Drummond Island Runner and its sister, the Sportfish.

The two boats are identical save for the cockpit features in and around a large island console aft of the helm seats. The Drummond Island Runner is a cruising boat and has a country kitchen that includes a cooktop, sink and top-loading refrigerator. At the aft end of the island, there's an electrically operated bench that converts to a sunpad. The console on the Drummond Island Sportfish is all business. Termed the "Angler's Edge," it has a 45-gallon livewell, a stainless steel refrigerator, a sink with fresh- and raw-water sprayers, a filet station and a bait cooler. Cabinets line both sides of the console with plenty of drawers and sliding tackleboxes.

The Sportfish has lockable rod storage in the gunwales to both sides of the helm and rod racks in the cabin ceiling. The Runner has a permanent bench at the transom, while the Sportfish has a fold-down seat there, as well as one at the aft end of the island console.

The helm on the Drummond Island models is raised one step from the cockpit deck. The view from the pair of individually adjustable, electrically operated seats is excellent in all directions. Our test boat had a pair of 10-inch Raymarine E Series displays mounted at the helm. There's also an overhead electronics box molded into the hardtop. The helm area gets good airflow from a powered vent panel in the windshield and a pair of small hatches in the hardtop.

Because these Pursuits have an overall length of 34 feet, 5 inches, there's cockpit room to spare in spite of the console. From a large access hatch in the center, you can get at just about all of the boat's pumps and plumbing. It's flanked by a pair of insulated deck

**These shots are of the Drummond Island Sportfish. The console is equipped with a 45-gallon livewell, a refrigerator, a bait cooler, a filet station and plenty of cabinet space. The Runner has a country kitchen setup instead.**



compartments that are drained and macerated. Another insulated box is located in the transom. A steel-framed teak access door leads to the teak decking on the integral motor bracket, where you'll find a hot and cold transom shower and a three-step boarding ladder.

The cabin is attractively appointed in teak and has an extra-long V-berth that comes with fitted sheets. On the Sportfish, a microwave oven is located in a cabinet in the aft port corner, just below the hanging locker. The Runner's microwave is in the console on deck. For entertainment, both versions come with an AM/FM receiver that's Sirius satellite-ready, a six-disc CD/DVD changer and a 15-inch flat-screen TV. A 7,000-BTU A/C as well as a 3-kw generator are optional. The stand-up head compartment features a teak shower grate, stainless steel sink, Corian countertop and VacuFlush macerated head.

When Slikkers posed his challenge to the Pursuit designers, they had a head start. The Drummond Islands are built on a remarkably fast and comfortably riding hull designed for the 3480 Center Console. I did a trial on that boat in some very sloppy conditions last year (August, page 38) and was quite impressed by how well it handled. Although the ride was reasonably dry for a center console, we cer-

tainly could have used the protection of the hardtop and side curtains that are standard on the Runner and Sportfish.

The boat I tested was a Sportfish and it had the same Yamaha 250 four-stroke outboards as the Center Console. Although the Drummond Island boats carry additional weight due to accessories and superstructure, handling and acceleration were equally impressive. I was able to take the boat to wide-open throttle in a moderate chop and the ride was smooth and quiet at 48 mph. Because the basic 3480 hull is heavy compared with others this size, the ride was also very solid.

That extra weight didn't hurt fuel economy. After all, the challenge was to run between Holland and Drummond Island with no fuel stops. Both Yamahas burned only 29 gph at a 40-mph cruise. When I dialed back to 30, they got a thrifty 21 gph. Based on the boats' 300-gallon tank, at that speed you can go more than 400 miles before running dry.

During the test, I had an opportunity to see how well the boat handled in an emergency evasive maneuver. While cruising at about 35 mph, I caught a glimpse of something hovering just below the water's surface about two boat lengths ahead. A quick twist of my wrist averted an untimely and quite possibly

expensive meeting between a large log and the boat's lower units.

One other feature that impressed me was in the electrical system. There are four batteries instead of the usual three because Pursuit added one dedicated to the helm electronics. All are kept at peak charge, using a voltage sensor relay that automatically monitors each for low voltage.

The 3480 Drummond Island Runner and Sportfish are part of Pursuit's rugged, utilitarian Denali line. Whichever model you choose, these boats are a class act, bound to attract attention wherever you go. ↴

### Specs

LOA .....	34'5"
Beam .....	9'6"
Draft .....	2'6"
Weight .....	9,200 lbs.
Fuel capacity.....	300 gals.
Sleeps.....	2
Power.....	T/Yamaha 250 four-stroke O/Bs
Base price: .....	\$242,800
Price as tested:.....	\$290,825

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