

Rampage 33 Express



The latest in fishability and comfort.

by Tom Thompson

Fish or cruise, you don't have to make compromises with the Rampage 33 Express. It's a comfortably appointed—yet tough—offshore fishing boat. The standard cockpit comes with a 45-gallon lighted baitwell in the transom and a fishbox in the sole. Rampage lets you choose from a list of options, including substituting a bait-prep unit with a sink and tackle storage. You can also add a second livewell. For cruising, you can have a foldaway bench seat on the transom instead of the baitwell, and the bait-prep station can be configured as a wetbar with bottle storage beneath.

The 33 Express has one of the most comfortable and well-planned layouts of any boat in its size range. All of the seating is high, so you get a commanding view of your surroundings. Two swivel captain's chairs face forward—one to starboard and the other at the centerline helm. There's an L-shaped lounge seat to port with a swivel section that comes out and faces forward. There's even a flip-down footrest. One thing that really impressed me was the abundance of grabrails in all the right places.

The cabin is where the 33 Express really shows its comfort side. First, there's at least 6 feet, 6 inches of headroom throughout, even in the head. The décor is an attractive combination of cherrywood, colorful fabrics and beige carpeting. Forward, the dinette seats five adults. It converts to four 6-foot, 6-inch bunks, and the sofa along the starboard side folds out to a queen-size futon.

The galley is located to port. Standard appliances include an undercounter refrigerator/freezer, two-burner electric range, coffee maker and microwave oven. The sink has an insert to increase counter space. The head, aft of the galley, is fiberglass-lined and has a standard Techma marine sanitation system. For entertainment, Rampage offers an optional 15-inch Sharp Aquos LCD TV and a Baupunkt DVD player mounted on the aft bulkhead.

The engine compartment is below the helm deck, and is accessed with an electrically operated lift. There's also a day hatch you

can use to make fluid checks. You can even pull the generator's dipstick from there. Because of the boat's 13-foot beam, there's plenty of room to stand and move around on the outboard side of the engines when the main hatch is up.

I tested the 33 Express through one of its dealers, Sun Power CMP Yacht Sales in Tequesta, Florida. My host, Chuck Pickover, and I put the boat through its paces in the Atlantic off Jupiter Inlet. I was hoping for some hurricane-induced swells to make the ride interesting—Alberto had coursed up the East Coast about a week earlier—but all we found were flat seas. However, an outgoing tide and winds from the east confused the waters enough to make the ride bouncy. The 33 Express sliced through softly and smoothly, showing that this is a serious fishing boat with a refined style.

Our test boat had a pair of Cummins QSB 5.9 diesels rated at 425 hp each. We hit a top speed of 34 mph. Acceleration was strong throughout the power curve, and the helm responded quickly. At a cruising speed of 30 mph, I measured fuel burn at 31.4 gph on the Mercury SmartCraft instrumentation.

You can go fishing in comfort on the Rampage 33 Express whether you're a hardcore enthusiast or just an occasional angler. The features, both standard and optional, make it versatile for whatever you want to do on the water. ↓

Specs	
LOA	35'6"
Beam	13'
Draft	2'5"
Weight	17,200 lbs.
Fuel capacity	338 gals.
Sleeps	6
Base power	T/Crusader 8.1 HO MPis (425 hp)
Base price	\$276,120
Power as tested	T/Cummins QSB 5.9 diesels (425 hp)
Price as tested	\$433,031



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