

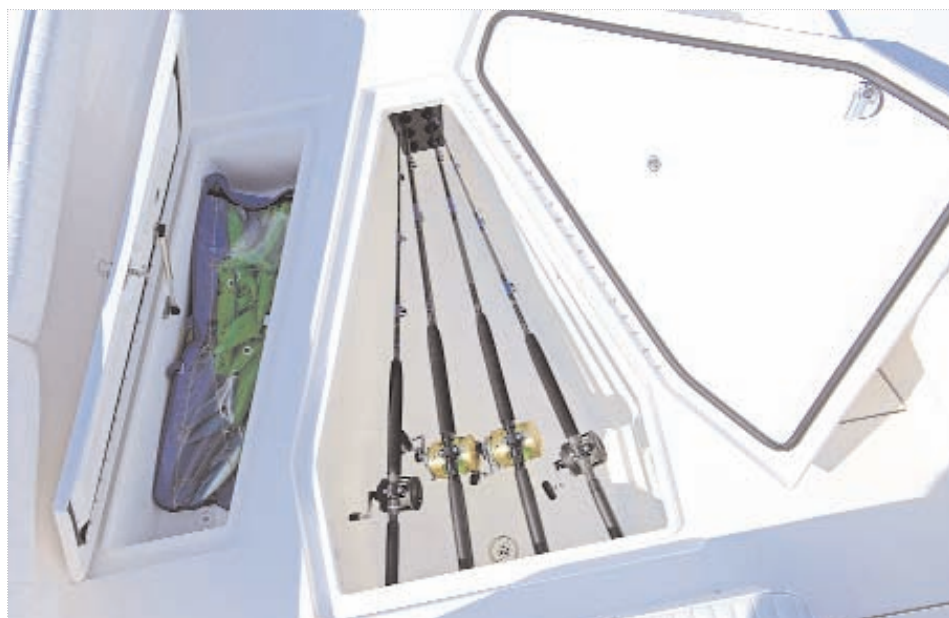
Regulator 29

Center-console fishing done right.

by Tom Thompson

There's a bewildering range of center-console fishing boats in the marketplace, with each only incrementally different from the next. The Regulator 29 stands out from the crowd not because of any flashiness but because of an exceptional attention to basic boatbuilding and no-nonsense functionality.





Start with the hull: The Regulator 29 has a sharp 24-degree deadrise that rolls out at the bow to a broad Carolina flare. What you want in any boat is good seakeeping and a dry ride—and that's accomplished well here. I was impressed by the especially soft reentry when plowing through waves. The Regulator 29 was designed around the weights and dimensions of Yamaha's newest four-stroke outboards. The boat I tested had a pair of 250s on the transom that topped out at 53 mph and were able to hit 25 in just 10 seconds.

Boatbuilders in the Carolinas know a thing or two about rough offshore conditions, and they make hulls accordingly. The Regulator 29's hull has four parts: an outer shell, the stringer system or grillage, the innerliner and a separate deck cap. All are bonded, fiberglassed and through-bolted. The stringer system is foam-injected for sound-deadening. No wood is used at all in the hull construction. The 29 weighs nearly 7,000 pounds dry without the engines, so you can see there's no compromise on material. This makes for a solid boat and a solid ride.

The Regulator 29 has two deck configurations. The 29 Classic sports an open bow with a 520-quart in-deck fishbox on the centerline straddled by a pair of 88-quart compartments. The 29 FS, on the other hand, has either forward seating or a V-shaped bench in the bow. The 520-quart in-deck compartment is still there, but the added height of the seats creates 200 quarts of storage space along each side. On both models, the center-compartment hatch is lockable and can be fit with rod holders.

There's more storage as you move aft. A couple of compartments in the deck flank the bench seat forward of the center console. Lift the cushion and you'll find even more space for your stuff. There's an 84-quart baitbox and a 30-gallon livewell built into the transom. Regulator offers several options to use the under side of the leaning post for bait, tackle or storage.

The Regulator 29's helm is spacious and uncluttered. There was a pair of 10-inch Furuno NavNet screens mounted behind a lockable cover on the main panel, with room to spare. Directly below that were four displays for Yamaha's new Command Link Integrated Information System. An alu-



minum-framed windshield with handrails comes standard. If you order the optional factory-installed T-top, it comes with a molded-in electronics box. I was also impressed with the clean welds and the substantial aluminum tubing supporting the top.

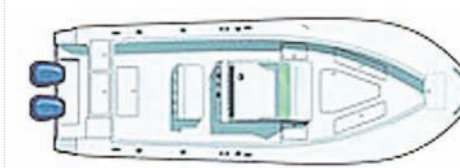
Regulator's attention to fit and finish isn't more evident than in the center console's



head compartment. A separate fiberglass innerliner is used to create a smooth surface all around, making it easy to keep clean, with no rough edges to scrape you or your gear. An electric toilet is standard. It comes with a 6-gallon holding tank as well as an overboard discharge and deck pumpout fitting. There's 6 feet, 3 inches of headroom here, in addition to lots of elbow-room. A large fluorescent lamp just inside the door fills the space with light. The boat's three battery switches are conveniently located there, too.

If you're looking for fishability and performance, be sure to look closely at the Regulator 29. This North Carolina company specializes in doing one thing well—building one heck of a center console for the serious offshore angler. There's nothing fancy or flashy here—just the basics done they way they should be done. ⚓

Specs	
LOA.....	29'
Beam	9'6"
Draft	2'7"
Weight w/o engines.....	6,800 lbs. (Classic) 6,900 lbs. (FS)
Fuel capacity.....	285 gals.
Base price	\$135,000
Power as tested	T/250 Yamaha four-stroke O/Bs
Price as tested (w/o electronics)	\$160,750



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