



Scout 205 Sportfish

A fully equipped center console.

BY TOM THOMPSON

It's all here—everything you'll need in one convenient package. The Scout 205 Sportfish is a compact yet well-equipped fishing machine in a hull that's just under 20 feet long and 8 feet, 4 inches wide. The center console even has room for an optional portable toilet. There's a long list of standards and options to make the 205 SF exactly the way you want, including a factory-rigged Yamaha outboard up to 225 hp.

There's an aerated baitwell on the port side of the transom fitted with a high-speed pickup. Underneath the optional seat cushion in the bow is a large fishbox with an overboard drain. Plus, rod storage is plentiful. There are four rocket launchers on the back of the leaning post, holders for three rods under the starboard gunnel, two flush-mount stainless steel holders in the transom, and two vertical holders on each side of the transom bench seat. Incidentally, the seat cushion is removable to give you more working room at the stern. In the starboard aft corner, there's a compartment for stowing gear.

The center console has a perfectly placed inverted U-shaped grabrail that runs along each side and across the top of the windshield. A row of gauges spans the top of the instrument panel, flanked by switches. A Ritchie compass, which comes standard, is at the center. There's even a 12-volt power outlet with its own switch. Directly below is enough panel space to fit a 10-inch electronics display. The steering wheel is offset to port, and the throttle is in the center.

To starboard, there's a double cupholder, and beneath it a lockable compartment designed to hold a pair of binoculars. Scout conveniently puts the battery shutoff switch at the base of the center console, where it's easy to reach. An optional bimini top is available, too. Scout also offers a sport package that

includes a T-top with a radio box, a swim platform on the port side and a bow cushion set.

A 90-quart removable cooler forward creates the base for a bench. There's a cushion on top of it and a backrest attached to the console. I liked the recessed stainless steel grabrail that ran from amidships forward to the bow. It gives you something to hold on to no matter where you are at the front of the boat. There's a hatch on the bow to access anchor storage. A bracket holds the anchor in place, and an access door in the seat back here lets you get to the anchor line.

The day I tested the Scout 205 SF, there was a stiff breeze blowing up some short-period chop. The boat ran smoothly through it. The well-balanced hull takes turns tightly and recovers quickly. The 150-hp Yamaha four-stroke took me to a top speed of 45 mph. That's pretty quick, considering the boat can take a maximum of 225 horses. Scout designed the transom with a wave gate that prevents swamping while backing down. I ran the engine up to 3600 rpm in reverse, and the deck remained dry.

A few notable options include a choice of hull colors as well as a hull stripe, hydraulic steering and electric trim tabs. You can also get a Clarion stereo and CD player that's Sirius satellite radio-capable. Configure this Scout the way you like, and then go fill that fishbox. ⚓

Specs

LOA	19'11"
Beam	8'4"
Draft	1'
Weight	2,000 lbs.
Fuel capacity	63 gals.
Base power	Yamaha 4-stroke
	O/B (150 hp)
Base price	\$40,000
	843-821-0068; www.scoutboats.com

