

# Boston Whaler 235 Conquest

Comfort meets trailerability in this all-around winner.

by Tom Thompson



**B**oston Whaler's 235 Conquest is a compact fishing boat that refuses to compromise. It's also a roomy, seakindly cruiser. The overall length of 24 feet, 9 inches, along with an 8-foot, 6-inch beam, give the 235 Conquest a remarkably spacious cockpit and a comfortable cuddy cabin. Add to this its trailerability and you have a versatile package for whatever your plans on the water may be.



For fishing, the boat has 42 square feet of unobstructed cockpit space. Anglers will appreciate standard features including an integrated livewell in the port transom, a pair of 100-quart insulated fishboxes in the sole, two stainless steel rod holders, rod storage in the transom and gunnels, stainless steel toe rails and downrigger weight holders. The starboard side of the transom is open for fighting and boarding fish. An optional fishing package includes pumpouts for the fishboxes, a raw-water washdown, cockpit coaming bolsters and two additional rod holders.

If angling's not your primary goal, you can add an optional foldaway bench seat along the port side to complement the standard one in the transom. There are also jump seats immediately behind the bucket seats at the helm and on the port side of the forward cockpit. The swim platform has a telescoping ladder, and at each aft corner of the gunnel is an integrated stainless steel hawsepipe and cup holder—a clever idea.

The 235 Conquest's helm has room for a large-screen electronics display. In fact, you can order the boat with a factory-installed Northstar 6000i system, which can include a GPS chartplotter, fishfinder and radar. The boat comes with a standard Mercury SmartCraft electronic gauge package. The storage bin on the left side of the instrument panel is a nice addition—not only does it hold your cell phone, its 12-volt outlet can also recharge it.

There are two options for covering the forward part of the cockpit—a hardtop or canvas that retracts into a boot. The boat I tested had a hardtop with weather curtains on three sides that roll up and store neatly in a zippered compartment. That means you don't have to find a place for them in the cabin—and you can reach them easily in case of a sudden downpour.

Easy-to-maneuver side walkways lead to the foredeck, where you'll find another bench seat. The 235 Conquest comes with an integrated bow pulpit and a stainless steel anchor roller. A low-profile windlass is an option. For this model, Whaler provides a solution to a longtime problem on small boats—that musty smell in the cabin that seeps in from the anchor locker. A molded fiberglass bulkhead now separates the cuddy from the anchor-storage area.

The cabin has a V-berth with an optional filler cushion that will sleep two adults. A pair



of opening portlights plus an overhead hatch, all screened, provide ventilation. A portable battery that fits under the seating is a standard feature and comes with a deck pumpout fitting. There's additional rod storage in the cabin, as well as cargo compartments under the V-berth cushions.

Base power is the 225 XXL OptiMax, and a Mercury 250 Verado is available. The 225-hp

Verado four-stroke outboard that powered our vessel gave the boat strong acceleration, especially from midrange, and ran quietly, too. I measured a sound level reading of 78 dbA at the helm while cruising at about 30 mph. The boat topped out at 41 mph. At a 3500-rpm, 22.6-mph cruising speed, the Verado should deliver a thrifty 2.97 mpg, giving the 235 Conquest about 300 miles of range with a 10 percent reserve.

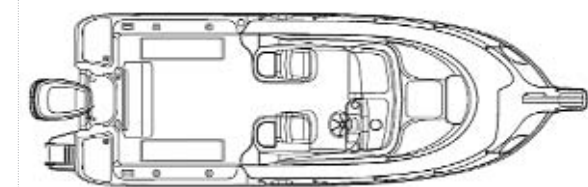
Steering and handling were responsive and precise. The 235 Conquest with optional Verado power uses Mercury's digital power steering and throttle control. The wheel has a smooth magnetic rather than mechanical feel. The hull held tightly in turns with no prop cavitation.

The 235 Conquest has everything you'd expect from a Boston Whaler—uncompromising tradition, ruggedness and reliability. ↴



### Specs

LOA .....	24'9"
Beam .....	8'6"
Draft .....	1'3"
Weight (w/o engine).....	3,500 lbs.
Fuel capacity.....	122 gals.
Sleeps .....	2
Base power.....	Mercury 225 XXL OptiMax O/B
Base price .....	\$70,151



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