

Hurricane FunDeck GS 231

AS SEEN IN
BOATING

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The World's Largest
Powerboat Magazine



Family Matters

Something for everyone.

This annual ritual unfolds every boat show season: Dad, the obsessive angler, wants the hard-core fishing boat, but Mom puts her foot down.

So the husband sulks while the wife picks out a boat his fishing club will mock. But the Hurricane FunDeck GS 231 provides the solution—a family deckboat with the fishing chops to prevent embarrassment.

The FunDeck GS 231 is a center console with outboard power, so it's fishier than the typical deckboat. The center console has 360-degree fishability, and the bow cockpit provides room for multiple anglers to cast. The starboard inwale rodrack holds four rods; the port rack holds one and has space below for a cooler and a five-tray tackle locker. Coaming bolsters run above the rodracks.

To boost the FunDeck GS 231's fishiness, opt for the Fish Package (\$589), which adds a removable fishing seat, four stainless-steel gunwale-mounted rodholders, two transom rodholders, a recirculating livewell, and a 12/24-volt trolling motor plug. There's also an array of sport packages including a fishfinder and freshwater washdown.

The family-fun component? The bow cockpit has seating for up to six adults, with comfortable cushions made from nonabsorbent foam and high-quality vinyl. The bow locker holds water toys and doubles as a rod locker. And, of course, the large bow platform provides water access. Add in wraparound transom seating and the 4'4"-tall head in the console to cover all your family needs. The ski tow bar (\$135) further enhances versatility.

The FunDeck GS 231's 12.5-degree transom deadrise and wide, flat running surface give it bayboat sensibilities, with a shallow draft and at-rest stability. Still, it ably took large wakes at 28.4 mph and 4000 rpm, and survived hard turns without sliding. It has coastal and big-lake capability.

Hurricane offers the FunDeck GS 231 with a 150-hp Yamaha four-stroke, but I'd say 200 hp is the minimum power. Jumping to 225 or even 250 horses would add oomph. One drawback is the fuel tank—the Hurricane

BOATING

Certified Test Results

rpm	SPEED			EFFICIENCY				OPERATION	
	knots	mph	gph	naut. mpg	stat. mpg	n. mi. range	s. mi. range	run angle	sound level
1000	4.5	5.2	0.8	5.6	6.5	310	357	0	62
1500	6.1	7.0	1.8	3.4	3.9	186	214	1	68
2000	7.5	8.6	2.5	3.0	3.4	164	189	3	71
2500	8.9	10.2	4.0	2.2	2.6	122	140	6	74
3000	10.6	12.2	5.1	2.1	2.4	114	131	7	77
3500	20.5	23.6	6.7	3.1	3.5	168	193	3	86
4000	24.7	28.4	7.8	3.2	3.6	174	200	3	89
4500	28.2	32.5	11.1	2.5	2.9	140	161	2	90
5000	31.0	35.7	14.3	2.2	2.5	119	137	1	92
5500	34.7	39.9	15.6	2.2	2.6	122	140	1	95
5650	36.1	41.5	19.5	1.8	2.1	102	117	1	96

Advertised fuel capacity 61 gallons. Range based on 90 percent of that figure. Performance measured with two persons aboard, full fuel, full water. Sound levels taken at helm, in dB-A.

LOA 23'2" **OPTIONAL POWER** Single gasoline outboard to 300 hp.

Beam 8'6"

Draft (max.) 2'7"

Displacement (lbs., approx., w/o power) 4,475

Transom deadrise 12.5°

Bridge clearance 4'5"

Max. headroom 4'4"

Fuel capacity (gal.) 61

Water capacity (gal.) 17

Price (w/standard power) \$39,375

Price (w/test power) \$42,780

STANDARD POWER Single 150-hp Yamaha F150 outboard.

TEST BOAT POWER Single 200-hp Yamaha F200 V-6 gasoline outboard with 204.6 cid, swinging a 15 1/4" x 17" three-bladed ss prop through a 2.00:1 reduction.

STANDARD EQUIPMENT (major items) Jensen AM/FM/CD player w/MP3 input and 2 speakers; 12v helm receptacle; hourmeter; horn; hydraulic steering; inwale rodracks; tackle tray locker; 25-qt. removable cooler; 8" ss cleats; canvas canopy top w/boot.

Monthly Payment \$356
(7.87% interest with 10% down on test boat power, tax not included; 15-year loan to qualified buyers estimated by Excel Credit)

High Points Screws for the hull-to-deck joint are backed with a composite strip. Windshield removes with locking nuts for easy cleaning and to retrieve items that slip between it and the helm. Side rails along the gunwales serve as handholds.

Low Points The anchor locker on our test boat drained into the bilge. Foam gasket for insole bow cockpit locker was coming unglued. One cupholder wasn't installed properly—a potential leak. Check yours before you buy.

Toughest Competitor Tahoe makes a slightly smaller fishable outboard deckboat. Like the Hurricane, it has a center console design. The Tahoe 215 CC (\$39,380 with a 200-hp Mercury XL Verado gasoline outboard) comes standard with two removable fishing seats, inwale rod stowage, tackle tray stowage, and an aerated livewell. It has three different trolling motor package options.

Contact Godfrey Marine, Dept. B, 4310 Middlebury St., Elkhart, IN 46516, 574/522-8381, www.godfreymarine.com.

holds 61 gallons whereas a comparably sized deep-V center console holds between 110 to 140 gallons, providing twice the fishing range. —PETE McDONALD