

ABOUT THE BOAT:
» POLAR 2300 DC

**PERFORMANCE
 » TESTED**

DUAL-ELEMENT MACHINE

THE NEW POLAR 2300 DC HANDLES OFFSHORE FISHING AND FAMILY FUN WITH EASE

W By Go Boating Test Team
 e don't often get the opportunity to test a hefty saltwater offshore fishing boat that's designed with a noticeable amount of family cruising appeal. The brand-new Polar 2300 DC (dual console) is as competent a fisher as many of the other 23-to-24-foot dedicated offshore rigs we've tested, but in this case it's outfit-

ted with a number of features designed with family and passenger comfort in mind. First, the dual-console setup with full-beam windshield creates a protected area in the cockpit for people to enjoy cruising without getting blasted by the wind the whole time. A full-beam bench seating area is created with cushions and optional backrests at the transom, and to port there is a fore- and

aft-facing seat that slides out into a chaise lounge. In the port console there is a large enclosed area with room for a Porta Potti. The runabout-style bow is also family friendly with removable seat cushions, permanent backrest cushions (a full filler cushion is optional) and a sturdy stainless steel grabrail. In addition to all the great family seating, there is a small starboard

swim platform aft with a boarding ladder, which will work well with the optional stainless steel ski tow bar for watersports. While the 2300 DC obviously has the bases covered for family fun, most people will want to know how well it is set up for offshore fishing, which is the driving force behind this boat. The 2300 DC was conceived to be a heavy-duty offshore saltwa-



▶ Whether you're headed out for an afternoon of searching weed lines or kelp beds in search of offshore fish, or you're planning to take the family to the lake for a day of watersports fun, the Polar 2300 DC covers all the bases. Storage is important in either case, and the 2300 has a large area under the starboard helm that connects with the storage under the starboard bow seat to create a long and deep area with room for rods,

jackets and other gear. There's more space in the ski locker in the sole. Anglers will like the bait prep station behind the driver's seat, which features a 15-gallon freshwater system with sink and pullout faucet, three large tackle drawers and a cutting surface. To keep those expensive baitfish alive, there's a 48-gallon circular baitwell on center at the transom.

The helm reminds us of a dedicated center-console offshore rig with the big stainless steel wheel and spinner knob as well as the large area to mount electronics (Polar offers a Raymarine C80 as an option, which has navigation, depth sounder and radar capabilities).

Other options include the stainless steel ski tow bar, a Kenwood stereo, a fiberglass hardtop, backrests for the aft seats, a raw-water washdown, a Porta Potti and more.

SPECIFICATIONS	
Length	23 ft., 4 in.
Beam	8 ft., 6 in.
Capacity	8 people
Dry weight	3,500 lbs.
Fuel capacity	150 gals.
Maximum power	300 hp
Deadrise (@ transom)	21 degrees

PERFORMANCE & PRICING

POLAR 2300 DC

PERFORMANCE

	MPH	RPM	MPG	(MILES) RANGE	DBA
PEAK	50.2	5,800	1.61	217	93
CRUISE	31.3	4,000	2.41	325	82
TIME TO PLANE					6.0 seconds
0-30 MPH ACCELERATION					8.8 seconds

Fuel consumption measured with Yamaha Command Link digital fuel-flow gauge; range based on 90% of total fuel capacity

TEST POWER

MOTOR twin 150 hp Yamaha F150s

PROPS 19-pitch 3-blade stainless steel

WOT RANGE 5,000-6,000 rpm

Craft available with single or twin outboards ranging from 150 hp to 300 hp from most manufacturers

LOAD

	PEOPLE	FUEL (GALS./LBS.)	WATER (GALS./LBS.)	MISC.
TEST	2	150/939	none	15 lbs.
TYPICAL	3-4	150/939	48/408	80 lbs.

BASE PRICE

WITH TEST POWER \$62,109*

*Price can vary depending on options and location — price does not include trailer or freight

FINANCING

\$526/month for 15 years*

*Assuming a final price of \$65,000 with a 10% down payment and a fixed interest rate of 7.0% — does not include sales tax

FIVE NOTABLE OPTIONS

Yamaha Command Link (w/Yamaha motors), raw-water washdown, Porta Potti, stainless steel ski tow bar, fiberglass hardtop, backrest for aft seats

FIVE NOTABLE STANDARDS

48-gallon lighted baitwell, starboard bait station w/fresh water and rod holder, multiple rod storage areas (including lockable storage), large insulated fishbox w/drain, hydraulic steering

BUILDER

Polar Boats, P.O. Box 310, Vinemont, AL 35179; (800) 839-4182; www.polarboats.com

Circle 23 on reader service card, page 97

ter fishing boat made to tackle rough seas at speed.

The hull of the 2300 DC features a wave-slicing 21-degree deadrise at the transom to cut through the chop and a carbon-fiber reinforced hull with a torque grid stringer system with integrated rigging tubes for rigidity. This, coupled with the boat's deep cockpit, high freeboard and standard trim tabs, ensures a seaworthy platform with a comfortable and dry ride in less than ideal conditions.

Fishing features include a full-beam cockpit with room to work a fish (padded coamings are included for comfort), a 48-gallon livewell with a clear lid to let in natural light and ample rod storage (including eight stainless steel flush-mount rod holders and under-gunwale rod storage). Under the port bow seat there is a large insulated fishbox with overboard drain, and behind the driver's seat is a robust bait prep station with all the gewgaws that are important to offshore anglers.

PERFORMANCE

Part of the vision of the Polar 2300 DC was to create a larger, more powerful version of the builder's popular 2100 DC. The goal was to design an offshore fishing boat that could support twin outboards with up to a combined 300 hp, and that's exactly what we had clamped to the transom for our test.

Our two four-stroke 150 hp Yamahas were equipped with 19-pitch three-blade stainless steel propellers, and at the dash we had a set of Yamaha's new Command

Link gauges, which give at-a-glance access to a wealth of engine diagnostics. We were able to post 50.2 mph on our GPS while trimmed out for full speed on mostly flat water. Our time to plane was 6 seconds and our 0-to-30-mph acceleration time was 8.8 seconds — all good figures for a boat that weighs in at about 3,500 pounds dry.

Range is incredibly important to offshore anglers, and our calculations show 325 miles at a peppy cruising speed of 31.3 mph, or more than 200 miles at full speed — either way, the 2300 delivers plenty of range for targeting species far offshore.

Standard hydraulic steering came in handy while taking the 2300 through the corners, and the dual-engine setup made maneuvering around tight dock spaces a breeze. Anglers will like the bustled transom, which enhances control while backing down.

OVERALL

The brand-new eight-person Polar 2300 DC is for those of you who want a hardy offshore fisher that has been thoughtfully designed with seaworthiness and fishability as well as family functionality in mind. The robust build and copious fishing features make for a competent offshore rig for anglers, and the comfortable seating, swim platform and other friendly features allow the 2300 to double as a family fun boat.

The list price with a pair of 150 hp Yamaha outboards is \$62,109, and the price will fluctuate depending on whether you want to drop down to a single motor or add on a few options. **GO**

