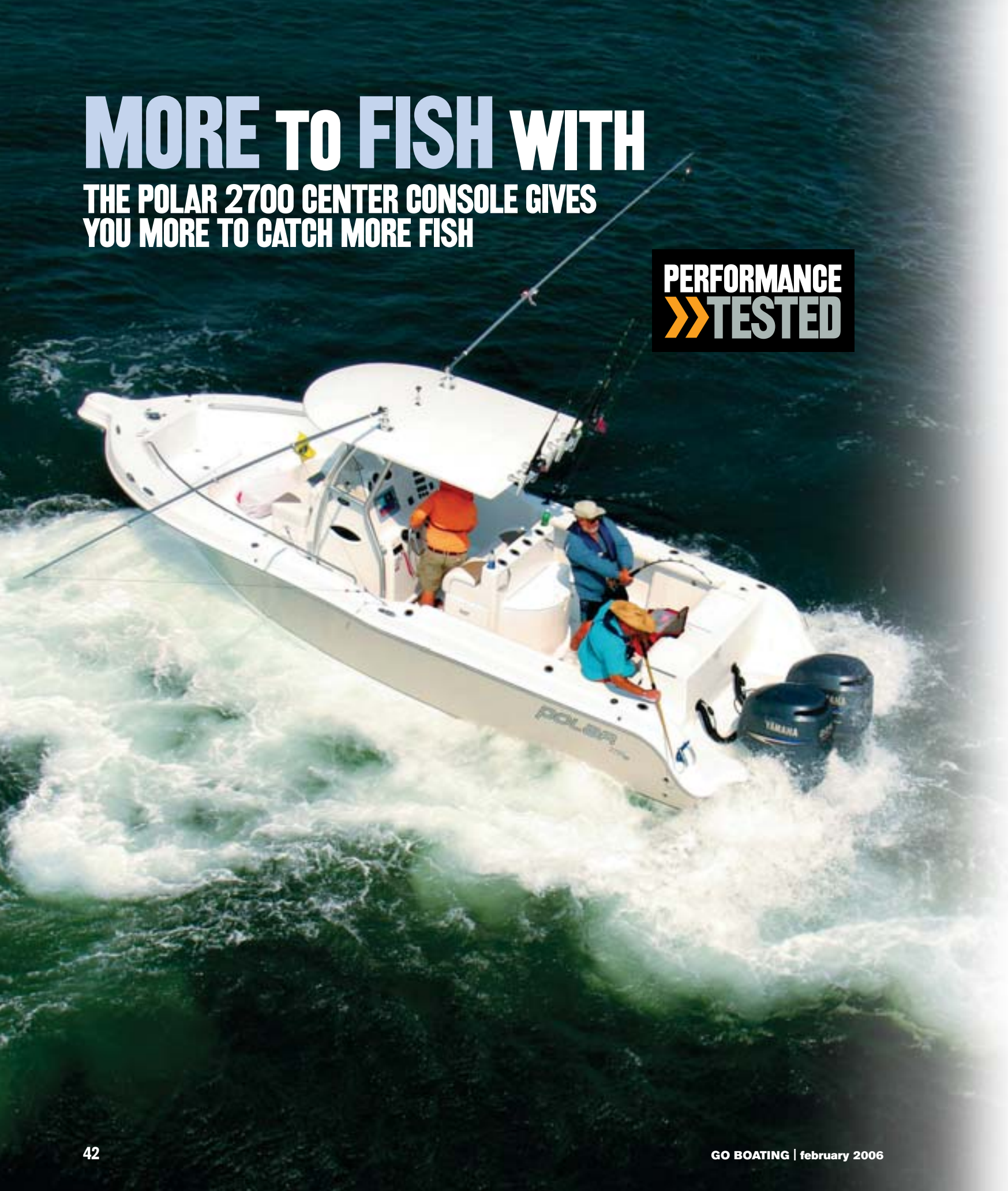


MORE TO FISH WITH

THE POLAR 2700 CENTER CONSOLE GIVES YOU MORE TO CATCH MORE FISH

**PERFORMANCE
TESTED**



By Go Boating
Test Team

When we met up with a dealer in Southern California to test Polar's 2700 Center Console, the largest boat in the company's fleet, we were told that Polar is in the habit of asking what anglers need, and then giving them more than they ask for.

With a length of 27 feet, 4 inches and a beam of 9 feet, 6 inches the 2700 has plenty of room for more of the kind of gear anglers want and need. When shopping for a rig like this, anglers are looking for two primary things: a wickedly seaworthy craft and an abundance of fish-fighting features that will help them hook all the species they like chasing.

One of the most important facets of extended fishing excursions (and our test boat boasted a cruising range of 360 miles at 34 mph) is having room to store all the fish you'll eventually score — this is some of that "more" mentioned earlier. In the case of the 2700, you have an incredible amount of storage for fish and gear — and the in-deck storage areas

have spill-catch lips with drains to keep any water that washes on deck from getting into the storage areas. There are three large insulated fishboxes that include macerators, one on center in the bow and two flanking the rear portion of the cockpit — the rear two are more than 6 feet long. There are five other in-deck storage areas with drains that can be

used for fish, rods, dry storage or whatever else you bring along.

On the more aggressive side of the fish fight you'll find six flush-mount stainless steel rod holders and four more in the back of the leaning post. There's a robust bait prep area built into the transom cap rail with two sinks, a washdown and hinged cutting boards that fold over to cover the sinks. Another tool is the huge 50-gallon lighted circular baitwell built into the rear of the leaning post — Polar maintains that this is the largest standard baitwell compared to that of similar fishing rigs of this size.

So it's clear to see the 2700 is made to bring home the fish, especially if you can get out to where they're biting.

PERFORMANCE

A big offshore fighter like this needs the ability to run out in the rough, sometimes 20, 30, 50 or more miles offshore, in search of elusive bigwater species. In the case of the 2700, you've got a craft with a wave-cutting 21-degree deadrise, plenty of flare for dryness and a solid composite construction with a one-piece fiberglass stringer system for rigidity. We were glad the Pacific was whipped up with 2 to 3 feet of surface chop along with big rolling swells to test the 2700's legs.



» POLAR 2700



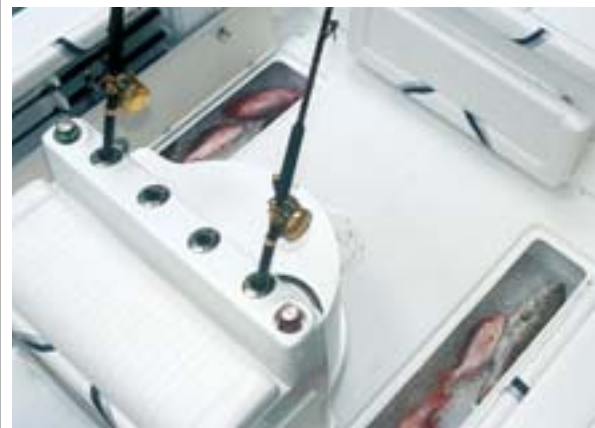
SPECIFICATIONS

Length	27 ft., 4 in.
Beam	9 ft., 6 in.
Capacity	8 people
Dry weight	5,000 lbs.
Fuel capacity	200 gals.
Maximum power	600 hp
Deadrise (@ transom)	21°

— there's more rod storage under the cockpit gunwales. The bait station built into the transom gives you plenty of room to prepare your lures, and the built-in cutting boards and sinks will keep things clean.

Even though most outings on this boat will likely center around going after serious fish, it also has a noticeable amount of family appeal. Its deep-V hull makes it great for cruising around big lakes, and the head with more than 6 feet of headroom and a standard Porta Potti will be appreciated by your wife, kids and fishing buddies alike.

Those who plan on keeping the boat in salty waters, which is probably most of you, will want to consider the optional Premier Offshore Package, which includes a ton of stainless steel upgrades: pull-up cleats, rubrail insert, locker hatches, through-hull fittings, rod holders, ladder and gauges — as well as a graphics package and colored hull.



Our test boat was equipped with a pair of Mercury Verado 225s spinning 19-inch stainless steel Mirage Plus props. The nice thing about Verado outboards is that they come with DTS (digital throttle shift) and SmartCraft, which yields precise figures for rpm, gph, trim angle and other diagnostics. We were told that this setup would yield a 60 mph top end on flat water, so we were hoping for something in the mid 50-mph range given our conditions. You can imagine how far you could push the 2700 equipped with its max of 600 hp.

While running parallel to the swell with the engines trimmed up and the Lenco tabs pushed only one notch down we were able to push the 2700 to 54.2 mph on our GPS with an rpm of 6,000. Not bad at all considering we were running with about 1,800 pounds of load (people, water and fuel). We could have probably lifted the tabs all the way up and taken up some more trim, but the conditions were less than ideal for such foolishness. Also, you'll be interested to know that the Verado 225 is rated for a top rpm of 6,400, so a slight drop in pitch might give the boat an even more impressive top end.

The 2700 jumped on plane in 3.3 seconds and motored up to 30 mph in 6.2 seconds. At wide-open throttle with this setup you can expect a range of about 195 miles — the more conservative cruising speed of 34 mph at 3,500 rpm will net you about 360 miles. At cruising speed the 2700 registered 83 dBA on our sound meter, a couple of points below the "loud" benchmark of 85 dBA. At wide open it crept up to 88 dBA, but anything less than 90 dBA is good for a four-stroke outboard running at full tilt.

▶ The Polar 2700 is replete with impressive fish-fighting features that come standard. First is the leaning post and all its associated goodies. The centerpiece is the 50-gallon lighted circular baitwell built into the rear of the post, which will ensure you have plenty of fresh bait for a full day of fishing or plenty of room to keep a prized catch alive. The post also has a number of tackle trays and doors built into it, which will help keep your gear organized and handy.

The port and starboard mid-ship storage areas in the deck have plenty of room for dry goods, including enough room for 10-foot rods in the forward compartments



In terms of handling and performance we found the 2700 to be quite seaworthy. We pointed it directly perpendicular to the chop and swell and put it up to about 35 mph — the ride was noticeably bumpy as expected, but not uncomfortable. Just for kicks we throttled up to see if we could get the boat, engines, prop and all out of the water — it can be done.



OVERALL

While we had a blast testing the Polar 2700 Center Console with the big Verados attached, just keep in mind that equipping the craft more modestly with something like a pair of Yamaha F150s will drop the price about \$17,000 and still give you the same amazing fish-fighting platform.

In terms of features the 2700 is more than fairly equipped as standard, except for the T-top (which Polar makes in-

house). It'll cost you an additional \$4,360 for the T-top with spreader lights and rocket launchers, and it wouldn't make much sense to get the boat without it — it can more than double your ability to present bait with the rocket launchers and outriggers.

The 2700 is a real workhorse from a builder that has a well-earned reputation on the East Coast and is now making inroads on the West Coast — so whatever shore you live on, Polar aims to take you to the fish fight. **GO**

PERFORMANCE & PRICING

POLAR 2700

PERFORMANCE

	MPH	RPM	MPG	RANGE	\$/MILE*	DBA
PEAK	54.2	6,000	1.08	195	2.12	88
CRUISE	34	3,500	2.00	360	1.15	83
TIME TO PLANE						3.3 seconds
0-30 MPH ACCELERATION						6.2 seconds

*Fuel consumption measured with Mercury SmartCraft; range based on 90% of total fuel capacity; *assuming a fuel price of \$2.30/gallon

POWER

TEST	Twin Mercury Verado 225s
HP	450
PROP	19-in. stainless steel Mirage Plus
WOT RANGE	5,000 to 6,000 rpm

STANDARD	Twin Yamaha F150s
HP	300
PROP	19-in. 3-blade aluminum
WOT RANGE	5,000-6,000 rpm

Craft available with twin outboards ranging from 150 hp to 300 hp from most major outboard manufacturers

LOAD

	PEOPLE	FUEL (GALS./LBS.)	WATER (GALS./LBS.)	MISC.
TEST	2	160/1,002	50/425	15 lbs.
TYPICAL	3-4	200/1,252	63/552	140 lbs.

BASE PRICE

W/TEST POWER	\$85,210*
W/STANDARD POWER	\$68,417*

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

FINANCING

\$666/month for 15 years*
 *Assuming a final price of \$90,000 with a 15% down payment and a fixed interest rate of 6.5% — does not include sales tax

FIVE NOTABLE OPTIONS

T-top (w/spreader lights and rocket launchers: \$4,360), outriggers (\$1,765), raw-water wash-down (\$320), windlass package (\$1,835), large compass (\$190)

FIVE NOTABLE STANDARDS

Lenco trim tabs, 50-gal. lighted baitwell, deluxe bait station (w/sink, cutting board and 13-gal. freshwater washdown), hydraulic steering, Porta Potti

BUILDER

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