

**PERFORMANCE
TESTED**



WELL CENTERED

HURRICANE IS ON TARGET WITH THE NEW FUNDECK GS 231 CENTER CONSOLE DECKBOAT

H By Go Boating Test Team
urricane has become one of the most diverse names in deckboats with more than 30 different models and enough variations on each to anticipate just about any boater need. While many builders offer a few deckboats in addition to larger lines of runabouts and cuddy cabins, Hurricane is focused solely on deckboats.

One area the builder decided to bolster for 2006 is its center console offerings. The popularity of its 20-foot, 10-

inch FunDeck GS 211 OB encouraged Hurricane to come out with an even larger center console, the 23-foot, 2-inch FunDeck GS 231 Center Console.

Center consoles offer a number of nifty advantages. It's easier to move around the boat because you have equal amounts of room on each side of the center console (which is a big plus when trying to work a fish around that boat), the symmetrical layout makes it easier to balance the load and, in our opinion, center consoles are more fun to drive than starboard helm craft.

PERFORMANCE

We've tested several Hurricane deckboats in the past, so we were familiar with the company's Category 5 hull, which has sponsons and reverse chines for stability and lifting strakes and shallow drafting for quick acceleration and a smooth ride.

Our test took place on Indiana's Lake Wawasee with calm water and a slight breeze. We had two people aboard and a half tank of fuel (30 gallons — about 188 pounds). For power we had a Yamaha F225 spinning a 19-inch pitch three-blade stainless steel prop. Acceleration was expectedly crisp with 4.5 sec-

HURRICANE FUNDECK GS 231



FISHING, ETC. — The look of the ladder-back pedestal helm seats really adds to the FunDeck GS 231's appeal to anglers. Center consoles have long been the preference of anglers, and the optional fish package, which includes a bow fish chair, an aerated rear livewell with pump, two additional rod holders, a trolling motor plug and an extra battery tray, is something to consider if fishing is on your list of priorities. Seating for 12 and plenty of water-sports potential means this craft can be just as nice for family fun as it can be for fishing.

onds to plane and 7.2 seconds from 0 to 30 mph. Trimming out for top speed we were able to post 43.4 mph on our GPS at 5,500 rpm. The F225 is rated for a max of 6,000 rpm, so an inch or two less in prop pitch might net you another a 1- or 2-mph bump on the top end.

Our most efficient cruising speed was 25.9 mph at 3,500 rpm, which yielded 3.92 mpg for an estimated cruising range of 215 miles — the anglers in your crew will especially appreciate this.

We enjoyed driving from the center position and found that the ride was solid while taking hard corners — only a slight amount of rpm was scrubbed off in the tightest turns. The driver's-side bolster was appreciated, and the foot supports helped in terms of confidence and control.

OVERALL

Even though this is the largest center console deckboat Hurricane offers, it's still small enough to be trailered with ease. The FunDeck GS 231 Center Console would be a great craft for the boater who has easy access

SPECIFICATIONS

Length	23 ft., 2 in.
Beam	8 ft., 6 in.
Capacity	12 people
Dry weight	3,200 lbs.
Fuel capacity	61 gals.
Maximum power	300 hp
Deadrise (@ transom)	12.5°

to a variety of mostly calm lakes, rivers and bays. Because it's a deckboat it can handle a little rough water, but with a deadrise of 12.5 degrees you're not going to want to get into much more than a moderate chop.

We think this boat would be as good for family fun as it would be for fishing. There's plenty of storage for gear as well as potential for watersports action. Anglers will be interested in outfitting the craft with the optional fishing package, which includes a bow fish chair, an aerated rear livewell with pump, two additional rod holders, a trolling motor plug and an extra battery tray. Everyone will be glad to know the enclosed changing room in the forward part of the helm can be equipped with a Porta Potti. Even though the T-top is an expensive option at \$3,315, we can't imagine owning this boat without it — it offers shade and more areas to grab on, and it just makes the boat look cool.

Your options are limited if you're looking for a center console deckboat, and this brand-new craft from Hurricane is certainly one to consider. **GO**

PERFORMANCE & PRICING HURRICANE FUNDECK GS 231

PERFORMANCE

	MPH	RPM	MPG	RANGE	\$/MILE*	DBA
PEAK	43.4	5,500	2.25	123	1.22	91
CRUISE	25.9	3,500	3.92	215	.70	82
TIME TO PLANE						4.5 seconds
0-30 MPH ACCELERATION						7.2 seconds

-Fuel consumption measured with Floscan digital fuel-flow meter; range based on 90% of total fuel capacity; *assuming a fuel price of \$2.75/gallon

POWER

TEST	Yamaha F225
HP	225
PROP	19-in. 3-blade stainless steel
WOT RANGE	5,000-6,000 rpm
STANDARD	Yamaha F150
HP	150
PROP	19-in. 3-blade aluminum
WOT RANGE	5,000-6,000 rpm

Craft available with outboards ranging from 150 hp to 225 hp from most major outboard manufacturers

LOAD

	PEOPLE	FUEL	MISC.
TEST	2	30 gals. (188 lbs.)	15 lbs.
TYPICAL	6-8	61 gals. (382 lbs.)	140 lbs.

BASE PRICE

W/TEST POWER	\$44,092*
W/STD. POWER	\$38,491*

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

FINANCING

\$367/month for 15 years*

*Assuming a final price of \$48,000 with a 15% down payment and a fixed interest rate of 7.0% — does not include sales tax.

FIVE NOTABLE OPTIONS

Hydraulic tilt steering (\$205), ski tow bar (\$135), T-top (\$3,315), snap-in carpet (\$365), livewell w/pump (\$240)

FIVE NOTABLE STANDARDS

Hydraulic steering, Jensen AM/FM CD, color-coordinated canopy top, Tournament stainless steel rod holders, stainless steel hardware

BUILDER

Hurricane, P.O. Box 1158, Elkhart, IN 46515; (888) 463-3739; www.hurricaneboats.com

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