

Roaming Nomad

Queensland-based Stacer recently unveiled its 2012 range of tinnies and announced a number of changes to existing models, including this 489 Nomad. By Scott Thomas.

STACER launched its updated 2012 range of boats earlier in the year. The line-up included two new plate models, which we'll review in upcoming issues, along with a host of modifications and improvements across the company's vast range of aluminium boats. One notable boat that got a facelift is the 489 Stacer Nomad. The Nomad range – which encompasses 13 models from 4.29m to 5.69m – is popular with keen fishos looking for quality boats covering most forms of inshore and near shore fishing. The test boat is aimed at estuary fishermen who occasionally head out to chase snapper and kings on a calm day. The 489 is also equally at home in freshwater rivers and impoundments.

New for 2012

While the Nomad range has been around a while, Stacer this year has refined the design providing fishos with added space, a

softer ride and a more user-friendly layout. Without trying to sound like the advert, it has to be said that Stacer does do a pretty good job of listening to feedback in order to make necessary design changes.

In regard to the 489 Nomad reviewed here, the Stacer team has redesigned the transom to add an additional 200mm of interior space. That doesn't sound like a lot, but in boating terms 200mm is welcome space. The reconfigured transom also allows easier access to the bilge via an inspection hatch while hiding unwanted cables below deck. Stacer says the slimmer transom lowers the centre of gravity, giving the boat more stability at rest and while under way. It does, however, make it tricky for extra large outboards to fully trim up. Owners of engines with large cowlings will need to set their trim limiter to ensure the outboard doesn't hit the transom at full tilt. The 75hp E-TEC on the test boat fitted nicely, even at full tilt.

Another simple – but effective – improvement is the split anchor well. This neat design allows for a much tidier anchor well and gives you the option of using one side for storing a cast net or additional anchor. This is an impressively spacious anchor well – it'll easily take all the ground tackle and rode you're likely to need – and is constructed from plastic rather than aluminium. Only an Australian built boat would devote so much space to a cleverly designed anchor well. That's something often forgotten on imported fishing boats.

There's also an electric motor mount neatly positioned next to the anchor well.

On the side

Side console or centre console? I guess it depends on your personal preference. Like a lot of fishos, I personally think that a side console, like that featured on the test boat, creates a large fishable space in the boat's centre, rather than two small spaces either



The 489 Nomad would make a versatile estuary sportfishing or entry level tournament boat.

side. Sure, the overall floor space is equal, but the actual fishing space increases.

This is a roomy boat with an uncluttered fishing area. The Nomad comes with two pedestal seats which can be configured in three various points around the boat leaving the remainder open.

The console and seats were positioned quite low. This makes driving the boat feel sporty, but it isn't for everyone, especially if you have long legs ...

The console featured a basic Lowrance Mark 5X sounder and could probably fit a slightly larger screen if you wanted to upgrade. There's also the standard switch panel, a number of gauges, and a Lowrance VHF as standard. There's a handy shelf on the console for putting salty lures on and a neatly positioned vertical rod holder for four rods on the front of the console.

The casting platform at the bow is quite wide and features two hatches. The larger hatch allows access to a tub with an optional livewell tub. For an aspiring fisho wanting to enter the tournament circuit without spending a fortune, this feature would allow you to compete without going all out and buying a specced up speedy bass boat. There's a smaller standard livewell on the transom if you prefer to use the bow area for storage.

On the water

The Nomad range features Stacer's Evo Advance Hull design. The Evo Advance is Stacer's latest concept which the company says provides a sharper bow entry and deeper V. The sharper entry means a softer and drier ride in choppy water, Stacer says. The hull design, as promised, delivered a decent ride for an aluminium boat of this size. The choppy waters around the Gold Coast Seaway presented no problems for the Nomad during our test day, with the hull providing a soft ride at a reasonable cruising speed. Tinnies have a reputation for "banging" and while there's no way of completely avoiding this, clever hull designs such as this are more than just a gimmick – they really work. Stacer's Evo Advance has also been designed to maximise internal fishing and storage space.

Ideal cruising speed came in at about 23 knots and 4000rpm, while wide open throttle was 33 knots and 5100rpm. That's plenty fast enough for a boat of this type.

As mentioned previously, this test Stacer sported a 75hp E-TEC direct injection two-stroke on the transom. The 75 is maximum horsepower for this hull and in my view seemed about right for the boat. If you wanted to save a few bucks, a 50hp would likely

give adequate performance. In my experience, DI two-strokes like E-TECs are quiet, light, fuel efficient and boast plenty of grunt. And the hole shot performance from the 75hp E-TEC was impressive.

All rounder

It's clear to see that Stacer's subtle modifications have strengthened the 489 Nomad's reputation as a viable all round sportfishing boat. The extra deck space, improved ride and enhanced stability have increased this tasty little tinny's ability to perform across a range of popular fishing styles and locations. If you're after a versatile sportfishing platform, check out the updated Nomad range at your local Stacer dealer. Meanwhile, go to fishingworld.com.au for more details and images on the revamped 2012 range of Stacer aluminium boats.



THE DETAILS	
Stacer 489 Nomad	
Length:	4.87m
Beam:	2.20m
Bottomsides:	3mm
Topsides:	2.5mm
Power:	Maximum 75hp
Weight (boat only):	430kg
Price:	As tested, \$31,757
Contact:	www.stacer.com.au



With only a small side console, there's plenty of floor space left for fishing in comfort.

Two World Leading Anchor Designs

The Super Sarca and Sarca Excel are accredited for Super High Holding power

Stick with convex design and leave the mud behind.



Both anchor designs are new releases delivering unrivalled holding power tested with T.A.T.S

Check out the holding Power figures on www.anchorright.com.au

Call now to place your order.

Ph: 03 8888 8888 Fax: 03 8888 8888 Email: info@anchorright.com.au

