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STORY & PHOTOS **KEVIN SMITH**

*Stacer 519 Assault Pro*

# Redracer

STACER'S LATEST ENTRY INTO THE TOURNAMENT BOAT SEGMENT OUGHT TO GIVE ITS FIBREGLASS COMPETITORS A RUN FOR THEIR MONEY. IF THEY CAN CATCH IT...

**A** Every year, Stacer releases a new range which typically includes improvements to existing models as well as launching completely new boats. Often, they're all standouts, but there always seems to be one real showstopper in the bunch. Most recently, the tournament-styled 519 Assault Pro did a sterling job at

blowing my water socks completely off. This sleek low profile red devil and its Evinrude ETEC 135hp high-output motor looked like an absolute speed demon waiting to be unleashed. And it sure was...

Before we get into the spectacular performance of this boat, consider that the layout is a key part to the success of this machine. There are a number of integral pieces to create the ideal

tournament-style layout. Here, Stacer has managed to incorporate these various features and accessories within a layout that's sure to impress most competition anglers, but still keeps the boat pretty affordable.

## COMPETITION DECKS

Beginning from the bow, the generous casting deck is spacious, has plenty of storage for tackle, and a dedicated





anchor well, plus room for batteries and clever 'hookless' carpeting that's soft on the feet and gear. The only thing missing up front was an electric motor, but these can be easily added.

Moving off the cast deck, you then step down into a recessed centre-deck area which has the aerodynamic-looking console, along with a very interesting rodlocker setup. While the locker easily swallows up four 7ft

to have some pretty beefy handling rods, it's also electronic and remotely controlled. One tap of the button and the lid opens, with a rack of rods gently sliding up for your selection. It's a very cool idea – the only problem might be that I'd probably sit there all day opening and closing it just for fun. There's also a manual override in case the remote doesn't work.

Another attribute of this lower centre deck is that it's set at a good

with deep hatch storage options and a fishable level, with a bit of gunwale height to it. So, when its gets a bit rough, you can use this area rather than the cast decks.

Back at the console, you'll find a sleek design with plenty of legroom below, gauges, switchpanel, drinkholders and a small wraparound screen for protection, plus enough space to flush-mount a decent-sized sounder. The control box mounts to





### tradeboat says...

Stacer has kept it simple, but still manage to provide essential storage space, that innovative rod-rack system, and big, open decks. The 519 Assault Pro is a worthy competitor for the fibreglass tournament boats.

**ABOVE** The generously-sized casting deck is raised above the aerodynamic and efficient console.

**TOP RIGHT** The 135hp Evinrude E-TEC option is a must – the hull handles the extra power with certainty.

## “The Assault Pro launches itself onto the plane instantaneously”

the side of the coaming, where it's a pleasure to drive. Passengers also get a comfortable seat and with two mounting positions, you can arrange the passenger seat to suit the ride or fishing style for the day.

In the stern, there's another small casting deck which is also loaded with deep hatch storage options, and a hefty central livewell. Overall, the impression is of a clean and spacious layout with plenty of storage options, and one that's very comfortable to fling lures from.

### TOURNAMENT PERFORMANCE

For the tournament angler and lure fisherman, this boat was always going to create a few adrenalin highs.

Sporting the latest Evinrude E-TEC 135hp High Output V6 motor, the Assault Pro was surely ready to throw down one helluva performance.

The new 135 E-TEC is a re-mapped 150hp and slapping this onto a 5.2m bass boat was pretty brave. Let's face it; the boat's going to have to have some pretty deft handling characteristics to stand up to this volume of horsepower. And that's without even considering what's required during testing to determine maximum horsepower ratings.

These tests involve 90-degree turns at Wide Open Throttle – but please don't rush out to see if your boat can do this – you need to pretty handy on the wheel, and it's best left to the professional testers.

Slipping behind the wheel, you lock nicely into the seat and, with the control box on the right, you can rest your forearm on the gunwale and use wrist control to slap the hammer down. Fitted with a 17in stainless steel Viper prop, the Assault Pro launches itself onto the plane instantaneously and reacts nicely to trim to get you up to top revs of 5900 with a WOT speed of 46kts which – in hindsight – is bloody moving along on a boat of this size.

But what's even more impressive is just how well this hull handles the speed, in terms of comfort of ride and, most importantly, the safe feel in the turns. Considering these new generation Stacer hulls run 'blade technology' on the keel (primarily





**How does it rate?**

Stacer 519 Assault Pro

1 FUN FACTOR / FISHABILITY	★★★★★★★★★★★★
2 INNOVATION	★★★★★★★★★★★★
3 DESIGN AND LAYOUT	★★★★★★★★★★★★
4 QUALITY OF FINISH	★★★★★★★★★★★★
5 HANDLING AND RIDE	★★★★★★★★★★★★
6 STABILITY AT REST	★★★★★★★★★★★★
7 ERGONOMICS	★★★★★★★★★★★★
8 STANDARD EQUIPMENT	★★★★★★★★★★★★
9 VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★★★★★★★★★
10 X-FACTOR	★★★★★★★★★★★★

**Average**



designed to slice up chop), I would have predicted more bite in tight turns, but surprisingly, at high speed the Assault Pro performs more of a 'stern slide' – where the hull runs level to push the stern out, rather than digging in the bow – and it feels really comfortable.

The combination of Stacer's solidly built hull and design features blended with E-TEC power is most impressive and a very good match indeed. Recommended horsepower of just 90? Definitely not, after playing with the 135. The only downside to the ride for me was the lack of a

hot-foot accelerator – two hands on the wheel would definitely be more comfortable and safer when driving high performance motors such as this.

Of course when running big boys on the back, you do cop extra weight on the transom to contend with – 190kg in this case. Often on tournament boats, this requires you to re-accelerate before coming to a complete stop, to prevent the transom flooding. On the Assault Pro you may do that anyway out of habit, but what I did notice was that the transom remained quite buoyant when tapping off.

**ABOVE** The casting deck tops an array of lockers designed to house the fisherman's every need.

**Highs**

- Hot performance
- Good storage options
- Reasonable pricing

**Lows**

- More rod storage required for tournament anglers
- Hot-foot accelerator would be handy for max HP





**ABOVE** Well-equipped, well-performing and racy-looking – the Stacer 519 is a serious option for the tournament fisherman.

“Even with two up on the front casting deck, *the stability is as good as it gets*”

Stability on this style of boat should always be top-notch as you can't afford to be wobbling all over the shop when throwing lures in a stealthy manner. The 1.96m beam is combined with a fairly low-profile hull and it's bang on the money. Even with two up on the front casting deck, the stability is as good as it gets.

### THE WRAP

It's really refreshing to see more tournament-style aluminium boats hitting the market – and decent all-rounders at that. Upon first glance,

the 519 Assault Pro looks like a professional tournament fishing boat and straight away, it made me want to give it a good workout on the water – I mean, it's red and they go fast, right?

Stacer has kept it simple in layout, but still manage to provide the essential storage space needed for tackle, as well as that innovative rod-rack system, and big, open decks to please any lure angler – and like all its boats, there's more for less when it comes to pricing. Conclusively, it's a worthy competitor for the fibreglass tournament boats. ■

### Sea Trials

Evinrude E-TEC E135HSL High Output outboard with 17in Viper propeller

RPM	SPEED (KTS)	FUEL BURN (LT/H)
1500	6.5	5.1
2300	13.7	9.8
2500	17.6	11.5
3500	26.2	22.3
4500	31.9	32.5
5900	46.0	52

\*Sea-trial data supplied by the author.

### facts & figures

#### Stacer 519 Assault Pro

**PRICE AS TESTED**  
\$45,503

**OPTIONS FITTED**  
Electronic rodlocker, Evinrude E-TEC 135 HO, vinyl wrap, paint, bimini and envelope

**PRICED FROM**  
\$40,806

**GENERAL**  
**TYPE** Monohull  
**MATERIAL** Aluminium  
**LENGTH** 5.2m  
**BEAM** 1.96m  
**WEIGHT** 480kg  
**DEADRISE** 17° variable

**CAPACITIES**  
**PEOPLE** 5  
**REC. HP** 90  
**REC MAX HP** 135  
**FUEL** 75lt

**ENGINE**  
**MAKE/MODEL** Evinrude E-TEC E135HSL High Output  
**TYPE** Low-emission two-stroke V6  
**WEIGHT** 190kg  
**DISPLACEMENT** 2592cc  
**GEAR RATIO** 1.86:1 (20in models)  
**PROPELLER** 17in Viper

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