

Stacer Proline gets a revamp: 449S Angler



BRISBANE

Wayne
Kampe

wkff@aapt.net.au

Stacer have made it their business to keep a close eye on customer demand, and they are always on the lookout for ways to make a good thing even better.

With their Proline series of entry level fishing tinnies they've managed to neatly balance practicality with price, and for very good reason: there are many keen fishos that are dedicated to their pastime yet are rendered time poor by family or work, or perhaps have strict budgetary commitments. These anglers need a boat to enjoy their precious time on the water but cannot justify an overly large outlay for a state-of-the-art craft that's going to see only occasional use. Far better, for these fishers, to seek out a budget package that can cover a wide number of angling

activities but without over commitment.

This value for money concept has been the strength of the Stacer Proline series. They have always been regarded as boats that can comfortably fish small families or groups of mates, tow and stow easily and (despite modest price tags) still look quite attractive behind the car or on the water.

This year's release sees the already successful Proline Angler series of models (from 409 to 449 in length) featuring a new 'Striker' series of redesigned hulls. These hulls offer more beam, more depth thanks to a deeper entry point, and more easy performance from given horsepower.

Interior dimensions reflect these changes; models with casting platforms, such as the Angler 449S I reviewed, have up to 10% increase in cast deck area up front. Other features include extra storage space, roto anchor wells,

optional live wells and smart wraps to add extra bling.

The deeper entry of the Proline Striker series results in an increased interior depth of these craft, particularly up front and towards amidships. It's not so noticeable in those models where a floor is fitted but very easy to see in craft without a floor, such as the 399/429 models, where the forward floor area is substantially veed.

The added depth between sides and keel is a contributor to ride quality as well as minimizing water intrusion when underway. With the almost metre depth of the sides of the 449 Angler, boaters with youngsters

449S being equipped with a long shaft 60hp Evinrude E-Tec.

Options are numerous, with over a dozen on the factory specs sheet, and among those most likely to

PERFORMANCE

On the water the 449S Angler will make a lot of friends with its easy, very smooth ride and high degrees of stability at all times. The reviewed rig was set

The new Stacer 449S Proline Angler is in many respects an ideal smaller family craft for sheltered or semi-sheltered waters given its generous beam-to-length ratio of 2.05m to 4.59m, the



A very wide beam to length ratio gives the new Proline 449 Angler appeal to family groups as well as the more serious anglers among us. The standard Proline seats were comfortable, roomy and quite supportive, and excellent storage was available within the hatch up front under the casting platform.

SPECIFICATIONS

Length:4.49m
Length on Trailer:	...5.65m
Height on Trailer:	...1.40m
Beam:2.04m
Bottomsides:3.00mm
Topsides:2.00mm
Max. HP:60hp
Min. HP:40hp
Max people:4
Weight (hull only):	335kg

aboard will doubtless be reassured by the Proline's excellent freeboard.

LAYOUT

The new top-of-the-range 449S Proline Angler Striker comes standard with a carpeted floor, two rod holders, an extended front casting platform, extruded side decks, transducer bracket, a painted hull, side rails, two strong pedestal seats, and six seat positions. Engines are rated from 40-60hp, with the reviewed

be chosen include a live bait tank, 70L under floor fuel tank, side pocket, bimini and envelope, a sounder and GPS from a wide selection of units available, decal combinations and perhaps a side console in lieu of the standard tiller steer set up. An electric motor bracket is also an important option.

Construction of the Proline 449S Angler sees 3mm bottoms and 2mm sides linked to ample ribs to ensure rigidity. With a hull weight of 335kg, the craft is certainly no lightweight – hence the engine ratings as mentioned – and this gives it a really sturdy, solid, feel whether at rest or underway. It takes up to four people, ideal for a fishing boat of this size.

up with a tiller steer (top power) 60 Evinrude E-Tec on the transom but I'd see it going almost as well with a 40 E-Tec if there were only one or two people aboard most times.

I was impressed with the lack of hull slap, thanks to the Proline's excellent design, and also with the overall comfort experienced with three aboard during test runs around the Southport Broadwater. The very snappy performance from the smooth E-Tec with its muted hum astern also added to the pleasure of the boating experience. Performance figures with three aboard saw the craft planing at around 13km/h and cruising easily and very quietly at 40km/h, with a top speed of almost 54km/h recorded.

excellent freeboard of 0.91m and very easy going ride. Competent sportfishers would also enjoy the same attributes and no doubt catch their share of fish in this boat. It's right sized, could be towed by most family sedans or SUVs, and won't involve too much of an outlay to own. The hull warranty is three years.

For more info visit your local Stacer dealer or go to www.stacer.com.au.

• *Quoted performance figures have been supplied by the writer in good faith. Performance of individual boat/motor/trailer packages may differ due to variations in engine installations, propellers, hull configurations, options, hull loading and trailer specifications.*



A long shaft 60 E-Tec was top power for the reviewed rig and was quiet with impressive amounts of get up and go. Given the very easy performance of the 60, smaller family or fishing teams might want to opt for less power and save some dollars in the process.



Storage space is always hard to come by in open boats of this size so there's little doubt that the full-width storage locker up front of the 449 Proline will be put to good use by owners.



Fishing Monthly's Will Lee looks like he's enjoying time at the tiller of the 449 Angler.



With such a roomy casting platform, two anglers could fish up front of the 449 Angler with ease. Fortunately, an electric motor bracket is on the options list.



One option sure to be selected by prospective Proline 449 Angler owners would be the live well, in this case a roto moulded job.



The E-Tec 60's impressive 2-stroke power saw an easy cruising speed of around 40km/h during runs within the Southport Broadwater and surrounds.

NEW FOR 2016

**IS THE STACER
PROLINE**

STRIKER
SERIES

STACER

- INCREASED STABILITY
- SOFTER RIDE
- DRYER RIDE
- MORE SPACE



The Stacer Proline Angler 449 is the ultimate inshore fishing package with front and rear casting platforms, 2 x Stacer Sea Pro seats with 6 seat positions, rod holders, side decks, transducer bracket and anchor well as standard with many more other options.

**Contact your
local dealer
for more
information.**

ILUKA

ILUKA BOATSHED AND MARINA
2 A Charles Street, Iluka
Ph (02) 6646 6106
ilukaboatshed@bigpond.com
www.ilukaboatshed.com

MACQUARIE COAST

CAMDEN HAVEN MARINE
537 Ocean Dr, North Haven
Ph (02) 6559 9344
enquiries@camdenhavenmarine.com.au
www.camdenhavenmarine.com.au

CENTRAL COAST

IN TUNE MARINE
425 The Entrance Rd, Long Jetty
Ph (02) 4333 3444
stacerboats1@aol.com
www.intunemarine.com.au

SYDNEY

BLAKES MARINE
1 Railway Rd North, Mulgrave
Ph (02) 4577 6699
sales@blakesmarine.com.au
www.blakesmarine.com.au

DUBBO

DUBBO MARINE
36 Bourke Street, Dubbo
Ph (02) 6882 2853
bbeandel@bigpond.net.au
www.dubbomarine.com.au

SYDNEY

HUETT MARINE CENTRE
1131 Pacific Hwy, Cowan
Ph (02) 9456 1444
info@huettmarine.com.au
www.huettmarine.com.au

GRAFTON

DISCO MARINE
160 North St, Grafton
Ph (02) 6643 1199
sales@discomarine.com.au
www.dlscmarine.com.au

THE ILLAWARRA

SUNSET MOTORS & MARINE
240 Shellharbour Rd, Warilla
Ph (02) 4297 2888
sunsetmotors@bigpond.com
www.sunsetmotorsandmarine.com.au

Stacer release new Proline Striker Series

FMG

Will Lee

wlee@fishingmonthly.com.au



Stacer Boats have long been a favourite with Australian anglers who fish a wide spectrum of waterways. However, if you were to look at a breakdown of where most anglers spend the majority of their time, you'd find the answer is at most fishing rivers, estuaries and lakes, therefore it is no wonder that up until recently the number one

this time the day consisted of a poker run. Starting at Sea World we headed north to Wave Break Island adjacent to the Southport Seaway and then up the Nerang River making several stops to draw cards before tying up the Stacers at The Isle of Capri for lunch and to see who had the best hand. I certainly wasn't going to win with only a high card but along the way I made the most of every stop getting a ride in each of the new Prolines.

Included in the Striker series line up are the 399

deeper entry point and the result is you have a hull that is going to deliver a softer ride.

Across the entire Striker Series you will find the chines are now wider delivering more stability both at rest and underway. The wider chines are also effective for providing a dry ride. In the moderate 12 knots of breeze we had while testing the Striker Series I cannot recall coping any spray other than a little bit caused by pretty ordinary boat driving skills from another journalist.

A very noticeable point of

there was very little weight in the way of a fit out. Stacer offer an upgrade option of

to go fishing package at an affordable price. Across the Proline Anglers you will

a side console, bow mount plate, bimini top, live bait tank, live well transom step,



One difference in the Striker Series is that the chines no longer meet in the centre line, providing better stability.

selling boat in the Stacer Range was the 399 Proline – it has now been narrowly overtaken by their popular 429 Seaway model. To keep up with customer demand and feedback, Stacer have revamped their larger Proline boats by introducing the Proline Striker series for 2016.

I recently had the pleasure of experiencing what Stacer is offering in the new Striker Series first-hand at a media day held on the picturesque Broadwater at the Gold Coast. In true Stacer fashion, the day revolved around a theme,

and 429 Prolines, as well as the 409, 429 and 449 Proline Anglers. It is worth noting that there is no longer a 399 Proline Angler in the range; the 409 Proline Angler has superseded that model. The new series sees some significant changes to what has previously been a popular hull design. So how exactly did Stacer improve their number one selling boat?

The keel has been relaxed by 7% meaning that the bow has less of an angle that is likely to 'bump' into a chop but rather skip over it. Match the relaxed keel with a now

different between the Striker Series and the previous Prolines is that at no point do the chines actually meet up with the centre line on the new models resulting in an 'arrow' shaped bow that, from a bird's eye view, gives these boats a sporty new look. It's not all for show though, it provides anglers with 11% more space up front for the 399 and 429 Proline and an extra 11% fishing space on the front casting deck for the Proline Angler range.

The barebones 399 and 429 Prolines handled very well, especially seeing as



The 409 Proline Angler replaces the 399 Proline Angler.



The new bow design provides anglers with 11% more casting platform to work with.

having 2mm bottom and sides on the 399 Proline and with this upgrade, increases the maximum outboard rating from 30-40hp. I couldn't wait to get on the 399 fitted with a 40hp E-Tec and, as expected, it turned out this thing was a rocket ship.

While the 399 and 429 Prolines serve their purpose, the Proline Anglers offer keen fishers a ready

find front and rear carpeted casting platforms, the very comfortable Stacer Sea Pro seats with six seating positions, side decks, rails, a transducer bracket and a quality Stacer paint job. The extra room on the front casting platforms offer ample room for two anglers up front throwing lures. There are also the usual popular options available to go with the Proline Anglers, such as

underfloor fuel tanks and a flash rod storage pocket.

After spending several hours jumping between the different boats and giving them a test drive, including stopping for a sneaky cast at a school of trevally to 'test' its fishability, I can now certainly appreciate the benefits of the changes in design. The R&D team at Stacer have not just tweaked the design but actually significantly improved on something that was already a proven success. You can expect a softer, drier and more stable ride from the new Striker Series.

All boats that we tested throughout the day were fitted with Evinrude E-Tec outboards that performed effortlessly getting each boat onto the plane quickly, even when loaded with four people.

The word on the street is that the Striker Series will be rolling out of the factory to dealers in early January so contact your nearest dealer to find out more.



Gold Coast angler Mick Horn demonstrates the fishability of the 409 Proline Angler.



The 429 Proline Angler rode nicely even with four on board.