

# 'Incredible'

A 9.4-metre fishing vessel from Sealife Designs and Performance Plate Boats  
By JONATHAN WALLIS



September 3, 2007 saw an eye-catching new charter fisher, 'Incredible', out on trials off Scarborough, north of Brisbane, looking impressive and performing well above her owner's expectations.

And while 'Incredible' bears the hallmark of being yet another distinctive Sealife Designs vessel, she was very much custom-built and modified to the specific needs of her owner. But then, custom designing is very much part of what this company, founded in 2000, is all about.

A graduate of the Australian Maritime College, Jon Pattie is a naval architect of some repute, and his family company, Sealife Designs, is now renowned not only for its kit boats, but for its comprehensive range of vessels, from small fishing/pleasure craft through to big cats, from luxury launches to pilot boats, to work boats and barges.

With 'Incredible', Sealife Designs have not only built an exceptional vessel, they have again demonstrated their ability to work with and tailor a successful design to the total satisfaction of their client.

The story began when Keith Hall, well-known Scarborough professional fisherman, yacht broker and charter operator, required a hip replacement. He had previously operated five charter fishers, and was finding his last one, the twin diesel, nine metre 'Norcat' with a fly bridge, just too hard to manage and maintain, as well as fairly expensive to run.

He then approached Jon Pattie of Sealife Designs and they worked on the plans to come up with a design that was the essence of simplicity, that met all compliance requirements, and that would have the

advantages and economy and performance of twin four-stroke petrol outboards.

They decided to have the new vessel built by Sam Preston's Performance Plate Boats, situated near Keith's home, and the cooperation of builder and designer made a totally satisfying combination for Keith as they both worked to accommodate his needs and reduced mobility subsequent to his hip replacement surgery. Keith said that this involved accessibility as well as ease of operation, comfort and stability.

Owing to his area of operation it also had to be a reliable and seaworthy vessel that could withstand the South Easterlies with their accompanying big seas and swells. Keith takes an optimum complement of ten passengers (though licensed for twelve), out on charters in the Coral Sea beyond Moreton Island where there is good fishing for a variety of temperate as well as tropical varieties of fish. As he operates as a day boat, he needs the "get up and go" to get out to the grounds fast, or home in a hurry in the event of threatening weather.

The accommodation is somewhat spartan, with no freezer or gas, but there is pressurised water, and a chemical toilet, along with two bunks forward. The accommodation is light and has adequate ventilation to allow for the warm operating area. The console is situated on the starboard side and offers great visibility from the comfortable skipper's chair sited behind the convenient controls and instrumentation.

'Incredible' has an overall length of 9.4 metres, and a draught of 0.4 metres. She is of sturdy aluminium construction, and despite her 4.9 tonne displacement, the

twin 168kW DF225 Suzuki outboards, both with 76cm legs which keep them out of the water when swinging at the mooring, thus reducing marine growth, give her all the power required to bring her rapidly up on the plane. Happily, for a charter vessel the big Suzukis are pleasingly quiet, and with their low emissions they have minimal impact on the marine environment. They are also exceedingly economical and will dramatically reduce the fuel bills from the previous vessel. The outboards were supplied and set up by Graham Jeffers of Jeffers Marine.

'Incredible' easily achieved an impressive 42 knots on trials under moderate conditions and runs at an economical and comfortable 28 knots.

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## 'Incredible' SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Vessel type:</b>	Fishing/Charter Vessel
<b>Survey:</b>	Class 2C, 14 persons including crew.
<b>Home Port:</b>	Scarborough, Queensland
<b>Owner:</b>	Keith Hall, Queensland
<b>Operator:</b>	Incredible Fishing Charters, Queensland
<b>Designer:</b>	Jon Pattie, Sealife Designs, Queensland
<b>CAD software:</b>	Autoship and Rhino
<b>Builder:</b>	Performance Plate Boats, Queensland
<b>Construction material:</b>	Aluminium
<b>Length overall:</b>	9.4 metres
<b>Length waterline:</b>	7.8 metres
<b>Beam:</b>	2.9 metres
<b>Depth:</b>	1.5 metres
<b>Draught:</b>	0.4 metres
<b>Displacement:</b>	4.9 tonnes
<b>Main engines:</b>	2 x 168kW Suzuki Outboards.
<b>Fuel capacity:</b>	600 litres
<b>Fresh water:</b>	100 litres
<b>Cruising speed:</b>	28 knots
<b>Depth sounder:</b>	Furuno 585 CL
<b>GPS/Radar/Plotter:</b>	Seiwa Barramundi Plus, including SWR 8 Radar.
<b>Radios:</b>	GME GX 600 VHF
<b>Crew:</b>	Two persons

