

# Maximum Effort

Pursuit 28: In the pursuit of tuna. BY LENNY RUDOW

THE PURSUIT 2870 IS A CENTER-console with very long legs: We left the inlet at 4 a.m., and cruised offshore for a solid two-and-a-half hours. By the time the sun cleared the horizon we'd set out a spread of feathers, naked ballyhoo and smokers. We spent the entire day trolling...on the other side of the Gulf Stream. Yes, in two-and-a-half hours we reached, then passed through the stream to the far side, where yellowfin tuna had been feeding on schools of tiny puffer fish for several weeks. It was over 80 miles from port, but hey, that's where the fish were.

The 2870's marathon-distance abilities start with its 235-gallon fuel capacity. Our test boat was rigged with twin 200-hp Yamahas, which I'd call a perfect match. Although the boat could go faster with 225s, they'd also drink more fuel. And it's hard to argue with our 4500 rpm cruising speed of 38.6 mph. That's fast enough to make the long-distance trip seem like a hop, skip and a jump.

To make these long distances shrink, our test boat had a full complement of electronics. The flat on the dash is large enough to support a depthfinder, radar, VHF, autopilot, fuel management system and chartplotter, along with the usual gauges.

These were pleasant cruising miles, too. The 2870 is sturdy, due to fully encapsulated stringers that are laid up while the hull is still in the mold, backing plates behind the cleats, and gasketed, overboard-draining hatches. The result is a beefy 5,100-pound displacement that shoves waves out of its way—we didn't take any spray in the boat all day. In fact, stretched out in front of the center console I was comfortable enough




to doze for a few minutes as we cruised through 3' seas.

Once we had our spread set I was free to inspect the boat for fishability, and I liked what I saw: four gunwale-mounted rodholders; a transom rigging station with a sink, cutting board and fishbox; a 34-gallon livewell; under-gunwale rod stowage for four rigs; and locking rod stowage for six rigs in forward rodboxes.

There's an added benefit to the transom rigging station, too: It is tall enough to shield the inside of the boat from motor noise. While cruising we had noise levels of 85 dB-A—several fewer dB-As than I'd expect from a twin outboard-powered center-console. Complaints? I found a ragged fiberglass edge inside the helm that could have resulted in a nasty scrape.

For a comparison boat, see the Ocean Master 31. It goes for about \$95,000 with twin 250s. Its LOA is 30'7", just 7" more than the Pursuit.

Ever cruise to the edge and wish you could keep going? You can, on the Pursuit 2870. 

For more information, contact: Pursuit, Dept. B, 3910 St. Lucie Blvd., Ft. Pierce, FL 34946, 561/465-6006, [www.pursuitboats.com](http://www.pursuitboats.com).

## BOATING CERTIFIED TEST RESULTS Pursuit 2870

SPEED			EFFICIENCY					OPERATION	
rpm	knots	mph	naut. gph	mpg	stat. mpg	n. mi. range	s. mi. range	run angle	sound level
1000	4.9	5.6	6.5	0.8	0.9	158	182	0	64
1500	6.5	7.5	7.8	0.8	1.0	177	203	1	71
2000	9.4	10.8	11.8	0.8	0.9	168	194	2	74
2500	14.6	16.8	14.8	1.0	1.1	209	240	5	81
3000	19.1	22.0	16.6	1.2	1.3	244	280	4	83
3500	25.1	28.9	21.2	1.2	1.4	251	288	3	84
4000	29.0	33.4	26.1	1.1	1.3	235	271	2	84
4500	33.5	38.6	30.3	1.1	1.3	234	269	2	85
5000	37.2	42.8	36.5	1.0	1.2	216	248	2	90
5400	40.8	46.9	43.5	0.9	1.1	198	228	1	91

Advertised fuel capacity 235 gallons. Range based on 90 percent of that figure. Performance measured with four persons aboard, 1/4 fuel, full water. Sound levels measured at helm, in dB-A.

LOA	30'0"
Beam	9'6"
Draft	2'6"
Displacement (lbs., approx.)	5,100
Minimum cockpit depth	22"
Transom deadrise	22°
Bridge clearance	6'0"
Fuel capacity (gal.)	235
Water capacity (gal.)	20
Price (w/o power)	\$49,350
Price (w/test power)	\$80,720

STANDARD POWER: Twin 200-hp outboards.

OPTIONAL POWER: Twin outboards to 450 hp.

TEST BOAT POWER: Twin 200-hp Yamaha 200 V-6 outboards with 158 cid, 3.54" bore x 2.68" stroke, swinging 14 1/2" x 19" props through a 1.86:1 reduction.

STANDARD EQUIPMENT (major items): Enclosed head w/ sink; holding tank; lockable rodboxes; 4 Lee rodholders; rigging station; livewell; fishbox w/macerator; raw-water wash-down; transom door; forward console seat/cooler; leaning post w/rocket launchers; coaming bolsters; bow pulpit w/roller; recessed hydraulic trim tabs; compass.