

Pursuit 3480 CC

ALIVE AND KICKING

Mobility. Agility. Versatility. BY LENNY RUDOW

Imagine being locked in a fiberglass box. In minutes it would become difficult to breathe. You'd be hot, sweaty, and gasping for air. When that box was finally opened, you'd be nauseous, weak, and dizzy. That must be how most baitfish feel because the vast majority of integrated livewells out there suck.

You want live, feisty, energetic baits? Here's what you need: A livewell with a ton of capacity—55 gallons would do the trick. Now center it in the boat and place it aft, so the baits take a minimum of pounding. Add a two-stage overflow system, so you can fill it to the top and reduce sloshing. Fit the system with two pumps, one for taking in plenty of raw water and another to boost circulation. Plumb them so your raw-water washdown can act as a backup should either pump fail. Add an air-induction system, which blows fresh oxygen into the water. Light the well with an off-white LED for night fishing, and gel coat the interior blue, which keeps baits calm, so they don't get skittish and ram into the walls. Put on a clear hatch so you can monitor the baits' health, too. Sounds like a big job, huh? Good thing Pursuit's already done all of the work for you.

RELOAD. The new 3480 CC is a case study in designing a boat for ultimate angling, and its near-perfect livewell is just one example. Why is the word "near" in there?

The well could be made even better by mounting a net holder to the underside of the top, so you'd always have a bait net handy. Yup, that's a petty nitpick—the 3480 CC's livewell may in fact be the best one I've ever seen on a production boat.

But the awesome angling examples continue. The upgraded T-top (\$14,015) holds a grand total of nine rocket launchers—four across the back, two angled to the sides up high, and a rack of three verticals down low on the side. There are four more verticals on the leaning post backrest, plus four aft and two forward gunwale-mounted rodholders and racks for four rigs under the gunwales. Fully armed, you'll leave the dock with 23 rigs.

EVERY ROD HAS A HOLDER; EVERY LURE HAS A TACKLE TRAY.
TOP END: 50.1 MPH.



BOATING

Certified Test Results

Pursuit 3480

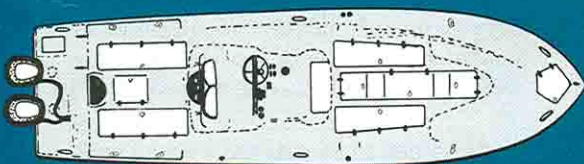


THE HIGHS Livewell, tackle stowage, fish stowage, and rod-holder count and placement is at the top of the class—this could be the fishiest Pursuit ever. Easy access to pumps, macerators, and pickups. Huge anchor locker.

THE LOWS Gas-assisted strut on a deck hatch was mounted upside-down and will fail quickly. Spring strut on electronics box hatch is chintzy. No center cleat on the bow for anchoring. There's no windshield, not even as an option.

rpm	SPEED			EFFICIENCY				OPERATION		
	knots	mph	gph	naut. mpg	stat. mpg	n. mi. range	s. mi. range	run angle	sound level	
1000	4.9	5.6	1.8	2.7	3.1	912	1050	0	62	
1500	6.5	7.5	3.8	1.7	2.0	579	666	0	64	
2000	8.1	9.3	5.7	1.4	1.6	479	551	1	69	
2500	9.4	10.8	8.1	1.2	1.3	391	450	3	72	
3000	12.9	14.9	11.8	1.1	1.3	370	426	4	74	
3500	16.9	19.5	14.6	1.2	1.3	392	451	3	76	
4000	25.2	29.0	18.9	1.3	1.5	450	518	2	81	
4500	29.5	34.0	24.0	1.2	1.4	415	478	1	82	
5000	34.3	39.5	28.0	1.2	1.4	414	476	1	84	
5500	38.1	43.9	35.1	1.1	1.3	367	422	1	85	
6000	43.5	50.1	44.6	1.0	1.1	329	379	1	88	

Advertised fuel capacity 375 gallons. Range based on 90 percent of that figure. Performance measured with two persons aboard, full fuel, full water. Sound levels taken at helm, in dB-A.



LOA	34'5"
Beam	9'6"
Draft (max.)	2'6"
Displacement (lbs., approx; w/o power)	9,000
Transom deadrise	24½°
Bridge clearance	8'0"
Minimum cockpit depth	2'2"
Max. headroom	4'10"
Fuel capacity (gal.)	375
Water capacity (gal.)	30
Price (w/standard power)	\$159,325
Price (w/test power)	\$161,400

STANDARD POWER Twin 225-hp Yamaha F225 outboards.

OPTIONAL POWER Twin outboards to 600 hp total.

CONTACT Pursuit Boats, Dept. B, 3901 St. Lucie Blvd., Ft. Pierce, FL 34946, 772/465-6006, www.pursuitboats.com.

TEST BOAT POWER Twin 250-hp Yamaha V-6 four-stroke outboards with 204.6 cid, 3.70" bore x 3.17" stroke, swinging 15¼" x 19" three-bladed ss props through 2.0:1 reductions.

STANDARD EQUIPMENT (major items) Recessed bow grabrail; boarding ladder; adjustable helm bolsters; coaming bolsters; 4 insulated, macerated, integrated fishboxes; fresh/raw-water washdowns w/quick disconnects; 2 12V outlets; Clarion AM/FM/CD stereo w/4 speakers; 6 gunwale-mounted rodholders; tackle center; leaning post; 55-gal. livewell; bait prep station; hydraulic steering; ss wheel w/suicide knob; K-planes w/indicators; 4 batteries w/switches; Yamaha fuel management system; compass.

What about a tackle center? How do five tackleboxes, three large drawers, two shelves, and two catchall compartments sound? Well, keep listening: There's also a cutting board/knife/pliers/rig holder rack on the transom, plus two more tackle stowage compartments in the leaning post. *Whew!* Take a breath, and let's keep going. Fish stowage capacity is commercial grade with four macerated, insulated boxes in the deck, each large

enough to hold a 100-pound wahoo. But if you're a real meat man (and have a hungry crew or family), spend another \$4,200 to get the removable insulated coffin box that fits on the foredeck. Now you have room for the giant bluefin, too. Are we done yet? Heck no—not till we mention the fresh- and raw-water washdowns, each with quick disconnects.

A competing hardcore angler is Yellowfin's 36, which goes for \$163,000 with twin 275-hp Mercury Verados. This boat also gets high marks when it comes to the livewell, tackle and rigging areas, fish stowage, and other fishing accessories, but fit and finish won't match the Pursuit's.

FIRE AT WILL. One of the commendable things about the new generation of jumbo outboard-powered center consoles is that you can take a similarly jumbo crew with you, and this is certainly true with the 3480 CC. Your crew will be comfortable for the entire tournament, thanks to 360-degree coaming bolsters, a low-profile bow grabrail, and the console head compartment.

During my test, however, I noticed that because I was running the boat I was even more comfortable than the other anglers, thanks to the adjusting flip-down bolster seats at the helm. Of course, to find out just how comfy they'd be in tough conditions, I couldn't stop myself from trouncing through a few tugboat wakes at wide open throttle (WOT). The aggressive 24.5-degree hull came down solid and rattle-free, just as you'd expect of a Pursuit. The captain's comfort level could be increased, however, by adding a windshield. The only protection you'll get aboard the 3480 CC is from a canvas enclosure. That's fine for fair-weather boaters, but when a pelting rain falls through 50-degree air, you'll be wishing for something more substantial. Plus, clear canvas is harder to see through than a real windshield—at least offer one as an option, please.

Running the boat is fun, too. Despite its large size, the 3480 CC beat the 50-mph mark with a pair of 250-hp Yamaha four-strokes. High-performance K-planes even out the ride, and the wheel has a suicide knob for those times that you absolutely, positively have to carve a dozen S-turns in as many seconds. Fuel economy never falls below a mile per gallon, even at WOT, and at a 4500-rpm, 34-mph cruise, you'll be getting 1.4 mpg.

Of course, running a modern fishboat is just no fun unless you have plenty of colorful electronics screens at the dash, with oodles of buttons to push. The 3480 CC has enough flat dash space to flush-mount a pair of 10" screens or one of the new honkin' 15" LCDs. There's room for more digitalized goodies in the overhead electronics box, so you can carry enough gear to get where you want to go—even if you have to navigate your way out of a fiberglass box. ⚓



EXTRA POINT

You like downriggers? Pursuit laminates aluminum reinforcement plates into the aft gunwales, for rock-solid downrigger mounting.