

Pursuit DC 265

No compromise between fishing and family fun. BY TOM THOMPSON





Pursuit Boats is known for building some of the best fishing boats on the water. When the Fort Pierce, Florida-based company's designers set out to create the new DC 265 Dual Console, the goal was versatility. Design a boat with the pure, Pursuit bloodlines for hardcore fishing, yet provide a boat that also would serve for skiing, wakeboarding, picnicking, exploring and general family fun.

After a sea trial, we discovered a whole lot going on inside this 26-foot hull.

"Families today enjoy getting together on the water, and this boat provides the perfect platform for all your waterborne fun," says David Glenn, Pursuit's marketing manager, who, despite a Floridian accent, has spent considerable time on the Great Lakes trolling for salmon and more while working on projects for Pursuit's sister company, Tiara Yachts.

"When it comes to Great Lakes fishing, you can mount downriggers on both corners and add several lines out of that cockpit," Glenn says, noting flat gunwale tops would allow easy mounting of rod holder track systems, such as those offered by Cannon, Traxtech and Bert's Custom Tackle. "I think one of the neatest things is that you can fish the boat hard, and your family members can each find a comfortable spot throughout the boat with both portside and forward seating and really enjoy just relaxing on the water."

The DC 265 starts with a completely new hull design based on a resin-infused, one-piece structural grid/stringer system. That's the backbone for toughness to take on rough water.

"The design and construction of this boat is yacht-like," Glenn

says. "You can see and feel the luxury you'd expect to find in a much larger vessel. Fit and finish is superb wherever you look."

Another sign of top-notch construction is the epoxy-infused windshield, an integral part of the superstructure. During our sea trial in considerable chop, I heard no squeaks or rattles.

Our test boat had a 350-hp Yamaha four-stroke outboard, an optional upgrade from the Yamaha F-300. It cruised comfortably at 37 mph through the chop, burning fuel at 18 gallons per hour. A standing start produced little bowrise, and the hull stayed fairly level through the full acceleration range. It took about 10 seconds to reach 30 mph. The boat handled precisely in turns and was easy to maneuver at slow speed. Drop a trolling bag on each side, and there's no question you could troll right down to the slow speeds that walleyes like.

"The Yamaha power is a perfect fit for this style of boat, offering customers maneuverability and ease of maintenance," Glenn says.

The adjustable helm seat and the companion seat are on tall pedestals and feature a flip-up bolster. We liked the tilt steering wheel and dash panel, which is large enough to hold a 10-inch electronics display like the optional Raymarine C90 package. The companion seat has drawer storage in its base, and the starboard console also is devoted to storage. The port console contains the head compartment, which can accommodate a 6-foot occupant with ease. A porcelain head (with a 13-gallon holding tank, macerator and deck pump-out fitting) and fiberglass molded sink are standard.

The walk-through windshield and lower door panel both allow bow access. Bench seats along either side have hinged cushions that

lift to reveal large storage compartments that drain overboard. The DC 265's clean lines converge at the tip of the bow with a flat, uncluttered surface. The anchor is recessed in the stem of the boat with space for an optional windlass (extra easy anchoring over a school of perch!) under a hatch cover.

Cockpit seating is comfortable and plentiful. An aft-facing seat on the port side has a cooler under its cushion and provides a great vantage point for watching the trolling rods—or the family hotshot wakeboarder. A sink and bait prep station in the console behind the helm seat comes in handy for salmon trollers using alewives or herring for bait. Bench seats run down the port side and across the transom. These both fold out of the way completely and open up the cockpit for fishing, delivering the feel of a much larger boat. A baitwell at the port corner of the transom has a built-in light for grabbing minnows after dark. The fishbox in the center of the transom keeps your catch iced down. Both fresh and raw water washdowns are standard. The transom door is to starboard and a four-step boarding ladder is underneath a hatch immediately aft of it to allow easy boarding by swimmers and divers.

The standard equipment list on the DC 265 is lengthy. It includes Yamaha electronic engine controls, a Ritchie Helmsman compass, two bilge pumps, dual batteries and a Racor fuel filter. A pair of stainless steel rod holders in the gunwales are standard and offer a great way to add multiple rod holders without drilling holes.

Our test boat had an optional hardtop mounted on sturdy, powder-coated, 2-inch aluminum supports. Four rod holders are available for this top, too. A Bimini top with front connector and side curtains also is available, as are bow and cockpit covers. Other options include a Clarion AM/FM stereo and CD player with four speakers and Sirius XM Satellite radio. You can get a transom-mounted ski tow kit, too.

Weighing in at 5,650 pounds and with an 8-foot, 9-inch beam, it's certainly towable by 3/4-ton pickups and other beefy tow vehicles, providing that go-anywhere-for-the-weekend option.

Our conclusion? The Pursuit DC 265 Dual Console is a boat that can do just about anything you ask of it. With the Pursuit fishing pedigree, good looks and comfort throughout, it's a truly fabulous big water family boat. ⚓

SPECS

LOA.....	25'10"
Beam.....	8'9"
Draft.....	37"
Weight.....	5,650 lbs.
Fuel Capacity.....	150 gals.
Base Power.....	Yamaha F-300 outboard
Base Price.....	\$109,280

pursuitboats.com

