

Pursuit OS 285



Good Manners

Born on the right side of the tracks.

I tested Pursuit's OS 285 in short, breaking 3' seas, with some 4-footers thrown in for good measure. Running at 30 mph, the boat didn't come down hard, but the landing was abrupt. So I throttled back to 3500 rpm and 26 mph and dropped the recessed trim tabs a notch—the ride smoothed out noticeably. The heavy spray tested the hardtop and canvas: Not a drop came inside. Dual windshield wipers gave great visibility. While drifting, the OS 285 lay slightly downsea, remained stable, and obeyed steering input with a simple turn of the twin 250-hp Yamahas. Running with the seas was a breeze, with tabs full up and engines trimmed out. There was nary a rattle, bang, or shudder.

Aboard the OS 285, plumbing and wiring is not only compact, well-organized, and supported but also readily accessible, especially around helm and transom. Seats for skipper and companion are comfortable, set on tackle and general stowage compartments that include lower aft-facing seats with cushioned backs. Beneath are a livewell (port) and a cooler (starboard). The hardtop's overhead stowage holds life jackets. The side decks are wide enough for large boat shoes, with plenty of handholds for going forward.

The compact cabin is adequate for weekending. The V-berth converts to a dinette with teak table, with a teak and maple sole below. The galley to port includes a counter, sink, refrigerator, single-burner stove, microwave, and coffeemaker. There's also a 3kW gas generator for power when you're away from the dock. Under that deck is a single athwartship bunk.

The cockpit is laid out for fishing, swimming, and diving, with a transom door to port for the integrated swim platform and the hose for the raw-water washdown. To starboard, under a cutting board for bait preparation, is a sink with hot and cold water. Beneath the hinged stern seat is an insulated, macerated fishbox. The gunwales cover horizontal rodracks and hold four

BOATING

Certified Test Results

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	2.5	1.9	2.2	406	468	0	68
1500	6.7	7.7	3.8	1.8	2.0	368	423	1	71
2000	8.2	9.4	5.7	1.4	1.6	299	344	3	74
2500	9.1	10.5	8.1	1.1	1.3	235	271	5	80
3000	13.9	16.0	10.1	1.4	1.6	287	331	5	82
3500	22.7	26.1	14.6	1.6	1.8	324	373	5	84
4000	27.8	31.8	17.6	1.6	1.8	328	377	3	87
4500	31.5	36.2	23.7	1.3	1.5	277	319	3	87
5000	35.1	40.4	28.0	1.3	1.4	262	301	3	88
5500	39.4	45.3	31.5	1.2	1.4	261	300	3	88
6000	43.5	50.0	41.1	1.1	1.2	221	254	3	91

Advertised fuel capacity 232 gallons. Range based on 90 percent of that figure. Performance measured with two persons aboard, one-fifth fuel, no water. Sound levels taken at helm, in dB-A.

LOA	30'8"
Beam	9'6"
Draft (max.)	2'6"
Displacement (lbs., approx.; w/o power)	6,400
Transom deadrise	22°
Bridge clearance	8'4"
Max. cabin headroom	6'3"
Fuel capacity (gal.)	232
Water capacity (gal.)	30
Price (w/standard power)	\$158,900
Price (w/test power)	\$158,900
NMMA Yacht Certified	

STANDARD POWER Twin 250-hp Yamaha V-6 outboards.

OPTIONAL POWER None.

TEST BOAT POWER Twin 250-hp Yamaha V-6 outboards with 204.6 cid, swinging 15" x 19" three-bladed ss props through 2:1 reductions.

STANDARD EQUIPMENT (major items) Hardtop; coaming pads; aft-facing seat w/fishbox; battery charger; enclosed head; refrigerator/freezer; single-burner stove; microwave; AM/FM/CD stereo w/4 speakers; rodracks; 4 rodholders; 32-gal. livewell; tacklebox; 3-battery system; 30a shorepower; 6-gal water heater; trim tabs.

Monthly Payment \$967

(6.75% interest with 20% down on test boat power, tax not included; 20-year loan to qualified buyers estimated by Excel Credit)

High Points Classy-looking, able family fishboat. First-rate construction shows in such details as the heavy, extruded aluminum track for the companionway hatch and deck hatches. Helm and companion seats swivel for conversation with crew astern. Seating for six, sleeping for four. Under-stern fishbox seat detaches from hose for cleaning.

Low Points High quality doesn't come cheap. Some electronics, the anchor windlass, air conditioning, electric head, flat-screen TV/DVD, and shipping cradle are optional and drive up base price. Battery shelf on test boat not completely gel coated.

Toughest Competitor Grady-White's Express 305 (\$240,000 powered like my test boat) is 2'1" longer, 1'1" wider, and 2,000 pounds heavier. The extra weight makes the 305 two steps slower than the OS 285. The extra foot of beam gives the Grady space for a center helm with companion seats on either side.

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

vertical rod tubes. Meanwhile, the legs of the hardtop boast four rodholders, with four more optional on the aft edge of the top. —JOHN PAGE WILLIAMS