

Mac 600 Sport

Reviewed by Matthew Jones, June 2011



Kiwi-invented Mac Boats are manufactured in East Tamaki by Galloway International. Led by managing director Garth Galloway, the company produces a wide range of models, from 2.1m to 5.75m in overall length, all built from marine-grade polyethylene to CE, US Coastguard and MSA survey standards.

Mac Boats offers a wide range of customisation and this test boat was at the upper end of the spectrum – as you would expect when it's the boss's private toy.

In terms of the technical features, it was good to see a quality anchoring package bolted to the bow: a solid fairlead feeds a quick, free fall windlass, which fits nicely into the space available. The dash has a practical layout, with Suzuki gauges in place for monitoring fuel use, RPM, speed through the water and trim, while the switches are neatly positioned on either side of the steering wheel and the VHF is tucked underneath in easy reach.

Despite being non-adjustable, the back-to-back seating is comfortable and provides plenty of dry under-seat storage. Optional side pockets provide excellent rod storage, and the two rear seats feature a couple of rod holders too. Underfloor storage is also built into the hull and looks big enough to take a couple of scuba tanks on each side. The polyethylene floor has a non-skid pattern moulded into it; it's easy to clean but can get slippery when wet. Carpet or tube-floor matting can be supplied and should be considered by all buyers.

Another feature, the solid stainless steel ski-pole – doubling as a bait board holder – is a good addition in terms of versatility, and grab handles and moulded steps that lead down the transom provide easy access to the water,

making a good seat to dangle your feet from on a hot summer's day.

Performance

Once clear of the five-knot markers, and with a calm patch of water ahead, I put the hammer down to see what she could do, and topped out at 40mph riding solo. Unfortunately, that speed test was short lived, and as I approached the channel and became exposed to weather, I was forced to ease back to 3500rpm and a comfortable cruising speed of 20mph. With the wind-against-tide effect in full force, a sharp metre-high chop forced a further easing of the throttle to around 15mph to avoid getting airborne – not that the boat cared either way.

With rock-solid stability and very little movement at rest or underway, the test boat had been set-up for barefoot skiing and is deliberately overpowered in order to provide better hole shot performance. The fact that it can handle the extra power and weight is testament to the strength of these hulls.

However, overpowered or not, this Mac 600 Sport took all the inclement weather and our test driver's heavy foot, and just laughed: the landings were soft and, due to the sound absorbing properties of the polyethylene and the polyurethane foam, whisper quiet. Couple that with the smooth, quiet Suzuki four-stroke and you have a peaceful boating experience, indeed – well, about as peaceful as you can get in a power boat.

The verdict

If you're looking for low maintenance, low cost and low hassle boating, without having to compromise on looks, then one of these might be just the ticket. Ask anyone that has

had a Mac boat and they'll tell you just how tough, safe and stable they are. Coastguard obviously agrees as it uses Mac boats as its training vessels. ↓

For more information please contact Galloway International Ltd, ph 09 273 5666 or visit www.galloway.co.nz.

WE LIKE

- Quiet and soft ride
- Low maintenance
- Excellent stability
- Virtually indestructible
- Unsinkable

WE DIDN'T LIKE

- Quite wet in the rough
- Helm set-up was cramped

SPECIFICATIONS

MAC 600 SPORT	
LOA	5.75m
External beam	2.2m
Internal beam	1.8m
Deadrise	18°
Hull weight	635kg
Freeboard	650mm
Capacity	8 persons
Fuel	90L underfloor tank
Engine as tested	140hp Suzuki four-stroke (rated 90-120hp)
Basic packages priced from	\$39,995