

Surtees 8.5 Gamefisher

Kiwi black magic



As your editor's recent visit to New Zealand affirmed, the Kiwis certainly like their deep water fishing and they produce quite a number of craft to suit this purpose.

Key to the Kiwi offshore fishing scene are tough, plate alloy boats with good rough water ability. Surtees is one brand that has led the way in this regard, especially with its innovative water-ballast and deep Vee design combination.

The Surtees is also a brand that focuses strongly on crew protection via deep, self-draining cockpits and an all-weather hardtop wheelhouse on most models.

Your editor caught up with some of the latest models while in New Zealand for the Auckland Boat Show and was most impressed by what he saw. A design that really stands out is the Surtees 8.5 Game Fisher. This is a big, powerful that really can take on bluewater conditions and survive in pretty tough conditions.

This new design seriously raises the bar for game fishing boats in terms of size, design and performance. It has been designed using the latest in CAD and CFD computer design systems so the whole boat is very efficient and built to very fine tolerances.

The Game Fisher 8.5 contains Surtees' signature features like the non-pounding, super deep V hull and unique stabilising ballast technology.

The latter allows you to either dump, or 'lock in' the water ballast depending on your requirements.

A feature of this new model is the extra strong deck system as well as new innovations that would elsewhere be considered costly extras. It is the attention to detail and carefully developed design that makes the Surtees 8.5 one of the best handling, smoothest riding craft on the water, and one of the most stable boats at rest.

Resource and research was committed with one objective in mind: to get it just right. Company Managing Director, Phil Sheaff, says their aim was to excel visually with large opening rear doors, big windows, sleek design and



without compromising the mechanical and engineering excellence that make Surtees boats so awesomely effective as fish catching machines.

Phil Sheaff says the 8.5 Game Fisher has been a while in the making, and is quite a big leap forward for the Surtees range and brand. Out on the water, it is proved to be everything we wanted it to be. "The guys who have trialled it are hooked."

Surtees Boats was established in the early 1990s when Neil Surtees decided to design and build himself an aluminium boat for fishing off the Whakatane coast (Bay of Plenty). When local people saw the finished product and the way it performed they were so impressed they asked Neil to build boats for them. That initial success has been sustained and developed over twenty years: Surtees is now one of New Zealand's most significant boat manufacturers, and now employs nearly 40 people and builds more than 300 boats a year for the New Zealand, Australian and Pacific markets.

The Surtees 8.5 Game Fisher will grow this remarkable boat building story further, ensuring a new legion of fans will become Surtees owners, recognising, as all Surtees owners do, the high quality, stability, safety, and performance that make owning a Surtees boat one of the best experiences on the water.

SPECIFICATIONS

Construction	alloy
Configuration	hardtop cabin
Length	8.6m
Beam	2.5m
Rated power	250-350hp
Trail weight	3500kg
Fuel tankage	500L
Water ballast	600L

Further information:
www.surtees.com

Standard features on the Surtees 8.5 Game Fisher are as follows:

- Water ballasted hull for superior stability
- Six fully welded stringers
- Fully welded tread plate floor
- Sealed underfloor buoyancy
- Under floor storage bin
- Large dashboard area
- Toughened glass screens
- Large forward hatch
- Portofino stern
- Boarding ladder
- Large side shelves side
- Separate anchor locker
- Rod holders
- Rocket launcher
- Bow roller and bollard
- Bow, side and stern rails
- Ample hand /grab rails
- Toilet as standard
- Three berths
- Fold away galley table
- Side graphics
- Smooth non-pounding hull design
- Hydraulic ballast shut-off flap

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