



STABICRAFT 1410 EXPLORER

A TRIO OF STABI'S

Newly released in time for the upcoming Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show, Invercargill boat manufacturer Stabicraft has released its new 1410 model range. NZ Fishing World gets the first look at all three models in the range.

WRITTEN BY FREDDY FOOTE

STABICRAFT HAS a dedicated team working continuously on making what is already a great product even greater. In fact every model comes up for a design review every two years, where anything from subtle to substantial changes can be made. The 1410 range will be launched at the 2012 Hutchwilco Boat Show along with two other models – the 1850 Supercab and the 2880 Supercab.

The new 1410 range sees three models. There is the traditional family, cuddy cabin 1410 Fisher, the fishing dedicated 1410 Frontier and the basic but robust, tiller-steered 1410 Explorer. All three boats

share the same 4.3m hull, the same marine grade alloy construction (3mm hull, 2.5mm tubes) and a staggering 687 litres of buoyancy and a full self-draining cockpit – talk about safe!

According to Stabicraft marketing coordinator Tim van Duyl, the new 1410 range rides on the back of the successful 1750 Frontier model released a year ago.

“Many will remember the release of the 1750 Frontier a year ago at the boat show. That was our most recent effort to meet market demand head-on. A safe, reliable soft-baiter built to last to our exacting standards. Since launching [Hutchwilco

Boat Show 2011] we have sold over 30 and it is on track to be a top five model this year,” says van Duyl. “The 1410 is in the same mould. We have listened to the market and have moved to create a range of boats built on the same hull to suit different uses.”

Van Duyl says the strongest single factor the range shares is affordability. All three models in the 1410 range have been aggressively price pointed to meet market expectations.

“Our pricing is aggressive. Some part-time builders will sell for less but we are confident that our reputation and strong dealer network will appeal to buyers greatly.

Should the unlikely happen and a customer has a warranty concern, any of our 14 nationwide dealers can handle it. Customers do not have to deal with someone over the phone or out of town.

“Having a dealer network represent the brand also gives the customer someone to help answer his or her questions. The entire network is passionate and knowledgeable about boating,” he says.

Stabicraft is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, having pioneered its style of boat in 1987. “We have been the benchmark ever since. Many imitators have come, some have fallen. One thing that is certain is that we will keep innovating and manufacturing the best boats we can.”

We were lucky enough to be able to hit the water with all three 1410 models, supplied from South Auckland Stabicraft dealer *Kev & Ian's Marine*, and dealer principal Kevin Griffin.

1410 EXPLORER

A hull-only 1410 Explorer can be bought and delivered to any upper North Island Stabicraft dealer for just \$5271 inclusive of GST. Bear in mind this is a basic boat, and doesn't include an outboard, trailer, and a few accessories that most would want to fit such as rod holders, electronics etc. Our 1410 Explorer was fitted with a Yamaha 30hp 2-stroke outboard with tiller steer and was a fantastic package on the water. The punch out of the hole was outstanding. It's the kind of boat that will allow you to go as far as your fuel capabilities in the inshore and coastal fishing environment. While we didn't get an opportunity to fish from the 1410 Explorer, we did in fact fish from both the 1410 Frontier and the 1410 Fisher.

1410 FISHER

The interior is compact, and while I wouldn't say it is 'no frills', it is certainly practical and user-friendly as far as fishing goes. Further forward there is a shallow anchor locker, which is easy enough to access over the top of the windscreen to do the anchoring duties once you arrive at your spot. Stowage

inside the cuddy cabin is ample, though some aluminium extrusion on the floor of some sort would be a welcome attention to prevent gear sliding aft when underway. Seating is made up of swivel pedestal seats that keep you comfortable while seated, and the windscreen provides a varying amount of protection from the wind while underway. A handrail is forward of the passenger seat



STABICRAFT 1410 FISHER

providing a good place to hang on when needed. A full width bench seat provides seating for any additional passengers behind and cockpit side shelves help to keep gear stowed out of the way. Rod holders – aft and forward on both sides – offer plenty of space for rods.

At rest is really where the 1410 comes into its own, the stability is just fantastic.

While we fished, we chose to rotate the forward seats 180 degrees to face aft, a good place to sit while we waited for the bite to come on. Two of us fished quite comfortably together for an afternoon, and we both commented it was hard to believe we were in a boat that has a cockpit space of just 2.57 square metres. In saying that, I think you might be

stretched to fish more than two adults, however you would be able to add in a couple of kids at a squeeze and still be able to function reasonably well.

1410 FRONTIER

Taking a closer look at the 1410 Frontier, you have the centre console-based 1410 model, which opens itself to a variety of on water activities. The cockpit area of the Frontier is quite big, with 3.25 sqm of useable space. While the cockpit area on the Fisher model practically will only allow two adults to fish, the open centre console layout of the Frontier will allow three to four.

Four rod holders are scattered around the boat, with plenty of storage available in the cockpit side shelves. Gear storage is via the hatch located in the steering console, and passenger seating is via the standard bench seat aft. A small anchor lock on the floor in the bow section allows easy access for anchoring duties.

POWER OPTIONS

The 1410 Explorer is rated from 25-30hp tiller outboards, without particular test boats being powered by a Yamaha 30hp two-stroke, providing plenty of power out of the hole. The other two models, the Fisher and the Frontier are rated from 30-40hp and were powered on this occasion with a Yamaha 30hp two-stroke and an Evinrude 40hp Etec direct injection, respectively. The Frontier model proved to be quite a rocket, Kevin Griffin commenting that he used a 1410 Frontier over the summer break for a number of boating activities, including water skiing and wakeboarding – going to show the power to weight ratio will let you do almost anything. Out on the water, with two of us on board the Fisher and just one on board the Frontier, the more open centre console with more horsepower was noticeably faster on the water. While we didn't have any instruments onboard to get any true and accurate speed or fuel figures, expect around the 30mph mark on both models. And given that the engine technology these days is pretty good, partnered with a tote tank, fuel economy should be pretty good too.

GREAT BOATS

Overall the new 1410 range offers three fantastic boats that are sure to be a hit

SPECIFICATIONS

	EXPLORER	FISHER	FRONTIER
Length:	4.3m	4.3m	4.3m
Beam:	1.7m	1.7m	1.7m
HP rating:	25-30hp	30-40hp	30-40hp
Deadrise:	16 degree	16 degree	16 degree
Hull thickness:	3mm	3mm	3mm
Hull weight:	145kg	195kg	165kg
As Tested	\$14,232	\$24,857	\$24,959

1410 Explorer packages from: **\$13,349**

1410 Fisher packages from: **\$19,546**

1410 Frontier packages from: **\$18,459**

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STABICRAFT 1410 FRONTIER

with the boat buying public when they are officially released in May. They are great little boats, though I say the word little with some hesitation, as you soon forget that they are only in fact 4.3m in length, but are capable of much bigger things than their size suggests. The only things I could suggest would be the addition of some alloy extrusion on the floor aft, simply to stop the tote tanks sliding around when underway. Designed with safety, functionality but price in mind, they showcase a great package for not only entry-level boaters, but also the more seasoned user. ☘

