



Pathfinder 2500 Hybrid

THE M-16 AUTOMATIC RIFLE IS A WEAPON of war, much like the new Pathfinder 2500 Hybrid. The only difference is the Pathfinder is waging war against fish. This is one serious fishing machine.

It's labeled Hybrid because it's equally at home in the bay, in the pass or offshore and, as a crossover platform, it does all of them well. The first Pathfinder to be fully infused with foam coring, it has a double-stepped hull for speed; hammered down, we hit nearly 60 mph.

Beautifully built and designed by anglers, the spacious forward casting deck conceals three oversize lockers with gaskets for waterproofing, plus an anchor locker. The full-width step that makes foredeck access easy also hides a 47-gallon fish box that's big enough to ice down a trophy wahoo or a smoker kingfish.

Pathfinder is meticulous in thoughtful details, and every — every — locker is lighted. That may not seem important until you leave before dawn and you're trying to find something at the bottom of a dark locker.

Room has been left behind the helm (either seat or leaning post) for anglers to fish safely offshore without losing casting platform space. The rear deck conceals a midship 36-gallon livewell, plus a pair of flip-up seats that add a family-friendly side to the 2500 Hybrid and also conceal stowage large enough for 5-gallon buckets. Rod storage? We lost count at 20 rods — upright, underdeck and in the coaming racks.

Power for our test boat (and most 2500s) was a Yamaha F300XCA that gives this Pathfinder square performance numbers. At 3,000 rpm, you're going about 30 mph; at 4,000, about 40; 5,000 is 50ish, and flat out at 5,800 is 58 mph. Square.

Pathfinder is impressive in the details, from the standard 6-inch Atlas jack plate to the dashboard arranged to accept a 12-inch monitor plus the engine monitor. Inside the console, a Lucite panel covers the batteries for visibility without zapping them when you toss gear inside. Trolling motor wiring is standard, as is a saltwater washdown. Our boat had the optional tower with beautiful fiberglass hardtop that incorporated vented life-jacket lockers.

Want to take war to the fish? The Pathfinder 2500 Hybrid should be your weapon of choice. — *Chris Caswell*

MORE ONLINE

To see a photo gallery of the Pathfinder 2500 Hybrid, visit boatingmag.com/3002.

AVAILABLE POWER:
OUTBOARD



High Points

- ▶ Hidden folding seats in the casting deck are family-friendly.
- ▶ Double-strake hull with hard chine is stable offshore in cross seas.
- ▶ Wiring is neatly loomed and labeled, with batteries protected by a clear cover.
- ▶ No space has been wasted, with a huge underdeck locker behind the helm.

Low Points

- ▶ Double-wide helm seat is really one-and-a-half wide, with the companion cheek on fiberglass.
- ▶ 67-gallon fuel tank is 13 gallons (15 percent) less than the similar Hell's Bay Estero.

Toughest Competitor

- ▶ The Hell's Bay Estero (\$100,000 with Yamaha F300 and trailer) can handle up to 400 hp, has less walkaround space behind the helm and along the sides of the console, and has a different bow casting-deck configuration.

▶ LOA: 24'9" ▶ Beam: 8'6" ▶ Draft (max): 13" ▶ Displacement (approx.): 3,500 lb. (with Yamaha F300) ▶ Transom Deadrise: 16 degrees ▶ Bridge Clearance: NA ▶ Fuel Capacity: 67 gal. ▶ Max Horsepower: 300 ▶ Available Horsepower: Yamaha to 300 hp

Price: \$82,576 (with Yamaha F300)

BOATING Certified Test Results

rpm	SPEED			EFFICIENCY				OPERATION	
	knots	mph	gph	naut. mpg	stat. mpg	n. mi. range	s. mi. range	angle	sound level
1000	5.13	5.90	1.30	3.94	4.54	185	212	0	65
1500	6.82	7.85	2.20	3.10	3.57	145	167	1	67
2000	7.82	9.00	3.90	2.01	2.31	94	108	3	68
2500	15.47	17.80	3.18	4.86	5.60	228	262	5	72
3000	25.37	29.20	7.00	3.62	4.17	170	195	3	75
3500	30.94	35.60	9.50	3.26	3.75	152	175	2	77
4000	35.54	40.90	12.70	2.80	3.22	131	151	2	81
4500	40.32	46.40	17.20	2.34	2.70	110	126	2	82
5000	44.49	51.20	23.60	1.89	2.17	88	102	1	85
5500	49.10	56.40	25.80	1.90	2.19	64	102	1	88
5800	50.66	58.30	26.20	1.93	2.23	90	104	0	90

MOST ECONOMICAL CRUISING SPEED

HOW WE TESTED

ENGINE: Yamaha F300 DRIVE/PROP: Yamaha Saltwater Series II/SDS Hub 15" x 21"
GEAR RATIO: 1.75:1 FUEL LOAD: 67 gal. CREW WEIGHT: 425 lb.

Pathfinder Boats Fort Pierce, Florida; 772-465-0631; pathfinderboats.com