

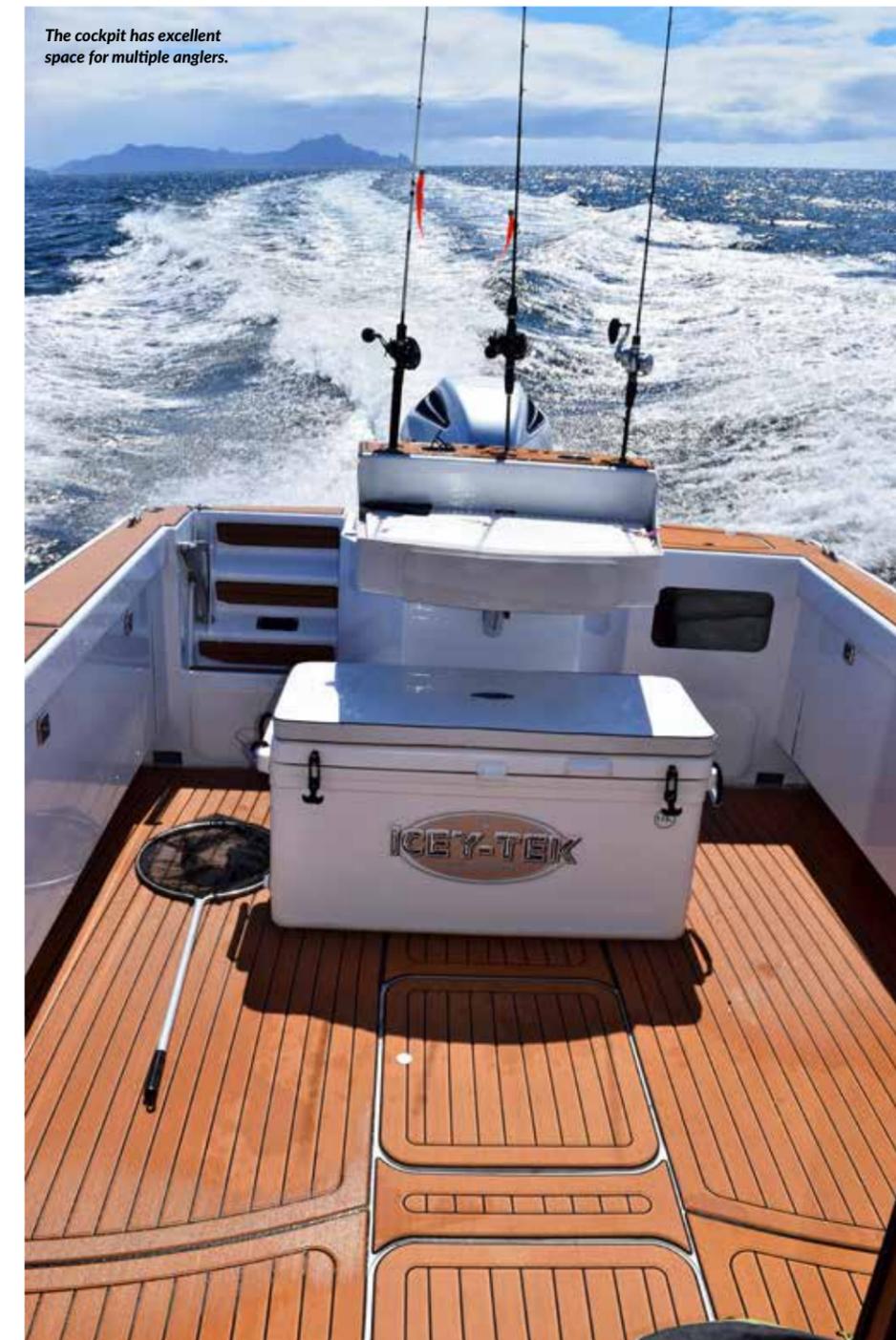
Beach launching the Commander at Langs Beach, Bream Bay.

Herley Commander has upon your first introduction with this unique looking trailer boat.

I had been invited by Herley head designer and GM, Nick Herd to meet him at Langs Beach to take out a Commander that was fitted with some extra special kit. The new owner had approached Nick to build his boat to specific requirements for his fishing, launching and storing. More on this later.

Nick was also keen to have a fish off Bream Bay and I advised that spring is a good time to hit this spot with the pilchard runs, renown in the area with solid snapper fishing amongst the work-ups. I met Nick at the owner's house on a Friday who unfortunately couldn't make it with work meetings, so he graciously let Nick and myself access to his garage, tractor and boat! Nice guy.

Nick had already pulled the boat from the garage and towed it down onto the beach, only a mere 50-60m from the house. What a top spot and the boat had a special trailer, which I noticed had hydraulics? These were designed and fitted to enable the boat to be lowered down to fit into the garage. Very clever and when also fitted with a Balex system, launching and retrieving off the sand is ultra-user friendly.



The cockpit has excellent space for multiple anglers.

# HERLEY COMMANDER BEACH LAUNCHING OFF LANGS

Editor at large, Matt Hewetson drove up to Langs Beach, Bream Bay to help beach launch and fish in a Herley Commander, a trailer boat design that feels more like a launch.

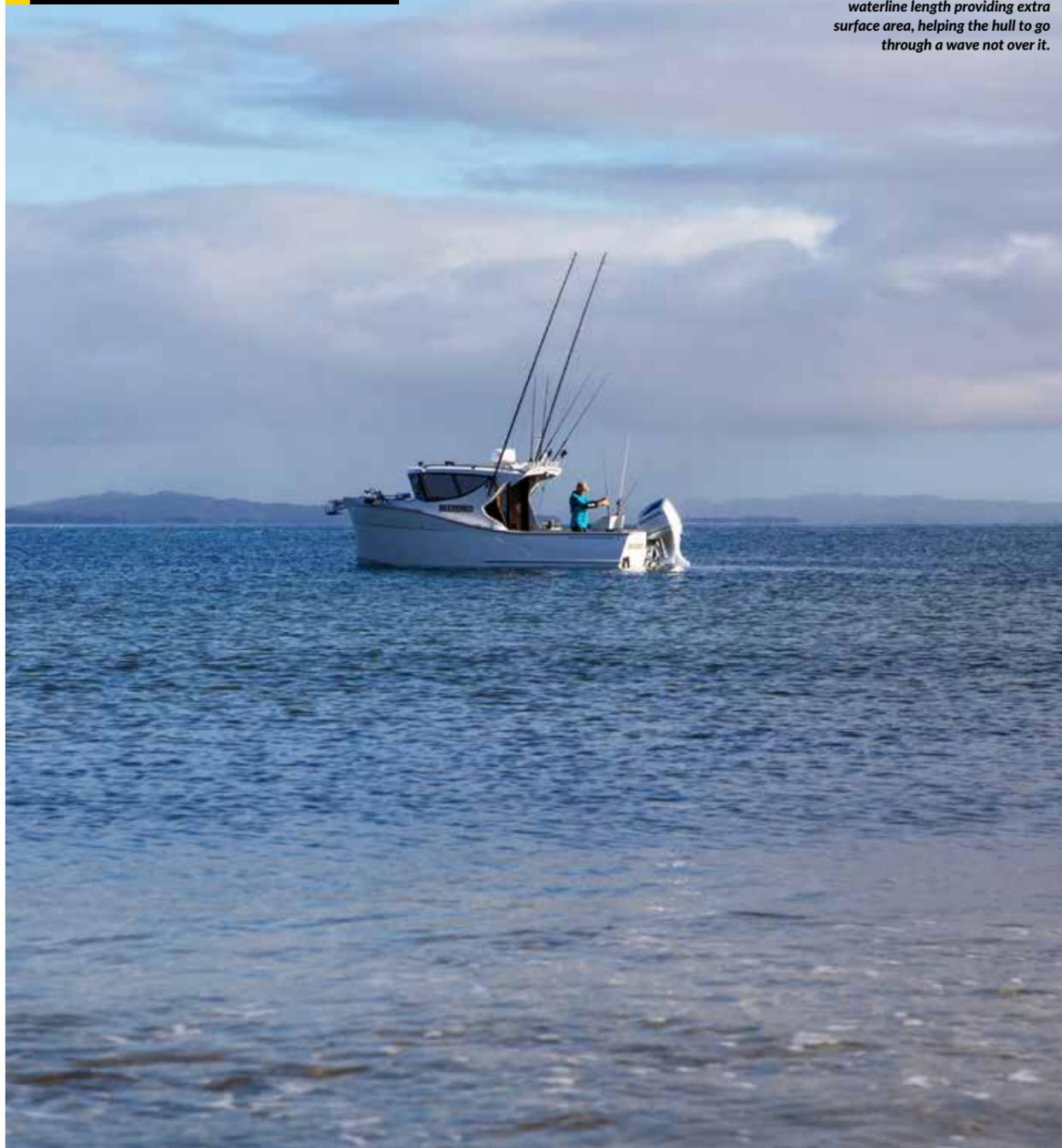
STORY AND PHOTOS: MATHEW HEWETSON

**O**ver the years working in the marine industry I have been very fortunate to fish from many great boats, designed and made here in Godzone. We are fortunate we have so many options to choose from and such is the quality produced from our boat builders. However, every now and then you see something different that makes you double-take which garners your interest. This is the effect the

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## PROFILE Herley Commander

The plumb bow design gives added waterline length providing extra surface area, helping the hull to go through a wave not over it.



Boat designer Nick Herd hooks up when fishing off Bream Bay.

### PLUMB BOW DESIGN

With the boat sitting on its trailer on the sand, you are immediately drawn to its bow. The short, plumb bow is a different look to most boat designs. It was designed to give more waterline length, giving a more efficient boat when moving through the water by providing extra surface area. With a fine entry (60 degrees), when you trim the boat's bow down into the water it takes away that thumping

experienced under your feet in many boats. The aim of the hull is to go through a wave and not over it.

The big Commander was very well kitted out indeed with Minn Kota, radar, outriggers for game fishing and all the extra gear on board to maximise your day fishing. Climbing up on board using the drop-down, concealed ladder and I was going to stay in the boat to start the motor after we launched it with the Balex, while Nick parked the tractor.

## PROFILE Herley Commander



The Daiwa koghas produced a bin full of nice pan sized snapper on the day.

Standing in the cabin, it was roomy but also compact and it was strange how it felt more like a launch than a 7m trailer boat? The large forward raking windows is a key player in making this space, they provide more interior volume, so you're not pushed back in the cabin like traditional back sloping windows. The helm offers excellent visibility and a functional, tidy layout for the skipper to operate. With a toilet, comfortable bed and fridge, overnights would be a good option in this boat.

After Nick used the Balex to launch the boat, I started the big Honda 250hp and waited for Nick to return. He climbed onboard and we took off, out into Bream Bay at a quick rate of knots. Nick advised cruising at 20 knots and the economy is around 1 - 1.2L per mile. The Honda outboards always impress with their fuel consumption.

### MINI WORK-UPS

The wind was forecast to rise to over 15 knots during the day, but early morning there wasn't much but a breeze and little swell. We stopped to drop softbaits down on some sign that we came across on the Garmin. With little interest from the fish below, I could see circling gannets in the distance, and we pulled up our gear to gun our way towards the now diving birds.

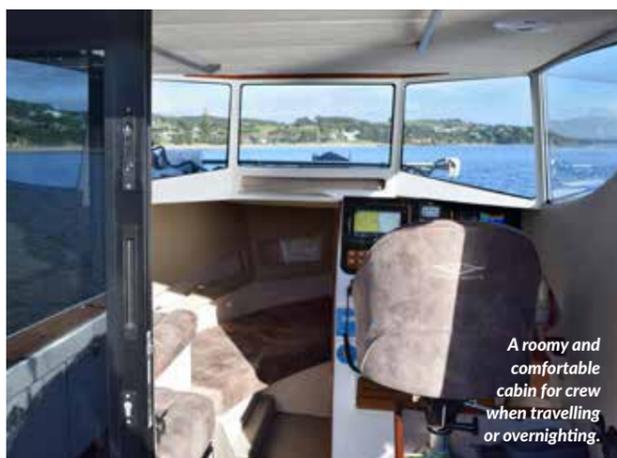
*"The large forward raking windows is a key player in making this space, they provide more interior volume, so you're not pushed back in the cabin like traditional back sloping windows."*



We liked the forward raking windows, providing practicality over traditional aft slanted panes with greater interior volume and no glare on your instruments or screens.

## PROFILE Herley Commander

The specially designed trailer with hydraulics to lower the boat into the garage or when launching.



A roomy and comfortable cabin for crew when travelling or overnighting.

We arrived to find a few dolphins on the hunt, and this looked promising. I noticed the water was very murky today, so decided to switch over to Daiwa koghas, as they have good UV colours and would glow well in the darker water.

As we drifted around the sitting gannets dropping our koghas, Nick landed a gurnard

and I followed up with another one. The mini work-ups were moving fast and were over quickly, so we spent considerable time moving to keep up and it wasn't until the wind gathered force and blew harder, creating white chops that the snapper really came on the chew. In quick succession, we quickly filled the bin with a

dozen good fish and had some fun doing it.

The cockpit was huge for just two anglers, with room for a few more to join us. The boat was very stable at rest and when at speed, punching into the chop with its shallow V in the aft, it was comfortable. The boat can lean over at a max of 10.5 degrees with up to 7 people on one side, not that you would typically need to do this. With the wind starting to howl, it leant over a bit when up on the plane, but this wasn't a major and they chose not to use trim tabs when building it.

We headed back to Langs Beach and using the hydraulic trailer, Balex and tractor made for a simple retrieve. Back up at the garage and we set about cleaning our fish and washing the boat, trailer and tractor down.

Overall, the boat is a refreshing modern take on

traditional lines and features, with the tumblehome transom (it curves in at the rear) and raised sheer forward design to help protect from salt spray. The plumb bow and forward raking windows give the Commander a distinctive look and functional purpose for a boat owner looking for something different. **FIGZ**

### Key Specs

#### HERLEY COMMANDER

- + Hull length: 6980mm
- + Beam: 2500mm
- + Weight: 2000kg (on trailer with fuel)
- + Fuel capacity: 210L

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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