

# Arvor 755 Sportfish

Introducing a comfortable, stable, soft-riding, **EXTREMELY** well priced, 7.55m (24') sportsfishing rig that is just about the definitive coastal fisherman for anything from deep sea bass to pelagics, billies - with FUN writ large all over a fabulous day on the bluewater offshore.

**C**ontinuing our series looking at the pairing of Quicksilver and Arvor from Europe, through Peter Collins Marine in Sydney, a series of reports which has created no little controversy and a great deal of interest throughout Australia.

There are many reasons for this, and probably the best parallel we have in the boating world is to look across the fence to what's happening with European cars – notably Audi, Mercedes and BMW. They have never been so available as they are now in Australia, and we're now seeing them at a considerably less cost (pro-rata) to what they used to be.

Recently, Collins Marine identified the Arvor 755 Sportfish as having serious sales potential in Australia.

Whilst they've normally favoured diesel power for their popular Arvor fishing boats, they've recognised that with the advent of reliable, strong and torquey outboards like the new 3.0L Mercury 150hp 4-stroke, there is no reason why recreational boat owners can't get the longevity, reliability and economy from an outboard motor of this kind, as they've had, or desired from their diesels.

But there's more to it than that – engines such as the Mercury 150 outboard are actually far quieter, much smoother, and of course can be tilted completely out of the water when the boat's left on a mooring or in a wet berth. This simplifies maintenance considerably, and reduces the costs involved by about 50%, over the conventional set-up with a diesel wherein the boat has a shaft skeg rudder etc.

What we have here now, is the first group of dedicated fishing boats coming through from Europe at a remarkably good price (think Mercedes in 2014 compared to 2002) and better than that, they're actually ideally suited to the current Australian market. *(Cont Over)*

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Why is this so? Well, frankly it boils down to the fact that so many fishermen are getting much older than they were in the 1970s - 1990's, when they would commonly be running across Botany Bay, Moreton Bay or Port Phillip Bay, in a Bertie 25 or one of the Bertie 35s, or maybe a Randall 34 or a Mariner 38 . . .

It was the time when many fishermen were aged in their 40-50s, were quite affluent and absolutely loved the world of bluewater sportfishing.

If we move the Tardis forward to 2014, those very same gentlemen today are all in their 60s and 70s, don't want to make an investment of half a million to one (plus!) million dollars in a game boat anymore, because they can't find crew, the kids have long ago left home and started their own lives, and the cost, time and effort in maintaining a big game boat of the traditional kind just makes it all too hard.

However, they still love their fishing and they still love getting out there where the salt smells like nothing else on planet earth – and it is an addiction that many of us share.

Unsurprisingly, the market today is now looking for craft exactly like this Arvor 755 Sportfish. It's fast, it's economical, there's practically nothing to maintain, no engine room to crawl around, no filters to change, no belts to tighten – it's literally a case of step onboard and go. More to the point perhaps, you can go by yourself quite safely, and practically, because you don't need a crew like you did in the old days. Today your wife, son,

your mate from down the road or in the Club can accompany you, and two blokes can have a fantastic day on the water quite inexpensively and just as successfully and rewarding as it has been in the past with the more traditional offshore game boat.

But these boats are nimble and quick, so if the weather does turn nasty, in most cases you're not even an hour from home because they'll all cruise at 23-24 knots on the way back, and here, you've goown lives, and the cost, time and effort in maintaining a big game boat of the traditional kind just makes it all too hard.

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Today your wife, son, or mate from down the road or in the Club, can accompany you, and two people can have a fantastic day on the water quite inexpensively, that is just as personally rewarding as it has been in the past with the more traditional offshore game boat.

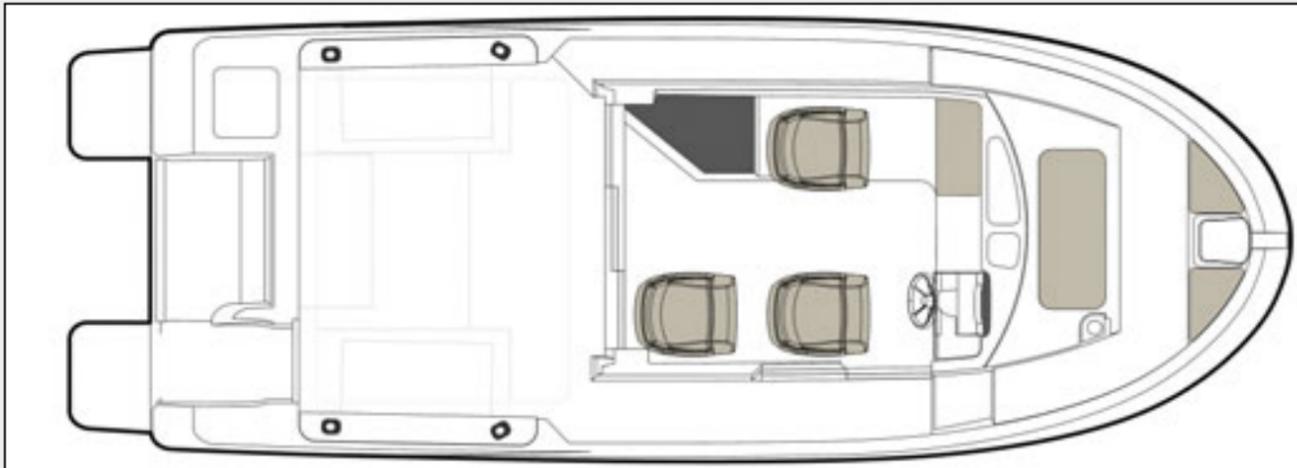
These boats are nimble and quick, too, so if the weather does turn nasty, in most cases you're not even an hour from home, because it will cruise at 23-24 knots on the way back, and here, you've got the convenience of



Engine	Cruise			WOT			Fuel Capacity (L)	Cruise Range (km)
	RPM	Speed (kts)	LPH Per Engine	RPM	Speed (kts)	LPH Per Engine		
Mercury 150 Four Stroke	4350	24.8	28.9	5600	31.6	53	300	429
Mercury 150 Verado	4800	24.6	35.6	6400	31.5	56	300	346
Mercury 150 Pro XS	4300	24.1	33.5	5750	31.2	55.9	300	360
Mercury 175 Verado	4800	25.1	43.9	6400	33.6	79.9	300	286
Mercury 200 Optimax	4300	26.1	51.9	5750	35.2	73.4	300	251
Mercury 200 Verado	4800	26.3	44	6400	35.5	77.3	300	299
Mercury 225 Optimax	4300	27.8	52.1	5750	36.7	90.1	300	267
Mercury 225 Verado	4800	28.1	58.7	6400	37	94.6	300	239
Mercury 250 Verado	4800	29.9	58.8	6400	38.2	107.9	300	254



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a completely enclosed, all weather wheelhouse. So don't worry about the spray that's flying around because of the nor-easter, settle back and crack a tinny on the way home.

Fishing wise, you can set these craft up to do anything – I'd have at least one but possibly two 12V electric winch dropper lines, I'd have one of Andrew Hestlelow's downriggers on the starboard quarter, I'd make sure of a couple of stainless steel 30 degree rod holders were set-up properly around the gunwales, because there's no reason you couldn't go really serious bill fishing in the Sportfish 755, let alone going out for some of the big 'fin that will start roaming up and down the coast in about a month's time.

But right now, there are little blacks jumping out of the water all over the place, the smell of the salt is awesome

so what are you waiting for? It's been too long, and hey, yer can't fish in a box!

Give Nick or Peter a ring at Peter Collins Marine in Sydney, have a chat to them about the price – would you believe this boat as shown here with the 150hp Merc Four Stroke you can have for around \$105K – has to be one of the best buys in the marine industry today.

**ABM**

For more information contact:  
Collins Marine Pty. Limited.

Ph: 02 9319 5222

[www.quicksilver-boats.com.au](http://www.quicksilver-boats.com.au)

[peter@collinsmarine.com.au](mailto:peter@collinsmarine.com.au)

Collins Marine also distributes Quicksilver Boats in Australia.



## TRIBUTE TO A LEGEND:



# Peter Goadby

The Fisherman, 1929 - 2007

February denotes the arrival of the warm summer waters all around the continent, and the start of the sportfishing season. Over the next three months, a veritable armada of boats of all shapes and sizes will put to sea in search of the excitement, adventure and the reward of capturing a fighting sportfish of the kind many people only ever see on the TV.

They will fish to rules, principles and ethics developed to enshrine the difference between commercial fishing for food - and recreational fishing for sport and fun. These rules, the ETHICS of sportfishing, not to mention most of the strategies, techniques and the world's bank of sportfishing knowledge, exist largely due to the life-long work of one great Australian, Peter Goadby.

Like EVERY other boating and/or fishing journalist and photographer, I grew up with Peter Goadby as my literary and fishing mentor; I could quote verbatim sections of his masterpiece "Big Fish & Bluewater" which STILL stands as the definitive tome - a genuine 'bible' of vital information - for ANY bluewater fisherman, whether they are 12 years old or 90. In 1970 or 2014.

Recently, I met a very bright young would-be bluewater fisherman who was looking for advice on rigging baits for billfish. When I referred him to several of Goadby's classics, he admitted he'd vaguely heard of him, but really, didn't know anything about him at all.

I was stunned. That is so wrong. Do we forget our peers that quickly now? How can we go forward if we don't know where we've been? Or where we've come from? Or what's already been learned . . .

Success in sportsfishing is no fluke; the knowledge required to be consistently successful is encyclopedic. It can't be learned on You Tube.

I thought about this discussion for days; I spoke to other readers, and discovered he was certainly not alone. Then I remembered the interview I did with Peter a hundred years ago, re-read it, and realised it was just as significant today as it was then. So for all the fishing folk who've never heard of Peter Goadby, here he is, again, in 2014. Read it, learn some, and enjoy.

- PeterW