

Sensation

Offshore 2100 CC



Compiled by Anton Pretorius
Pictures by Anton Pretorius and Bok van Blerk

After purchasing a shipment of moulds from world-leading ski-boat manufacturer Angler Boats, Nu Wave Marine's Ken Brown approached Twin Boats and Trailers and asked if they could build him a couple of boats with the newly-acquired moulds. Being impressed with Angler's quality design, Twin Boats decided they wanted in, and the rest is history!



Assisted by singer/celebrity and passionate angler Bok van Blerk, Twin Boats came up with a craft that's not only suited for rough ocean waters, but also one that's quick, responsive and an absolute joy to fish from – hence the Sensation Offshore 2100 CC.

Leisure Boating travelled to the Vaal River to try out the boat that Bok owns.

General Impressions

The Sensation Offshore 2100 CC first caught my eye at the '08 National Boat Show and my first impression then – apart from being star-struck by all the Bok van Blerk signature logos and by the man himself – was that it retained its distinctive Angler shape, even though she's now build under the Sensation brand.

Apart from those beautiful lines that are accentuated by aluminium bow rails, the craft's integrated bow pulpit (nose), fibreglass T-top and spacious deck layout were clear characteristics of the famous Angler boats. Not only did she look promising onboard, but also looked well-suited for South African offshore waters.

According to Twin Boats and Trailer's Andre van Helsdingen, the Offshore 2100 CC was designed for man's favourite pastime, namely fishing. Speaking to Bok about the boat's fishability, he enthusiastically described his recent Mozambique fishing trip with the Sensation Offshore 2100 CC.

"Mozambique has some really rough waters and other boats might have received a real pounding. But the Offshore 2100 CC is comfortable, stable, quick and fully-equipped with every kind of fishing gear you can think of – perfect for those memorable fishing trips," said Bok.

Conditions

Our review was conducted on a mid-winter's midday along the Vaal River near the Vereeniging/Sasolburg border, on an absolutely stunning day. Calm waters, a mild 23° C temperature ☒

along hardly a breath of wind, made for idyllic boating conditions. **(CUT 2 LINE)**



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Despite the Offshore 2100 CC being a ski-boat that's designed for rough ocean waters, she seemed equally at home on a dam or a river. And even though we couldn't give her sea legs a thorough test, the Vaal River produced almost perfect boating conditions so we could familiarise ourselves with her finer handling capabilities.

Launching and Retrieving

The Offshore 2100 CC is used to being surf launched from the beach by using a galvanised break-neck trailer that's sturdy, towable and simple enough to use on the beaches. But launching this 1 130 kg boat off a slipway was easier than eating homemade pie. For a hefty ski-boat, she slid off the bearings and into the water quicker than you can say "Flash Gordon". Retrieving was an equally simple task.

Motors and controls

As tested, the Sensation Offshore 2100 CC came fitted with two 90 HP Mercury ELPTO outboard engines. Most foreign mono-hulls tend to go with the standard single motor transoms, but to accommodate the extreme conditions of our notoriously treacherous coastline – and South African ski-boaters' preferences – Sensation decided to fit the Offshore with dual motors.

The Mercury motors exerted an incredible 180 HP and did not over- or under power the 2100 CC. The engine power aft seemed just right. The hydraulic steering, a binnacle-mount electronically-aided control box, an assortment of gauges and extra electronics all aided in the smooth, sensitive, operation of the craft.

Performance

"On the calmer waters of the Vaal, I had the Offshore 2100 CC performing most impressively, and soon after the photo session I had the chance to put her through her paces to fine-tune my impressions on the craft."

Fitted with two 90 HP Mercury's, the 2100 CC displayed impressive power

out the hole. The dual motors suit her well, and she got onto the plane quickly and powered her way effortlessly across the surface.

When I asked Bok about her performance on the rough ocean, he said: "She motored directly into the rough chop and swell, forcing the ill-tempered ocean to part away from the bow with great ease".

For a mono-hull, the ride was soft and surprisingly, very dry. In gusty sea conditions, you are normally guaranteed to get drenched, but the Offshore 2100 CC's bow and chines deflects the water off the hull, back into the water, and not straight out at you.


The Offshore 2100 CC reached a top speed of nearly 70 km/h (37 knots) on the more calmer waters of the Vaal, but in more testing conditions at sea-level, she's capable of clocking a maximum of 74 km/h (39 knots), making her deceptively quick on any given surface, reckons Bok.

Handling

One would think that turning and running with the swell and chop in rough oceanic conditions might cause the craft to broach, plough and maybe even capsize. But with the Offshore 2100 CC, this was certainly not the case.

Bok was full of praise for the craft's ability to remain consistently dry, stable and soft: "Her ability to travel smoothly on the water, the durability of her hull and her corner-to-corner handling make this one fine fishing boat".

I mentioned that the 2100 CC's hull is foam-filled right up to the freeboard, increasing buoyancy and making it safer in rough conditions as well as eliminating any chance of capsizing.

At 21.6 ft (6.55m), the Offshore is well-suited, size-wise for launching through the surf on the South African coastline. Although by this stage, the Offshore had already exceeded my expectations, I still decided to put her into some tight turns from a still-standing position and at medium speeds. 



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I found she turns crisply with dual engines, and cavitations were minimal. This will prove to be important for quick getaways in the surf zone. As Bok mentioned, the 2100 CC powered into the swell and chop with ease, and I can only presume that pushing through sizable white water would not be an issue either.

Deck Layout

The Offshore 2100 CC has a deck layout that suits the deep sea angler, and is comfortable enough to suit the family's needs as well.

Incorporated into the Offshore is a host of features like a raised live wells with tackle drawers, two below-deck fish hatches, ten rod holders, outriggers and a non-slip deck finish, that'll make you want to spend the whole day onboard fishing for the big ones.

The Offshore's spacious console including an assortment of features, and a T-top with rod holders proved to be user-friendly and comfortable. The double console backrest also converts into a double seat and there is a fish/stowage and anchor hatch in the bow.

What also caught my eye was the use of aluminium as opposed to the traditional stainless-steel finish. The aluminium complimented the layout and

although it features an array of extras, space has not been compromised in any way. The Offshore can also be fitted with an optional Garmin GPS/Fishfinder.

Fishability

The 2100 CC offers comfort, stability and space – three important aspects of a good fishing craft – and being a centre console, the 2100 CC suits all fishing applications. The gunnels are high and serve as a stable area to lean up against when fighting fish or working spinning tackle while fly-fishing is also a distinct possibility with this craft.

Being a passionate fisherman, Bok's recent fishing trip to Mozambique with the band was one of the highlights of his career. He also said that at high and low troll speeds he found it quite easy to maintain straight tracks – although you had to take into consideration the rough conditions.

"But stability at any speed on the Offshore was good and I have no doubt that fishing in any kind of condition, extreme or placid, would be a pleasure off this craft. All round, I found her to be a spacious boat with most of the necessary fishing features already installed, although you can always add on extras to suit your personal preferences, if need be," continued Bok.

Conclusion

As technology and designs improve with time, I notice that many of the mono-hulls are once again becoming popular in South Africa, and there is no doubt that more of these Angler moulds and other mono-hulls are going to be seen on the waters of our coastline.

The Offshore 2100 CC is a little hefty, but not unmanageable. Whether you're planning on fishing in local offshore water or prefer freshwater venues, her ability to launch, retrieve, handle and perform without hassle, is a welcome feature.

Her modern looks and many extra features will definitely turn heads. At this size, she is a perfect all-rounder for the family, and can be towed with a standard 4x4 – even over longer distances.

Bok loved this boat so much that he requested Twin Boats and Trailer to build him a bigger 30-foot Sensation Offshore with a six-berth cabin for his upcoming fishing trip to Madagascar. If you prefer cats, take a ride on this mono-hull for a change – you might just be very pleasantly surprised.

Just ask Bok van Blerk, he owns one...and loves it! ■

At a glance



Length	21 ft (6.55 m)
Beam	2.44 m
Weight	1 134 kg
Fuel Capacity	300 litres
Engines as tested	2 x 90HP Mercury ELPTO Outboards

