

STORY CHRIS LORIGAN PHOTOS MATTHEW JONES

# IT JUST FEELS RIGHT



As 7m custom boats go, this one's pretty special. Combining superb performance with a massive list of practical features, it's perfect for fishermen, divers and families. With real X-factor, you'll want to take her home as soon as you step on board

**SEARCH ONLINE**

Like what you see? We've got 11 Extreme boats for sale right now at [tradeaboat.co.nz](http://tradeaboat.co.nz)



Once you sit behind the wheel you won't want to leave. The helm is a comfortable, stylish space full of natural light and adjustable ventilation options.



Top right: The ergonomic dash, wheel and throttle. Right: The clever passenger bench houses all your cooking needs.



Sometimes you get behind the wheel of a machine and it just feels right. You know what I mean: let's say you've test driven a dozen new cars and found nothing that does the trick. Resigned to settling for something adequate, you jump into one last vehicle and it fits like a glove. It's like you've been driving it for years.

That's exactly how I felt when I took the helm of the Extreme 700 Profisher and took her for a spin. It was so easy, so totally effortless that any apprehension I might have felt about driving a \$158,000 custom craft – with its proud and highly experienced owner sitting beside me – instantly dissipated.

I leaned heavily on the fly-by-wire throttle and the boat bolted – its fantastic Yamaha F200 four-stroke fluently getting us up on the plane and powering us quickly to 38kts. I buttoned off a bit and tried a few tight manoeuvres, and the boat did what it was told. The hydraulic

steering is light and directional and the boat tracks perfectly with that sports car-on-water feel that inspires confidence. I immediately appreciated why Ian Miller – a highly experienced diver and fisherman known as 'The Boating Guy' – calls it idiot proof.

Due to the hull's upright sides, there's a lot of wet area under chines, which makes it very stable and comfortable. Miller mentioned that this design element might make the ride slightly harder but I'm not sure I agree: I've been in hard-riding boats and this is certainly not one of them. It was soft, smooth and very user friendly.

**WORSE CONDITIONS REQUIRED**

At wide open throttle the ride was pretty much flawless, with the wide chine offering good stability and turning spray away for a dry cockpit. The occasional tweak of the trim tabs – standard on all Extreme hardtops and very handy

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**[HIGHS]**

- › Very easy to operate
- › Superb ride and handling
- › Passenger bench seat
- › Central fishing console/bench
- › Cork floor

**[LOWS]**

- › Covers on cockpit side shelves – look good but restrict access
- › It isn't parked on my driveway





I'D ENCOURAGE HOME BUYERS TO FORGET ABOUT SAVING. STAY RENTING. BUY THIS FANTASTIC BOAT INSTEAD AND ENJOY LIFE RATHER THAN SURVIVING ON TWO-MINUTE NOODLES AND TINNED TUNA

on any deep-vee hull – kept her on the level. The only down side was that water conditions weren't worse. I could sense Miller's disappointment: he was keen to show us what his pride and joy could do in angry water, almost staking his significant boating reputation on the fact it would perform exactly the same in half a metre of chop as it did on the flat. I don't doubt this is true: the boat's very deep vee and fine entry part waves like they're not there, and as the morning progressed and the nor-easterly picked up, we did get a feel for how this rig smoothes out the rougher water. Miller admitted he was dubious about the grunt of the Yamaha F200 at first. He was ready to change it for a 225 V6 but as soon as he got it out on the water he knew the switch was unnecessary – the clever and very light four cylinder four-stroke offers masses of torque and efficient, immediate power, and is more than gutsy enough to get this boat up and moving quicksmart. To be blunt, it sounds incredible and has the balls to match.



From top to bottom: It's a boat equally at home mooching the shallows or looking for a dive spot as it is blasting over the horizon; It's easy to walk and fish between the transom and the engine; The swimplatform is lined with comfortable compressed cork.

NOT FOR SALE

"I'm not selling this one," Miller said, and I'm a hundred per cent certain he wasn't saying it to get a good review. Currently senior sales consultant at Rodney Marine in Warkworth, north of Auckland, he's a straight-up guy who wouldn't be involved with a boat manufacturer if he didn't fully believe in its product. He's had demo boats in the past and has sold all of them, but he is adamant he's keeping this one.

He asked Extreme to do as they pleased without restriction, and they delivered an exceptional, high-quality all-rounder that leans toward fishing and diving. An already great craft – a standout for me at this year's Hutchwilco Boat Show – the Extreme 700 hull has here been lifted to the next level with some expert customisation to suit a guy who knows exactly what he needs from a boat.

Miller always seemed to have one eye on the horizon and I'm sure he would have been keen to cruise off into his playground for the day. As a passionate diver, he's known for heading out and dropping in anywhere, anytime, and his boat reflects that. He owned Pro Dive for 18 years so he knows what a boat requires for underwater trips. The clever inbuilt dive tank cradle tucked under the driver's pedestal is testament to this, while the wide, non-slip gunwales, generous Portofino transom and solid, fin-friendly alloy boarding ladder make things easy for scuba action.

FAMILY FISHER

Aside from diving, this boat is set up to cover two bases: family time and fishing time. It's regularly used for overnighting, cruising and water sports for the Miller clan. But the innovative, practical setup will have an angler's mouth watering. From the live-bait tank to the twin tuna tubes, outriggers and impressive stability at rest, the 700 Profisher will help you fill the bins.

You'll find ample rod storage in the gunwales, the rocket launcher, and in the transom arch aft of the self-draining plastic bait board. The covered side shelves offer room for even more, plus gaffs and nets – with the long port-side shelves extending forward under the hardtop for longer rods. There's room for more rods in the centre bench/console fishing unit, too – it's like a fishing command centre



The centre console fishing unit provides plenty of tucked-away storage space as well as a second bait board and freshwater sink – a very nice option for serious fishos who like to stay organised.



The tidy console also has the capacity to hold more rods.



**Facts & figures**

**EXTREME 70 PROFISHER**

**PRICED FROM**  
\$120,000

**PRICE AS TESTED**  
\$158,000

**PERFORMANCE DATA**

Extreme 70 Profisher with Yamaha F200 four-stroke outboard. 3POB. (WOT 5800rpm for 39kt.) Light chop.

RPM	KNOTS	L/HR
2000	8	8
2500	9	12.8
3000	13	18
3500	20	22
4000	24	29
4500	28	37
5000	31	55
5500	35	68

**GENERAL**

**MATERIAL** Marine-grade aluminium  
**LENGTH** 7.2m  
**BEAM** 2.5m  
**DEADRISE** 20.5°  
**WEIGHT** 2300kg

**ENGINE (AS TESTED)**

**MAKE/MODEL** Yamaha F200  
**TYPE** Four cylinder four-stroke  
**RECOMMENDED HP** 130-225  
**FUEL** 190lt under floor

**MANUFACTURED BY**

Extreme Boats  
84 Thornton Road  
Thornton RD4  
Whakatane  
Bay of Plenty, New Zealand

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Rodney Marine  
Phone: 0800 969694  
Email: sales@rodneymarine.co.nz  
Web: extremeboats.co.nz



**MARINE FINANCE**

*we'll get you on the water*

**TO OWN THIS BOAT**

**EXAMPLES BASED ON A PURCHASE**  
**PRICE OF** \$158,000  
**DEPOSIT** \$40,000  
**FINAL BALLOON PAYMENT** \$40,000  
**TERM** 48 months  
**MONTHLY PAYMENT** \$2572  
**PHONE** 0800 436 226 [getaboat.co.nz](http://getaboat.co.nz)

\*Normal Toyota Financial Services lending criteria apply. Interest rates are subject to change at any time.

**[ TRADEBOAT SAYS... ]**

Our review could have been one sentence long: this is a boat that has everything, rides and handles like a dream, and just feels right. Simple. If you're looking for a custom craft in this price range then take an Extreme 700 for a sea trial right now because you will not be disappointed.

specified by Miller to make life in the cockpit that much easier.

This console unit might look like it detracts from the fishing room but it doesn't – there's plenty of space for several anglers to do their work. The unit has loads of storage drawers and cupboards, with tackle neatly tucked away above pots and pans and other essentials. The console has a second bait board and freshwater sink, and is a very nice option that allows serious fishos to remain organised and in charge. Miller mentioned it might get in the way if someone lands a marlin, but if that's your main fishing pursuit you'd probably look at putting a game chair there instead.

There's space to fish from the wide Portofino transom, and I loved the fact that you can easily walk (and fish) between the transom and engine. Like the cockpit, the swimplatform is lined with compressed cork, which is very comfortable underfoot. It's

expensive to lay (about seven grand in this boat) but is non-slip, easy to clean, hard wearing, stays cool in the sun and emphasises the boat's classy overall finish.

**EASY DOES IT**

When I took the helm I immediately wanted to buy an Extreme 700. There was none of that awkwardness you often get when you drive a boat for the first time. Of course, one man's dream boat can sometimes be another man's nightmare, but I felt part of the boat rather than a man trying to control one, which is a real selling point. It's highly refined and tailored to Kiwi conditions, and is in no way daunting to operate.

The helm position and skipper's seat are very comfortable, while the dash, wheel and throttle are

the epitome of ergonomic design. Twin hatches in the roof provide natural light and will open for ventilation – one to the front and one to the back – to account for conditions. There are plenty of solid, well-placed handrails under the hardtop, which I was pleased to see considering the amount of times you have to cast about in boats looking for something to grab when conditions change or the skipper decides to play it fast and loose at pace.

The passenger seat is a clever and unusual unit: it's a padded bench installed side-on so two people can sit opposite the skipper. This provides an open, social setting, which is perfect for families, but it's more than just a comfy seat: housed within the bench is a cooker, a fridge and large storage

drawers. A third occupant can sit on the more traditional bucket-type seat that adjoins the bench.

The spacious cabin can sleep three in comfort and, like the rest of the boat, offers plenty of storage. An electric macerating toilet is tucked under the centre bunk infill and a curtain offers the required privacy. There's well-positioned LED lighting in the cabin, and every space is taken care of – there's even a light above the transom bait board if your mission takes you past sunset.

**FORGET THE DEPOSIT**

From the moment I saw this boat I knew she was special. The bold vinyl wrap immediately draws the eye and the quality of the build is instantly apparent. One glance at this no-holds-barred custom package made me want to sign on the dotted line and tow her home.

At \$158,000 she's not cheap but it's not over the top considering the features and fruit packed into the

build. Sure that's a house deposit these days, but I'd encourage home buyers to forget about saving. Stay renting. Buy this fantastic boat instead and enjoy your life rather than surviving on two-minute noodles and tinned tuna for the next ten years.

It's clear Ian Miller loves his boat. We went out with a guy who took off his salesman's hat and put on his owner's one. I honestly don't believe he was trying to sell us on Extreme Boats. I believe he was simply an enthusiastic and passionate boat owner who wanted us to experience his favourite toy.

**THE VERDICT**

This classy seven-metre boat is absolutely packed with features and performs so well I'd have to consider it if I was after a custom build for fishing and diving. I felt right at home as soon as I took control, and I'd recommend you try it out if this is your area of the market. 🍷