

Egg Harbor 35



Martial Arts

Poised to strike.

Did you happen to notice the Predator 35 as you prowled the boat shows this year? Built extensively with Kevlar, this boat was a hard-core, come-hell-or-high-water sportfishing machine. Its interior wasn't much to brag about, but the construction and performance of the boat went above and beyond the call of duty. As was its price—\$425,000 for a bare-bones model.

Which begs the question: How much is *better* worth? In the case of the Predator 35, Egg Harbor decided it wasn't enough. After acquiring the rights and tooling to build the Predator 35, Egg Harbor replaced its Kevlar construction with handlaid fiberglass, but upgraded its interior with satin-finished teak, Ultraleather upholstery, and a granite salon sole (\$1,500).

The redesigned Predator 35 now features a vastly improved interior and price (\$354,928), but replacing the Kevlar with fiberglass added 4,000 pounds and chopped 3.5 mph off the boat's top-end speed—from 45.6 mph to 42.1 mph. Keep in mind, however, that the top speeds of most of its competitors are in the high 30s. A benefit of this extra weight may be a slightly softer ride.

Why is this heavier Predator 35 still so fast? One answer lies in the use of a sea chest, a piece of equipment rarely found in boats this size. Instead of installing an intake for each accessory that uses raw water, a sea chest draws raw water for all the accessories through a single intake (and thus a single through-hull fitting). Fewer fittings means less drag. Less drag means more speed.

The Predator 35's 100-square-foot cockpit will let you tackle any gamefish in the world. It's a lot larger than those found on many other boats. Ocean Yachts' 40 Express, for example, is 5' longer but has a cockpit 20 square feet smaller. At the centered helm station, I had 360-degree visibility. The boat maneuvered easily, too. A

BOATING

Certified Test Results

Egg Harbor Predator 35

rpm	SPEED			EFFICIENCY				OPERATION	
	knots	mph	gph	naut. mpg	stat. mpg	n. mi. range	s. mi. range	run angle	sound level
900	16.4	18.9	6.0	2.7	3.2	862	992	1	82
1200	8.8	10.1	9.5	0.9	1.1	291	335	2	86
1500	14.2	16.3	15.5	0.9	1.1	288	331	5	88
1800	19.4	22.3	23.0	0.8	1.0	265	305	7	90
2100	25.7	29.6	27.5	0.9	1.1	295	339	5	92
2400	29.9	34.4	34.0	0.9	1.0	277	319	3	94
2700	33.7	38.8	44.5	0.8	0.9	239	275	2	95
2850	36.6	42.1	50.0	0.7	0.8	230	265	2	95

Advertised fuel capacity 350 gallons. Range based on 90 percent of that figure. Performance measured with two persons aboard, half fuel, no water. Sound levels taken at helm, in dB-A.

LOA	35'0"	Inboards.
Beam	12'0"	Test boat power Twin 450-bhp Caterpillar 3126 in-line-6 diesel inboards with 439 cid, 4.33" bore x 5.0" stroke, swinging 21" x 24" four-bladed Nibral props through 1.5:1 reductions.
Draft	3'1"	Standard equipment (major items): Oil exchange system; auto. fire extinguish system; hydraulic steering; 5½kW genset; recessed trim tabs; battery charger; 30a shorepower cord; fresh/raw-water washdown; 16,000-Btu a/c; 1 burner electric cooktop; microwave/convection oven; refrigerator; DVD player; TV; anchor and rode; livewell; tackle lockers; 4 gunwale-mounted rodholders; lift-out fishbox w/macerator.
Displacement (lbs., approx.)	18,000	
Transom deadrise	20°	
Bridge clearance	6'11"	
Minimum cockpit depth	2'2"	
Max. cabin headroom	6'2"	
Fuel capacity (gal.)	350	
Water capacity (gal.)	60	
Price (w/standard power)		
	\$354,928	
Price (w/test power)	\$361,848	

Standard power Twin 420-bhp Yanmar 6LA-STE in-line-6 diesel inboards.

Optional power Twin 450-bhp Caterpillar 3126 diesel

High Points Air conditioning, genset, and satin teak interior are standard. Electric helm pod hides and protects electronics when not in use. Faster and more maneuverable than most boats of similar size.

Low Points Entry to cabin is too steep. At 95 dB-A (full throttle), it's loud for an inboard. A single strut—with no safety bar—supports the helm when raised to access the engines.

Toughest Competitor Cabo's 35 Express weighs much more at 24,000 pounds, which gives it a lot of wave-busting brawn but drops the top end into 30-mph range. With twin 435-bhp diesels, the Cabo's price, \$355,000, is competitive with the Predator. Both boats have awesome fit and finish, but the Cabo is 2' longer and 1' wider, so it's noticeably roomier.

For More Information Egg Harbor Yachts, Dept. B, Box 702, Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215, 609/965-2300, www.eggharboryacht.com.

transom livewell, rigging station, reinforced aluminum fighting chair plate, tackle lockers, and large lift-out fishbox, which needs to be insulated, are standard.

—Lenny Rudow