

A 19-footer to drool over, the Mariner 190 is built to a very high standard in Poland.

**Dave Lewis** tries one out in English Channel waters and reckons she's fine fishing boat

# Full of Eastern European promise

**T**he brochure in front of me makes a bold claim: "This exciting new boat from Mariner is possibly the best fishing boat of its size on the market."

Now that's one hell of a claim for any manufacturer to make about its own product. Is such boasting really justified?

After an all-too-brief opportunity to put the Mariner 190 through her paces, I have to concede that were I tasked with naming the best 19-footer out there, this one would be a very strong contender for the title.

Built in Poland and distributed in the UK by ABC Marine, based in Hayling Island, the Mariner 190 is everyone's idea of the classic, stereotypical, trailerable fishing boat. In other words, she is built to satisfy the needs of the average British sea angler wanting to go afloat.

## Stowage space

You get a wave cutting V-hull, an open cuddy and a huge, spacious, self-draining cockpit from which to fish. Inboard freeboard, courtesy of high gunnels, seems perfect to me, while onboard safety is raised by the inclusion of stainless gunnel rails.

As standard you get pretty much all the fixtures and fittings boat anglers who are serious about their sport would expect. Heaps of stowage space is everywhere you look – in several spacious lockers located forward within the various cuddy seats; within the two pedestal-mounted seats; in a locker within the port quarter that is crying out for the installation of one of those nifty little tackle boxes; and finally within a truly cavernous locker sited amidships below deck.

The starboard quarter features a good-sized livebait well with a handy clear view panel at the front so you can monitor the

condition of your bait at a glance.

Of course, you get all the necessary deck hardware for mooring and anchoring, along with factory fitted, flush-mounted rod-rests. I particularly like the open stowage pockets incorporated into the gunnels. These are ideal for holding small items that need to be kept close to hand, such as filleting knives, T-bar and spools of bait elastic – they will be out of the way yet within quick and easy reach. The transom also features a bait cutting board.

## Maximum headroom

Access to the bow is via a large, top-hinged hatch within the forward edge of the cuddy. This has plenty of headroom so that even the tallest person can sit beneath without banging their head. The cuddy is designed in such a way that you can stand comfortably while working the anchor, far better than having to bend at an awkward angle if you are hand-hauling in a choppy sea.

A very large anchor locker swallows a decent-sized anchor, along with a substantial length of warp and chain.

Fuel tanks and batteries are located within the transom, and that large deck hatch I told you about is absolutely perfect for stowing two or three extra fuel tanks. This additional weight is perfectly located along the vessel's centre line and ensures a low centre of gravity.

Another thoughtful addition is the manual bilge pump within the transom. This is very easy to access and use, as is the main power isolating switch.

Overall length is 19ft, or 5.6m, and she sports a decent 2.2m beam. The recommended maximum engine size is 80hp, but a very frisky 35 knots have been recorded when she is fitted with a 75hp outboard.

Conforming to CE Category C, the Mariner 190 has a stated capacity of six persons, although for fishing we are looking at a boat

that is perfect for two or three anglers, or four at a push.

The overall build quality and finish on the boat I sea trialed was excellent. The white hull is highlighted by an attractive broad navy blue stripe, with protection afforded to the high gloss gel coat by a rubber rubbing strip running fore and aft. Certainly the Mariner 190 is something of an eye-catcher, but what about her performance?

## Stable and speedy

Conditions off Hayling Island were good for testing a 19-footer, with a brisk chop created by a strong south-westerly wind. Running fast with the wind on the starboard shoulder, the perfect point of sailing to throw spray, I very quickly noted that this was a very dry boat. This is down to heavy reverse chines, which not only deflect any thrown spray downwards, but also ensure the hull retains lateral stability when driven hard through tight turns.

As you would expect of a V-hull the ride was smooth, given the choppy seas I encountered. I noted we were able to cruise at speeds well in excess of 20 knots without the slightest hint of the bow slamming. Her overall handling qualities were beautiful – the Mariner 190 really is a very comfortable boat to skipper.

I would say that here we have the ideal boat for those of you who want to venture a long way offshore. You can be confident that should sea conditions deteriorate she will be up to the task of bringing you back comfortably and safely.

So, does the Mariner 190 live up to the claim that she is "the best fishing boat of its size on the market"? Certainly she is a top quality, well-designed, ruggedly built fishing boat, and she certainly does it for me. I can only say that if you are in the market for a 19-footer, hold fire on buying one until you have had a serious look at this beauty.



The hull and 80hp Mariner outboard engine

## PRICES & CONTACT

The cost of a Mariner 190, boat only, is a very affordable £10,995 including VAT, while a package fitted with 75hp Mercury Optimax is £17,995.

■ For more information contact ABC Marine, tel: 02392 461968.

Website: [www.ifitfloats.co.uk](http://www.ifitfloats.co.uk)

ABC Marine offers a huge range of fishing boats, and I doubt if there is a dealer anywhere in the country that currently has a larger selection in stock.



There are two pedestal-mounted seats



There is plenty of storage space on the boat