

Introducing the third model in the Haines Signature 460 Series which thus far has seen the release of the 460 C (Cabin) model, the 460 R (Runabout), and now the 'extreme' Sportfishing platform - the 460 SF.

Haines Signature 460 SF

This is a very special fibreglass fishing boat. It is one of the most highly engineered fibreglass boats ever produced in Australia.

Linked to the unique Haines Signature variable deadrise hull and Suzuki's awesome new 70 hp 4-stroke engine, the package is a quantum leap away from the specialist aluminium fishing boats in this field. It is truly the BMW 328i of fishing boats - with a price tag to match.

For a 4.6 m boat, I reckon it has the softest ride thus far made available in a boat this size, and linked to the incredibly smooth Suzuki 70 hp 4-stroke outboard, creates a combination of product like no other produced in this country.

Design: As we noted in a previous issue, this 460 Series is really a mistake - the Haines Signature factory were targeting a smaller boat, but by the time the tooling was 'cut and shut' from one model to another, and the good features of one model were incorporated with another, the boat's tooling "grew" until it was finally

stretched out to 4.60 metres.

More to the point perhaps, the beam grew up to 2.0 m, putting Haines Signature in the unusual situation where their 4.6 m boats are actually wider (2.09 m) than the longer 4.93 m model (2.01 m).

Nevertheless, this new 460 Series has brought the many advantages of the Signature variable deadrise technology down to the man on the street level.

As noted in the introduction, this boat is the third in a series that will ultimately include a centre console, a bowrider, a day fisher, plus the existing runabout (460 R) and cuddy cabin (460 C) models.

The origins of this 460 SF go back to a conference about 18 months ago, when the Haines Signature dealers were pushing the Haines family hard for the development of more entry level models. On the dealers' wish list at that time was a fibreglass boat with a forward casting platform, so the dealers could compete against the flock of aluminium boats thus fitted. But the dealers wanted to offer the advantages

of fibreglass construction by way of its (usually) much softer ride, better styling and a higher standard of finish.

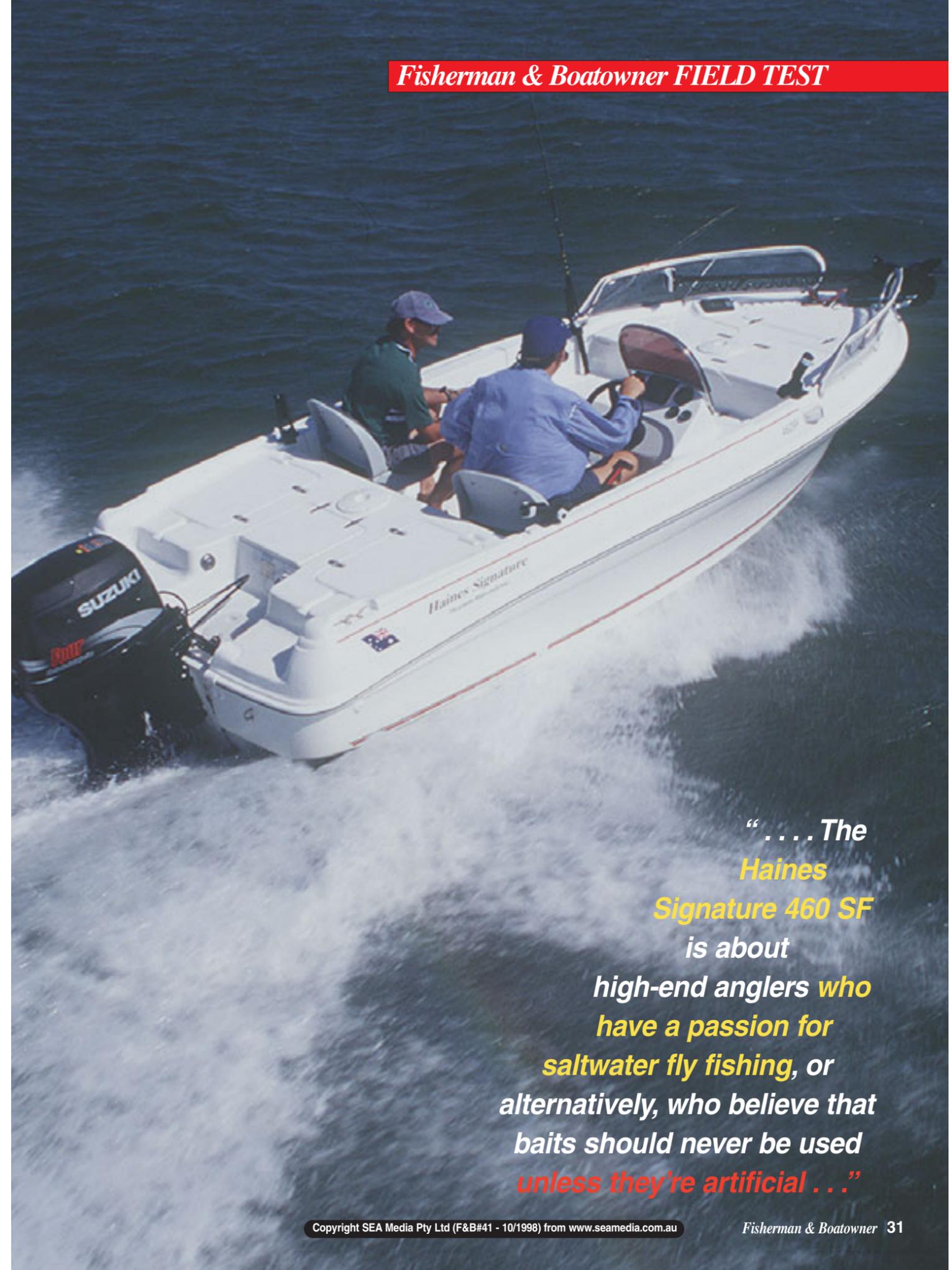
This all went into the Haines Signature R&D notebook, and after much analysis and research, the 460 SF model was earmarked as the third boat to come down the line off the 460 Series.

Interestingly, John Haines (Snr) then took a break from his development program for a week's fishing up off Bathurst Island, NT earlier this year, and there's no doubt whatsoever that the 460 SF got a big kick in the pants when he returned. Basically, it is fair to say the trip crystallised the 460 SF in Hainsey's mind.

Within days of his return, veteran toolmaker Karl Festera and his son Ricky were up to their armpits in "torture boards" and dust, and the 460 SF started to take shape in the R&D section of the Haines Signature plant in Brisbane.

The concept of the boat is very simple.

Haines Signature has created a boat for dedicated, if not professional



"... The Haines Signature 460 SF is about high-end anglers who have a passion for saltwater fly fishing, or alternatively, who believe that baits should never be used unless they're artificial..."