STARCRAFT Islander 221 BRKT

Great for the Great Lakes

GO BOATING TESTED

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By Go Boating Test Team

The Starcraft Islander 221 BRKT is an offshore aluminum fisher made for the Great Lakes and coastal waters. At first glance it almost looks like something the Coast Guard or the Navy would have in its arsenal. What it really is, however, is a smaller open-water fishing boat with a number of unique features.

The first area of the 221 to catch our attention was the cuddy. First, we're not used to seeing a cuddy on an aluminum boat; second, we're not used to big windows and tons of natural light; third, we're not used to seeing a cuddy this large on a 24-foot, 6-inch boat. This is what a builder can do with aluminum compared to fiberglass, and the overall result is a large, well-lit cuddy cabin with impressive space.

Central to this boat's mission is catching fish, and that task is enhanced with a large, open cockpit with plenty of freeboard and a vinyl deck for easy cleanup. Under the port seat you'll find a large aerated livewell, and under the starboard seat you'll find storage and a dedicated compartment for tackle trays.

One great feature is the track system that comes standard on the 221. There's a slotted track along the port and starboard gunwales that allows you to mount rod holders, downriggers and other fish-fighting features. You can position your devices wherever you want along the tracks, and it's easy to remove them when you just want to go out for a cruise with the family.

Our test boat was equipped with a 150 hp Mercury OptiMax outboard, which delivered a peppy 45 mph top speed. Remember that aluminum means less weight, so you get more speed, performance and fuel efficiency out of fewer ponies. Range is also important to anglers, and we calculated about 250 miles at 30 mph with our 150 hp Mercury and a full tank of fuel — more than enough for the Great Lakes and coastal waters.

You won't often find a 25-foot boat for under $30,000, but the Starcraft Islander 221 BRKT equipped with our 150 hp Mercury lists for only $28,650 — which means you get a lot of boat and fishability for your money.

PERFORMANCE & PRICING

STARCRAFT ISLANDER 221 BRKT

SPECIFICATIONS

LENGTH	24 ft., 6 in.
BEAM	8 ft.
CAPACITY	8 people
DRY WEIGHT (BOAT ONLY)	2,023 lbs.
FUEL CAPACITY	52 gals.
MAXIMUM POWER	200 hp
DEADRISE (@TRANSOM)	18 degrees

PERFORMANCE

	MPH	RPM	MPG	RANGE (MILES)	DBA
PEAK	45.0	6,000	3.04	142	85
CRUISE	30.2	4,500	5.49	256	82
TIME TO PLANE					4.5 seconds
0-30 MPH ACCELERATION					9.6 seconds

Fuel consumption measured with FloScan digital fuel-flow meter; range based on 90% of total fuel capacity

TEST POWER

MOTOR 150 hp Mercury OptiMax 150 XL
PROP 3-blade stainless steel
Craft available with 90 hp to 200 hp motors from most outboard manufacturers

BASE PRICE

WITH TEST POWER $28,650*
**Price can vary depending on options and location — price does not include trailer or freight*

FIVE NOTABLE OPTIONS

Lowrance GPS/fish finder ($1,030), mooring cover ($424), permanent head w/pumpout ($232), port windshield wiper ($79), aft curtain ($230)

FIVE NOTABLE STANDARDS

Vinyl cockpit deck, built-in tackle trays, aerated 48-gallon portside livewell, Bimini top w/boot, cushioned V-berth (converts into bed)

BUILDER

Starcraft Marine, 201 Starcraft Drive, P.O. Box 517, Topeka, IN 46571; (866) 772-4538; www.starcraftmarine.com
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