



# Crackleback|460

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For several years the local bassing scene has been waiting for a more affordable entry into the glamorous world of boat bass fishing, but the criteria of tournament standard bass boats has been a stumbling block. Now however, after much research and development, Escape Boating in Benoni have expanded their flagship Crackleback range with the introduction of the new Crackleback 460. Having always envisioned a bass boat range that caters to all bass anglers, Escape has come up with a bass boat that meets not only the criteria of a tournament standard, dedicated bass fishing boat, but also accommodates the financial capabilities of a much larger group of consumers.

Being privy to the development of the Crackleback 460 it has always been Escape Boating proprietor Neil Barker's philosophy to build a boat that matches the quality and functionality of the ever popular 500 and 600 models, with possibly the easiest to launch and tow tournament platform around. With a hull weight of

only 340kg and measuring in at 4,6metres, you might think the boat lacks the features you'd expect to find on a larger boat in order to save weight, but take a closer look: the true craftsmanship of the 460 is highly visible when it is parked next to the larger 500 and 600 boats; indeed it is actually quite uncanny

how it's merely a smaller version, even bearing the signature step on the side as well as the same consequential hull design.

Don't let its smaller size fool you - this is by far one of the most exciting boats I have had the pleasure of piloting. For review purposes the 460 was fitted with a 90hp Mercury outboard, which is in the middle of the boat's recommended horsepower rating. This was done to gauge the versatility of the hull in terms of performance. Let's just say a boat which weighs almost nothing fitted with 90 horses is downright exhilarating with a holeshoot that gets the boat on the plane in mere meters. As for its handling the 460 brings with it a certain amount of fun - nimble in the corners it feels more like you're driving a go-cart than a bass boat, and even when forced into a corner the boat glides effortlessly without digging in.

### TOWING

Its not often you'll see a small 1600 sedan towing a bass boat, never mind having the power to pull the boat out on some of the gnarliest slipways around our dams. Well, expect to see more of it! The 460 on the trailer is light enough to be towed long distance with the added benefit of the trailer riding low enough so as not to drown the carpeting on your family car when launching. A true benefit in today's fickle economy, you literally don't have to buy or own a dedicated tow vehicle to enjoy the boat, which in theory lends itself to splashing out a bit more on accessories, or allowing first time boat buyers to fulfill the dream of owning a fully rigged bass boat.

### STORAGE

With an obviously smaller deck layout due to its size anglers wishing to



**Top:** There is more than enough room on the 460 for two anglers to fish on the front deck all day long.  
**Bottom:** The 460 is extremely fun, safe and stable to pilot.

## Making the long run with the Crackleback 460



**Far Left:** An overview of the Crackleback 460's deck layout, which sports the trademark tournament functionality of the Crackleback Range.

**Top:** With a dual livewell and spacious rear storage hatches, the Crackleback 460 is rigged to compete on any tournament circuit.

**Middle Top:** The entire console has been tailored so that every inch of space has been utilised, with all the gauges and switches combined in an easily accessible layout.

**Middle Bottom:** The seats are not only well finished and comfortable but also provide a solid ride for the crew.

compete on the competitive circuit will not be disappointed - the 460 sports 5 waterproof hatches plus a dual livewell. A standard feature of the entire Crackleback range is the extra large rod locker which can comfortably carry 15-plus rods with a maximum length of 8ft, with the the only noticeable difference between the 460 and the 500 and 600 being that the 460 has one locker.

The other hatches include two storage hatches with the center hatch able to fit Plano 3600 storage trays, while the other hatch can be utilised for safety equipment. Also included are two drainable, insulated cooler boxes, perfect for keeping lunch-packs and drinks cold the entire day.

### DECK LAYOUT

One thing that is apparent on the Crackleback 460 is the attention to

detail - no space has been wasted on the deck layout. The rear deck has been reduced but the size of the forward casting deck makes up for it. It has become customary on The Bass Angler field reviews to pack a 7ft cranking stick just to measure casting room, especially if there are two anglers fishing up front, and on the 460 at no time do you ever feel like you're getting in each other's way.

### CONCLUSION

The Crackleback 460 can be categorised as the perfect entry level boat for anglers on a budget looking for the best value their money can buy, including all the creature comforts of larger boats. A factor that must be noted is that this craft is not meant for more than 3 persons and any more would be reckless, but overall the 460 provides one incredibly versatile fishing platform!

### TECH SPECS

**Length:** 4.6m  
**Beam:** 2m  
**Dry Weight:** 340kg  
**Power Rating:** Max 130HP  
**Sneaker Rating:** 54- 80lbs  
**Passengers:** Max 3 Adults

### STANDARD FEATURES

Single console, cockpit command centre - with custom gauges (rev counter, fuel, water pressure), bolstered full-flex driver and passenger seating (3-colour seating), cup holders, recessed bow panel for trolling motor and trim switch, front & rear pedestal fishing seats, built-in cooler and supplied on own trailer.