

BOATS

OF INTEREST

Hatteras 60GT

A Tournament Tested Performer

By Dean Travis Clarke

Throughout the transportation industry, the designation "GT" stands for the Italian phrase *Gran Turismo*, a name originally given to grand touring cars. In reality, Hatteras designed its new 60 convertible as its "Tournament Edition," and I can honestly report that the company has

never designed or built a better-running, faster, smoother-riding boat. Tipping the scales at about 20,000 pounds less than its previous 60-footer certainly helps.

Performance

Pushing the throttles forward results in an

impressive response from the optional twin 1,800-hp Caterpillar C32 ACERT diesels. But just wait: When the turbos build boost pressure, this 60 will walk you to the transom with its acceleration.

At a 5-knot trolling speed, the wake qualifies as spotless past the second wave. Not even any discernable prop wash. We topped out at just over 42 knots at 2,300 rpm while burning a healthy 190 gph. Loafing along at 30.5 knots (1,700 rpm), we dropped that consumption to a mere 100 gph. That's with full fuel and water tanks, all of the owner's belongings and our tackle and bait. Churning along at its 2,000-rpm, 36-knot cruising speed, the 60 GT burned 116 gph.

We cruised straight into the 4- to 5-foot head seas off Great Isaac's Light in the Bahamas at 26 knots and the ride couldn't have been more comfortable. The head-sea ability of this boat represents a quantum leap improvement over older models — not that they were bad, Hatteras just likes to keep making its boats better.

The 60 GT reverses course in about five boatlengths at cruising speed, and when backing down on a 57-pound dolphin, we hit 8 knots and went straight as an arrow. In addition, this 60-footer spins far faster than you have any right to expect.

I'd love to see the trim tab switches moved to a more accessible spot, however. It's a bit awkward to reach them way up under the helm pod.

Flybridge

One of the boat's best features is the flybridge helm console. Designed much like a center console, you can pass by it to either



side and you'll find loads of room to pass behind the helm and companion seats. Hatteras provides expansive guest seating forward of the console, as well as to each side on straight settees. An overhead recess hides the electric teaser reels, while under-gunwale 12-volt outlets power the electric reels the factory boat uses for the dredges. It sure beats pulling them up by hand! A big freezer hides forward of the

SPECIFICATIONS

LOA	59'10"
BEAM	19'
DRAFT	4'9"
WEIGHT	85,500 pounds
FUEL	1,800 gallons
WATER	200 gallons
MAX POWER	T 1,800 hp Cat C32 ACERTs
BASE PRICE	\$3,000,000 (as tested)

Hatteras Yachts
New Bern, North Carolina
252-633-3101
www.hatterasyachts.com



Performance



