

BOATS

A R A B I A



SIMPLY OUTRAGEOUS
BOSTON
WHALER 320
OUTRAGE

As a sportfisher and family day boat, the 320 Outrage from Boston Whaler is the most complete 32' boat on the market today. A bold statement indeed, but one I'll stand firmly behind after spending a day aboard her off The Pearl-Qatar courtesy of Ronautica Middle East.

By **Craig Barnett**
Photos **Vicken**



I Debut

Given the painful public failing of other vessels that claim to be

'unsinkable', it takes a courageous company to advertise the slogan 'The Unsinkable Legend', but Boston Whaler do and with justifiable confidence. To back up their claim they've seen a boat in half and driven it around a lake, and they've even swamped a 370 Outrage, loaded it with 40 people... and it still floated. An effort that truly exceeds the description 'Titanic'. It is no surprise therefore that the yard's products are a firm favourite of the world's most demanding boat users. US Navy Seals undergo a brutal selection procedure, and the same goes for their kit. So when these elite Special Forces use Boston Whaler, you know you are on a craft that's excelled while being pushed beyond the limits of endurance.

Founded in 1958 by Harvard philosophy graduate Richard Fisher, the brand now boasts a comprehensive line-up of boats from 11' through to 37'. Their Super-sport, Montauk, Dauntless, Conquest and Outrage

The well-protected bow area with teak-topped dinette, and the cantilevered aft bench. There's a surprising amount of seating around this 32-footer.



ranges incorporate no less than 25 models, from the most basic of trailerable craft through to the imperious 370 Outrage. Amongst this treasured fleet however is a gem that would prove to be flawless under a jeweller's loupe and who's many facets sparkle in the interrogator's spotlight: the Boston Whaler 320 Outrage.

While many boats fall between the stools while attempting to be 'all things to all men', the 320 Outrage handles the Middle East's demand for a specialist sportfisher and family day boat with equal aplomb. Packed with features to ensure both applications are equally well served - coupled with great performance, first-class built quality, finishing and sea-keeping - it leads us to conclude it is the most complete craft in this sector of the market... and here's why.

The 320 Outrage's layout is that of a typical centre console, but from the moment you step aboard it's obvious this is a cut above. The centre console itself is protected on three sides by tempered lightly tinted glass screens, and there's even a hinged portion to

allow a welcome breeze to flow over the helm position. The hardtop, rigid enough to support the antennae array and optional outriggers, is integrated into the centre console on mullions, supplemented by a white powder coated exoskeleton. Like so many features on the 320 Outrage, this demonstrates Boston Whaler's

expertise in incorporating practicality and aesthetics. They've eliminated ugly aluminium scaffolding ubiquitous in the industry, instead replacing it with an

attractive support and rails who's radius are perfect as handholds and a ladder to access the T-top... all while leaving uninhibited vision from the helm.

Behind the helm the spacing between bolstered skipper's chair and the traditional stainless sportfisher wheel is ergonomically measured, while the companion seat also features a step that folds away when not in use. Made from high-density foam and stainless

"They filled the 370 with water and loaded it with 40 people... she still floated!"

I Debut



fittings, they should offer years of extremely comfortable service. The compass is situated along the centreline of the wheel, while switches, gauges, the Raymarine displays and the Smartcraft Vessel View display for monitoring the twin Mercury outboards all also fall easily to hand and eye. Likewise the Digital Throttle and Shift (DTS) body, with the 'fly by wire' multifunction system with useful offerings like troll and docking mode.

With twin 250 CXXL Mercury Verado 4-Stroke strapped to the transom, the test craft touched 42-knots on flat water and effortlessly cruised along at 30-knots. From a standing start the smooth DTS system eliminates the 'clunk' of engaging gear, while trim tabs ensured she's quickly onto the plane in 7.6-seconds. The optimum efficiency is found at 4,000rpm, which produces a range of 370Nm at 24-knots. Electro-hydraulic power steering ensures she responds to the lightest of touches, and while corkscrewing through ever decreasing circles she holds her line faultlessly. While proceeding forward in straight lines, arcing sweeps and tight turns is a joy, keen anglers will also be pleased to know she's equally agile in reverse, pulling back straight with no chance of a stern wake washing over the high transom... however hard you try.

The transom area is a prime example of the duality of the 320 Outrage. Access to the water through a starboard transom gate and integrated re-boarding ladder suits spear-fishermen and swimmers alike. There's a showerhead for rinsing off salt, a saltwater deck-wash for sluicing fish juice, and rod holders and a live bait-well all neatly tucked away. The cockpit itself can be left wide open for fisherman to move around unhindered, bracing themselves during a big fight against the padded gunnels. When the family are on-board, the comfortable retractable aft bench drops down, the practical wet-bar and grille can be fired up, and youngsters can move confidently in the well-enclosed space. Below the grille and hand basin, perfect for cleaning and cooking your catch, are three large draws for tackle or provision storage.

The story continues in the bow area. While fishing the space can be kept uncluttered and clear, but by dropping the teak-topped dinette in front of the wrap-around bow bench, it quickly converts it into an eminently social space for entertaining friends and family. There's plenty of seating too for the 14 guests

The deck galley and electric windlass, just two of the many details that elevate this craft to the top of its sector.

aboard; the cantilevered transom bench, the twin helm chairs, the bow wraparound, plus a forward console seat and two folding trolling seats concealed in the bulwarks. Enclosed by a recessed grab rail, with cavernous storage below removable pads and with stainless cup-holders close to hand, Boston Whaler further demonstrate practical touches that are stylishly accomplished. Beneath the sole there are enough draining iceboxes to chill beverages for a considerable party, or keep the catch fresh - either way you'll be enjoying your time on the water with no need to return to the marina until absolutely necessary.

When entertaining facilities are of the utmost importance, and the 320 Outrage spares the blushes in this respect. Tucked beneath the console is one of the largest day-head/shower rooms in its class. Access is easy through a sizeable bi-fold door, and once inside the 6' headroom and generous proportions allow for comfortable use of the head, shower and changing facility. For families the practicality this space offers cannot be ignored.

During our day on the 320 Outrage another single factor that simply shouted to be noted was the overwhelming attention to detail, the build quality and finish of the boat. Lift any hatch and one notices the locker and lid is immaculately finished and gel-coated, the quality stainless hinges are recessed, and seals and drainers are all present. Stowage suitable for rods and reels are lockable and the stitching on the first class marine grade upholstery is impeccable. Even the chain locker demonstrates Boston Whaler's uncompromising approach. The stainless anchor lies outside of the bow, rare on this size of craft, while the chain that curls into



the easily accessible well can be secured with a restraining lanyard, the electric windlass is optional, but even the gas strut that holds the hatch open and the wash-down point are details few manufacturers think to include.

This embarrassment of riches (well, for their competitors) would be nothing without a solid platform however, but remember Boston Whaler have been constructing 'unsinkable legends' for over half a century. Their secret lies in the construction. Tap the hull of the 320 Outrage and you don't get a hollow rap, but

The volume of the 320 Outrage's head/shower makes an ideal facility for family days out and entertaining. The wheel meanwhile is undeniably of sportfishing heritage.

instead a confidence inducing 'thunk'. Cut the boat in two and you'll not find a cavity, but instead non-permeable high-density foam, which provides their remarkable floatation. Testimony to this is included in the 320 Outrage's specifications is a 'Swamped Capacity' figure of over two tonnes. This means that in the worst-case scenario, even with the boat full of water, it is still able to support those aboard and all their gear! What more could you ask for? Boston Whaler's 320 Outrage... the most complete 32' craft we've had the pleasure of clambering aboard. |

BOSTON WHALER 320 OUTRAGE

LOA: 32' 2" (9.8m)
Beam: 10' 2" (3.09m)
Draft: 22" (0.55m)
Dry Weight (ex-engine): 8,500 lbs (3,855kg)
Max Weight Capacity: 4,300 lbs (1,950kg)
Swamped Capacity: 4,800 lbs (2,177kg)
Max pax: 14 persons
Min/Max hp: 400hp/600hp
Fuel Capacity: 300 gal (1,135 L)
Water Capacity: 40 gal (151 L)
Builders: Boston Whaler (Brunswick Group, USA)
Representative: Ronautica Middle East, The Pearl Qatar, Doha, Qatar
www.ronauticame.com
Tel: +974 4495 3894

