

Boston Whaler 280 Outrage (2019-)

Brief Summary

The Boston Whaler 280 Outrage features a new running surface that includes a flat pad at the stern designed to give better hole shot performance, less bow rise on acceleration, and greater WOT speed. With a 23-degree deadrise, she should deliver an exceptional ride in rough water, and she comes fully loaded for fishing. A sun lounge ahead of the console plus an optional cocktail table adds versatility. When the table is removed, a full sun pad is created.

Price

Base Price

Prices, features, designs, and equipment are subject to change. Please see your local dealer or visit the builder's website for the latest information available on this boat model.

Key Features

- Integral swim platform with covered swim ladder and grab rail
- Pressurized 40 gal. livewell with clear top and blue interior
- Sink with freshwater and pull-out sprayer
- Forward in-floor storage/fishbox with pump-out and two 5-gal. buckets
- Custom fiberglass cooler with grab handles (cooler slides forward to stow)
- Fold-away stern seat
- Leaning post tackle storage
- Under gunnel rod racks (2 per side)
- T-top with bow/cockpit floodlights, a dome light, life jacket storage and 5 rod holders

Test Results

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
600	2.7	2.3	1.1	2.5	2.1	411	357.3	62
1000	5.4	4.7	2.3	2.3	2	393	341.8	67

RPM	MPH	Knots	GPH	MPG	NMPG	STAT. MILE	NM	dBa
1500	7.8	6.8	4	2	1.7	326	283.9	74
2000	9	7.8	7.3	1.2	1.1	206	179.5	76
2500	11.4	9.9	11.4	1	0.9	167	145.6	81
2750	15.4	13.4	13.4	1.1	1	192	167.3	83
3000	20	17.4	14.6	1.4	1.2	229	199.4	87
3250	25.1	21.8	16.1	1.6	1.4	261	226.9	90
3500	29.3	25.5	17.4	1.7	1.5	282	245.1	90
4000	35.7	31	21.5	1.7	1.4	278	241.7	91
4500	41.3	35.9	28	1.5	1.3	247	214.7	94
5000	46.6	40.5	38	1.2	1.1	205	178.5	94
5500	51.7	45	52.3	1	0.9	165	143.9	94
6000	55.4	48.2	59.6	0.9	0.8	156	135.3	95
6300	57	49.6	60	1	0.8	159	138.3	95

[View the test results in metric units](#)
[bostonwhaler_280outrage_chart15.jpg](#)

Specifications

Length Overall	28' 0" / 8.53 m
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BEAM	9' 4" 2.85 m
Dry Weight	8,383 lbs. 3,802 kg
Tested Weight	9,736 lbs. 4,416 kg
Draft	22" 56 cm
Draft Up	
Draft Down	
Air Draft	
Deadrise/Transom	23-deg.
Max Headroom	open
Bridge Clearance	10' 1" 3.07 m (max)
Weight Capacity	4,169 lbs. 1,891 kg
Person Capacity	14
Fuel Capacity	186 gal. 704 L
Water Capacity	28 gal. 106 L
Length on Trailer	
Height on Trailer	
Trailer Weight	

Total Weight	9,736 lbs. 4,416 kg
Aft Deck	
Salon Inside Width	
Salon Fore & Aft	
Salon Height	
Salon Volume	
Galley Volume	
Master SR Width	
Master SR fore & Aft	
Master SR Overhead	
Master SR Volume	
Eng. Room Volume	

Acceleration Times & Conditions

Time to Plane	4.1 sec.
0 to 20	
Ratio	1.85:1
Props	14 5/8 x 20P Rev 4

Load	3 persons, 1/2 fuel, full water, 50 lbs. of gear
Climate	86 deg., 82 humid.; wind: 0-5 mph; seas: calm

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Boston Whaler 280 Outrage

Boston Whaler’s all-new 280 Outrage has an LOA of 28’0” (8.53 m), a beam of 9’4” (2.84 m) and a hull draft (boat only) of 22” (56 cm).

Overview

Boston Whaler’s 280 Outrage has been redesigned from the keel up for this newest model year. Under the waterline, she has a redesigned hull that includes a flat running pad providing quicker times to plane and less bow rise upon acceleration. Above the waterline, the interior has been completely redesigned based on customer feedback to provide more comfort, functionality, and simplicity of operation.

Features Inspection

Fishing Features.

First and foremost, this is an Outrage so it's obviously going to be a fishing boat. It’s simply what the product line is best known for. Those fishing features start with 20-rod holders conveniently placed throughout the boat, including five rocket-launcher-style holders at the aft end of the hardtop. In the forward lounge area, fishing rods can be stored inside the seat and bungee cords provided will keep the rods secure. On the

standard boat, a T-top is provided, but here we have a deluxe hardtop that is part of a premium package upgrade. This hardtop comes with a lot of features including spreader lights, life jacket storage, two-color dome light and overhead electronics box. At the topside are mounting points for outriggers and antennas.

Boston Whaler 280 Outrage Boston Whaler 280 Outrage hardtop

What we really like most about the hardtop is the way that it seamlessly integrates into the console.

There were two livewells, one being the optional portside transom live well with a 20-gallon (75 L) capacity and the second being the optional leaning post livewell at 30 gallons (114 L). This deluxe leaning post is also part of the optional premium package upgrade.

Boston Whaler 280 Outrage Boston Whaler 280 Outrage leaning post

The premium leaning post also includes two-rod holders, a sink with a pullout sprayer, and a 35-quart (33 L) carry-on cooler secured in a pull-out tray.

The cockpit features plenty of wide-open space for fishing. Bolsters running all the way around the inside of the cockpit vary in height starting at 21" (53.34 cm) and going up to 29" (73.7 cm). Down low on the sides of the cockpit are stainless steel toe rails, adding a measure of safety. Just above are under-gunwale rod storage racks. On both sides of the cockpit are in-deck fish boxes that measure in at 55-gallons (208 L). At the bow, there is an elevated casting deck with a non-skid surface. In fact, the entire foredeck is also treated with nonskid.

Boston Whaler 280 Outrage Boston Whaler 280 Outrage fish boxes

Large in-deck fish boxes are to both sides of the cockpit. All hatches on the 280 Outrage are back-gelled, gasketed and held open with gas-assist struts.

Boston Whaler 280 Outrage Boston Whaler 280 Outrage flip down seats

The 280 Outrage has 20-rod holders, allowing her to put out an impressive spread to the fish. When trolling, these flip-down trolling seats to both side bulwarks allow for more eyes to be on the lines.

Family Features.

Transitioning to family features is part of the versatility of the 280 Outrage and it's a pretty seamless transition. Assuming that the boat didn't just come back from a fishing trip, in which case we would add a hose down to the following list of tasks. At the stern of the boat is a two-person bench seat that deploys from the transom, making the cockpit into an instant social area. The leaning post can do double duty as a food serving area and the sink will again come in handy as will the pull-out sprayer.

Boston Whaler 280 Outrage Boston Whaler 280 Outrage transom seats

Transom seats have a habit of being hard to deploy, but not so with the 280 Outrage. This one is among the easiest we've ever used.

To the starboard side is the gate leading out to the swim platform. The recessed reboarding ladder is concealed under a hatch to the starboard side. Directly adjacent is a grab handle, and right at the entrance to the cockpit is a pull-out sprayer for a freshwater shower.

Bow Seating.

Forward we have a bow area that has been given the lion's share of the interior redesign for this model year. Gone are the days of a center console having V-seating along with a simple cooler seat at the front end of the console. Here, just ahead of the console is a beautiful forward-facing lounge seat, doublewide, with flip-down armrests to both sides. Underneath is roomy storage with two holders for 5-gallon (19 L) buckets, four holders for scuba tanks, and lots of room for storing additional gear. There are also two steps leading into the storage compartment that are treated with rubberized nonskid.

Boston Whaler 280 Outrage doublewide lounge

A doublewide lounge seat is positioned just ahead of the console. Long fishing rods can be stored inside and bungee cords at the step will keep the rods secure.

The forward seating has also been given a touch of re-design and now features a bench seat that occupies the whole front of the bow area. This aft-facing seat will easily accommodate four-across. Padded bolsters and seat cushions, part of the premium package, increase the comfort factor. More important though, is the fact that we now have excellent opposing seating so this gathering area is, even more, inviting for entertaining.

Boston Whaler 280 Outrage bench seat

Ahead of the lounge is an aft-facing bench seat. An optional pedestal table further increases the popularity of the bow, and when that table is removed and stowed inside the console, a full sun pad is created.

Head Compartment.

There's no point in even starting a discussion of family features in a boat if there's no head onboard, and on the 280 Outrage, it's in the expected place inside the console. This one has just a little short of standing headroom with an overhead height of 5'5" (1.65 m). This is also where the cockpit pedestal table is stored, in a dedicated holder against the aft bulkhead. Our test boat was equipped with a VacuFlush toilet and a pullout shower wand also included in the premium package.

Boston Whaler 280 Outrage head

The head is self-draining and our test boat had the optional bow pedestal table in dedicated storage against the aft bulkhead. Notice the ship's electrical panel and the stereo is also here.

Operations.

Boston Whaler did a great job on the helm of the 280 Outrage. Our test boat was fitted with a pair of optional 12" (30.5 cm) Raymarine flatscreen navigation displays. The 4" (10.1 cm) SmartCraft display was in the center and just above that was the Precision Pilot control for the Mercury outboard engines. This was also fitted with some optional features such as Skyhook and Auto Heading. The helm is mounted to the left-hand side and the wheel is mounted to a tilt base. The steering knob was a welcome feature to have. Lenco trim tabs have LED indicators, while the digital throttle and shift binnacle is mounted in the center of the panel. On the right-hand side of the binnacle was the Mercury outboard joystick. This joystick allowed us to maneuver the 280 into position at the marina with expert precision — and it was among the tightest areas that we've been faced with.

Boston Whaler 280 Outrage helm

The helm on the 280 Outrage is gorgeous and well laid out for efficiency. Dual displays allow the observer to take part in the navigating. Our test boat was equipped with the Mercury Joystick Piloting system, which is part of the engine package.

Below the helm is a footrest and below that is a recessed toe relief area for the toes of boat shoes to slide into when running while standing, a common practice when operating any center console. The helm seats are two across and individual seats are fitted for the operator and companion. Both have flip-up bolsters, flip-down armrests, and are adjustable fore and aft.

Boston Whaler 280 Outrage helm console

Below the helm console is a step for the operator when they're seated in the helm seat and a lower toe relief recess for the toes of shoes when operating while standing.

Boston Whaler 280 Outrage helm seats

The helm seats both have individual flip-up bolsters and armrests.

Mechanical Room.

In the center of the cockpit deck is a large hatch leading to an equipment room. This is where the engine start batteries are located, the house batteries, all of the filters, and bilge pumps — all within easy reach.

Boston Whaler 280 Outrage engines

In the center of the cockpit deck is this mechanical room that gives quick access to the operational components.

Boston Whaler 280 Outrage joystick

Our test boat was equipped with the Mercury Joystick Piloting System. Here we can see how the engines work independently of one another when maneuvering with the joystick.

Boston Whaler 280 Outrage windlass

At the bow, there's a recessed windlass with a handheld remote, freshwater washdown, a cleat to secure the rode and a manual handle. The anchor and chain run through a thru-the-stem stainless roller.

Performance

With a pair of 300-hp 6-cylinder Mercury Verados turning 20" (51 cm) pitch Rev 4 props, we reached our top speed at 6300 rpm of 49.6 knots. At that speed we were burning 60 gph, giving us a range of 138.3 nautical miles. The best economy was measured to be at 3500 rpm and 25.5 kts. That speed reduced the fuel burn to 17.4 gph and increased the range to 245.1 nm, while still holding back a 10% reserve of fuel in the bank.

Handling

Driving the 280 Outrage is a pleasure and a lot of this has to do with the redesign of the hull. For this model year, the new architecture includes a flat running pad at the keel to provide quicker times to plane and shorter hole shots and it seems to work. We reached planing speed in 4.1 seconds, accelerated to 20 mph in 5.3 seconds and 30 mph came and went in 8.8 seconds. At speed, she is a very light and agile boat. She's sensitive to the trim tabs, so we weren't too vigilant about using them. But we did add a bit of tab to bring the bow down to a more comfortable running attitude.

Head Seas.

Running into head seas, we could cause a little bit of pounding at full throttle — no surprise there because it could happen in any boat. But pulling back to a more reasonable cruise speed mitigated any pounding and increased the ride comfort dramatically. Running at an angle just off of the head seas further eliminated any discomfort to the ride.

Beam Seas.

Running in a beam sea caused the ride to smooth out considerably and we could actually increase speed to whatever we wanted. We were catching a little bit of air now and then at full speed, but other than that the ride was excellent and we could've kept going like that forever.

Following Seas.

The ride got even better in a following sea. This is really where the 280 Outrage is in her element. She simply cruised from one wave to the next, skimming across the tops of them, showing no tendency to drop her nose and stuff the bow. While our test day showed relatively calm seas, we did have ocean swells that gave us a good idea of how she handles during these conditions. And true to form with every Boston Whaler, we were very pleased with the handling. It appears that Boston Whaler's redesign of the hull has succeeded. To sum it up, the handling is agile and predictable on all points.

Nighttime Operations.

After dark the 280 Outrage takes on an entirely different persona. There were optional blue underwater lights on our test boat that added ambiance. Inside there are two courtesy lights to both sides of the bow lounge seat and we'd certainly like to see some added to the cockpit. Other lighting consists of a dome light over the helm that can be switched to either white or red, plus there are spreader lights for fishing after dark.

Boston Whaler 280 Outrage underwater lights

Boston Whalers can light up the night. Here we see the blue underwater lights and courtesy lights and notice the row of red-lit rocker switches across the top of the helm panel.

Observations

Boston Whaler has achieved another success with the 280 Outrage redesign. Boston Whaler's goals were to embrace the simplicity of operation, versatility, and comfort and we think that the company scored well on all counts. She's a pleasure to be on, a pleasure to handle, and thanks to her newly redesigned hull she has an all-new level of handling that will define the brand.