

Wellcraft 242 Fisherman (2016-)

Brief Summary

The Wellcraft 242 Fisherman is a center console fishboat first and foremost, but with numerous options, she becomes a handsome and comfortable family rig complete with cocktail table, sun pad, booth-style seating and even Seagrass floor mats. A portable toilet in the console is standard, as is a flip-down bench seat at the transom. Performance is strong -- rigged with an Evinrude E-TEC G2 300 turning a 19" pitch prop, she tops out at 50.1, according to the company.

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

- Baitwell/livewell, 17 gallon with bluecoat, light and timer
- carry-on 72 quart cooler
- Forward console seating
- Rear folding bench seating
- Rod gunnel storage
- Tackle storage with boxes
- Raw water wash down
- Changing room
- Porta-Potti head
- Gunnel rod holders

Specifications

Length Overall	24' 4" / 7.42 m
BEAM	8' 6" 2.59 m
Dry Weight	4700 lbs. 2,132 kg

Tested Weight	
Draft	
Draft Up	16" 0.41 m
Draft Down	34" 0.86 m
Air Draft	
Deadrise/Transom	20-deg.
Max Headroom	open
Bridge Clearance	8' 6" 2.59 m
Weight Capacity	
Person Capacity	10
Fuel Capacity	158 gal. 598 L
Water Capacity	N/A
Length on Trailer	
Height on Trailer	
Trailer Weight	
Total Weight	
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	
0 to 20	
Ratio	
Props	
Load	
Climate	

Wellcraft 242 Fisherman running

At 24'4" (7.42 m) long, the Wellcraft 242 Fisherman has an 8'6" (2.59 m) beam and weighs approximately 4,700 lbs. (2,132 kg), making her an attractive candidate for an owner who likes to tow his boat to different fishing spots.

Overview

Wellcraft developed the 242 Fisherman to be a multi-purpose center console that can fish inshore or keep the family entertained for a day. An owner can choose a single outboard or twins, which some might prefer for redundancy when headed offshore. Serious anglers can opt for the Scarab Offshore model or owners can choose the Family Package that turns the bow into a comfortable place to relax and hang out.

Wellcraft 242 Fisherman deck plan

With plenty of space on each side of the console, it's easy to move fore and aft on the Wellcraft 242 Fisherman.

Wellcraft 242 Fisherman profile

With the optional cushions in the bow, the 242 Fisherman is an attractive family boat, too.

Features Inspection

The Bow.

Because it's the area that can be altered the most to change the boat's personality, let's start in the 242 Fisherman's bow. In the standard configuration, the only forward seating in the boat is on the front of the center console. There are raised casting decks on each side outboard and two cup holders forward. Upgrading the bow for recreating can be done in stages. The Bow Seating Package (\$1,462) has port and starboard seat cushions with forward backrests. The Family Package (\$2,462) takes it a step further with a fill-in cushion and a table.

Wellcraft 242 Fisherman beached

In this photo, the couple is relaxing against the forward backrests that are part of the Bow Seating Package.

Wellcraft 242 Fisherman sun pad

The Family Package includes this filler cushion that turns the bow into a large sun pad.

Wellcraft 242 Fisherman bow table

Remove the center cushion and support panel, and there's space for a cockpit table that turns the bow into a booth for lunch. The Seagrass mat on the deck is part of the optional Seaside Trim Package.

Bow Storage.

Regardless of the seating configuration, the 242 Fisherman's bow has a number of storage areas in the bow. All the way forward is an anchor locker with a hatch in the forepeak. Outboard on each side are insulated draining compartments that most owners will use as fishboxes, and there's a cooler in the step up to the forepeak. In the cockpit sole just ahead of the console is a dry compartment that can be equipped with an optional macerator to make a third fishbox.

Wellcraft 242 Fisherman fish box

The hatches for the fishboxes open on stainless steel gas struts, which makes it easier to place and retrieve the day's catch.

Wellcraft 242 Fisherman anchor locker

The anchor locker hatch is to port in the bow, leaving foredeck space for the optional windlass.

The Console.

Moving aft, the console has the aforementioned bench seat on the front side. It's hinged at the top and opens on twin gas struts to reveal the portable head and a changing area. The batteries store in the console, and there are storage pockets on each side. Access panels make it easy to trace wires for the dash, which should appeal to DIYers who want to add electronics.

Wellcraft 242 Fisherman head

The 242 Fisherman's center console comes with a portable head, and there is storage in the outboard mesh pockets.

The Helm.

The 242 Fisherman's helm features a stainless-steel steering wheel with a spinner knob installed on the port side. This leaves space for a companion to ride alongside the captain behind the protection of the console and windscreen. The engine controls look to be in comfortable reach, and there is a row of toggle switches that light when activated across the top of the panel. Ahead of the companion to starboard are cup holders and a 12-volt power plug.

Wellcraft 242 Fisherman

Beneath the accessory switches, the 242 Fisherman's dash panel has plenty of space for electronics.

The Leaning Post.

The standard leaning post is built on a powder-coated aluminum frame with a rounded bottom cushion that extends down low behind the driver's legs and backside, making it comfortable to lean against. Part of the Seaside Trim Package or Scarab Offshore upgrade, the optional version has a backrest with four rocket

launcher-style rod holders on the aft side. Also on the aft side down low, the carry-on cooler secures in the framework.

Wellcraft 242 Fisherman leaning post

The backrest is part of the optional leaning post-upgrade, and it adds to the boat's comfort.

The Cockpit.

Coaming pads extend aft on the gunwales on each side just outboard of the console. There are spring cleats and rod holders in deck at amidships and below in the gunwales are racks for rods and landing gear. Aft the leaning post, there's space for an angler to move across the cockpit while fighting a fish. In the aft port corner is a 23-gallon (87 L) livewell that's painted blue and equipped with a light and timer. To starboard, there's a passage to the swim platform, and outboard of passageway to starboard is a 17-gallon (64 L) baitwell that's also finished in blue and has a light and timer. Both wells have clear acrylic hatches. An optional removable plastic cutting board fits in one of the four rod holders across the stern. Throughout the boat, the floor is finished in diamond pattern nonskid. A bench seat folds out of the stern.

Wellcraft 242 Fisherman bench seat

The bench seat folds into the stern when not in use, which creates open space for fishing.

Wellcraft 242 Fisherman bait well

The baitwell to starboard has a clear acrylic hatch and a folding faucet.

The Swim Platform.

A door closes off the passageway to the swim platform, which makes the boat much safer for families with curious little ones or pets. The platform has plenty of space to move when fighting a fish or for loading the kids on a tube. In the aft port corner, Wellcraft equips the 242 Fisherman with a four-step stainless-steel boarding ladder.

Wellcraft 242 Fisherman cutting board

The optional cutting board can be placed in any of the rod holders on the 242 Fisherman.

Wellcraft 242 Fisherman ladder

Many companies use a three-step ladder, but Wellcraft provides a four-step model that makes it easier to board the 242 Fisherman.

Construction.

Wellcraft builds the 242 Fisherman with a solid fiberglass bottom, hullside, and deck. Stringers are molded fiberglass filled with flotation foam. The rubrail that covers the hull-to-deck joint is rubber with a stainless-steel insert. All cleats are stainless-steel pull-up models and thru-hull fittings are stainless steel as well.

Observations

The Wellcraft 242 Fisherman is in many ways the model of the current generation of center consoles. She's true to her fishing roots, but with the optional seating packages for the bow, she can easily become a much more family-friendly boat. She's available with twin or single outboards from Evinrude, Mercury, or Yamaha. Additionally, the 242 Fisherman is designed to appeal to trailer boaters with an 8'6" (2.59 m) beam. Wellcraft estimates the weight with power at 4,700 lbs. (2,132 kg), so a vehicle rated to tow about 6,500 lbs. (2,948 kg) should be up to the task of hauling the boat and all its gear.