

17 HOT NEW BOATS: TIME TO TRADE?

Salt Water

SPO... MAN

WINTER BAHAMAS ACTION

PRO TIPS FOR
TREASURE CAY VARIETY

HOW TO:
**FISH
BRAID
RIGHT**
Pg. 12

Test Drive

■ GLACIER
BAY 2740

**FLORIDA'S BEST
BOTTOMFISHING**
DISCOVER THE
MIDDLE GROUNDS

**NEW BONEFISH
HOT SPOT**
CATCH THEM IN
HAWAII



BOAT TEST

Roomy Cat

Glacier Bay Catamarans' Renegade 2740 offers a surprising amount of fishing space. | BY LENNY RUDOW |

The new Renegade 2740 is designed around Glacier Bay Catamarans' venerable Canyon Runner hull, so you know this is one smooth-riding cat. Our test day couldn't have had more perfect conditions for a hard-core sea trial, with a 15 to 20 knot wind whipping up the Atlantic. Up-sea, down-sea and across the seas, I was able to nail the throttle and blast over the waves at 40 mph with a whole lot of yee-haw and not one bit of ouch!

If you choose the power-assist steering option for this boat, slinging the wheel lock to lock takes zero effort. When you turn that wheel, you'll notice that the Renegade remains mostly flat in sharp turns instead of tilting outward, a strange quirk some older cat designs exhibited. Now play with the trim a bit, and discover that the hull has a dramatic reaction and tabs are completely unnecessary. The biggest handling surprise dawned on me in the last seconds of our sea trial, while backing into the slip. Those outboards are spaced so far apart that spinning this boat is incredibly easy, even easier than pivoting some twin-screw inboards. Halfway into the

slip a gust blew us out of kilter, but a quick opposition of the power plants got us right back on track, and what could have been a disastrous docking was instead a piece of cake.

But why would a die-hard angler want a boat with a dual-console layout in the first place? Because in the real world, if mama's not happy, no one's happy. And the DC design pleases all types of people with all types of missions in mind. Your mission — catching big fish — won't be hampered much at all by accommodating mama's desires and choosing this layout. Yes, it will be challenging to work a rod around the hardtop pipe work when taking fish to the bow, but you can still do it. No, the 10-gallon livewell isn't huge, but it is big enough to get the job done 99 percent of the time, and on top of that, it's a high-quality well with a baby-blue interior and an overflow

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■ CONDITIONS



LOCATION: Ocean City, Maryland.

WIND: 15 to 20 knots

SEA STATE: 3 to 5 feet

TEST LOAD: Two adults





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■ SPECIFICATIONS

Glacier Bay Renegade 2740

LOA: 26'6" **Beam:** 8'9" **Draft:** 1'6"

Weight: 6,400 lbs. **Fuel:** 180 gals.

Max hp: Twin 150 o.b. **Price:** \$132,903

Glacier Bay: 425-508-1355 • glacierbaycats.com



drain instead of one of those rickety standpipes that's always in the way. You may not have quite as much deck space because of that passenger-side console, but you do get a fully enclosed head with room to stand. You won't have to make any other real sacrifices. The hardtop supports three rocket launchers on each side, and the gunwales each have a pair of flush-mount rod holders, so setting a healthy trolling spread won't be a problem. Flip over the top of the sink in the entertainment center/rigging station/wet bar, and you'll discover a cutting board, and the back of the unit houses four tackle/stowage drawers. Reach forward, grab a handle and pull, and a drawer refrigerator slides out from under the L-shaped settee. You can load it up with food and drinks when the family is on board or use it to chill ballyhoo.

Wreck and bottomfishermen will take note of the anchor-locker arrangement on the Renegade. Accessible from either side, with RTM hatches on gas-assist struts, the locker is twice as large as those found on most boats in this class and will hold enough rode for deepwater wrecks and reefs. There's a molded-in bow pulpit, as well as twin bow cleats, which pull up when you want them and sit flush when you don't. All anglers will like this boat's fish-hauling capacity. Under the bow seats sit a pair of overboard-draining, lockable 125-quart insulated boxes that can also secure valuable gear.

Under the L-settee, there's a 150-quart box, and in the aft deck, a pair of 100-quart boxes pump out via macerator pumps.

Glacier Bays have always been known for stout construction, and the Renegade 2740 continues the tradition with one tweak: The bulkheads and stringers, cored with wood on older models, are now built of composite. Pipe work on the hardtop is downright massive, and by removing the integrated trash bin in the starboard inwale, you can get a glimpse of the top leg's through-bolted, nylock-locking-nut secured washer-backed mounts. This top is as solid as they come. It's also built smart, with an integrated radio box, LED illumination, life-jacket stowage and an aft spreader light.

The aft jump seats open with a solid ker-chunk, not a wimpy click. Plop down on the seat, and you'll find that it's far more comfy and built with far beefier parts than most foldaway jump seats.

The large L-settee serves as seating for four while on the cruise yet also provides an excellent aft-facing bait-watching spot. The bow cockpit seating is spacious enough for four people to sit comfortably. On most DCs of this size, there's room for only a pair of posteriors to plop down up here. How did the guys at Glacier Bay make it so roomy? It's impossible to wave a magic wand at a boat and add room, but someone over there has figured out how to do it. ~

■ PERFORMANCE		
RPM	MPH	GPH
3,000	17.7	7.9
3,500	21.5	9.4
4,000	25.9	12.8
4,500	29.6	15.5
5,000	34.0	19.8
5,500	40.1	26.7
5,600	42.6	28.7
With twin Yamaha F150s		