



Bertram 360 Open

Bertram's sea-beating hull design is tamed with Italian style in this future classic of a sports fisher.

WORDS TOBY HAWS

In the same way that anyone interested in Premier League football would instantly be able to recognise or put forward the best pitches in the world, albeit with a small amount of personal opinion, so too would anyone interested in sports fishing instantly recognise the brand name of Bertram as a leading figure in the building of quality sports fishers. Though the company actually started following the winning of the 1960 Miami-Nassau powerboat race by a 30 ft wooden prototype designed by C Raymond Hunt for Miami yacht broker Richard Bertram, the constant 24-degree deadrise incorporated brought about the modern deep-V hull design, with its associated

seakeeping abilities. Brought into the forward-looking Ferretti Group in 1998, Bertram has further strengthened its range of deep-sea fishing yachts, the latest being the completely new 360 Open and Express models.

Variations on the same theme, while the Express version looks for more of a leisure angle without the tuna tower and associated fishing rig, it is the Open version that would appeal more to the fishing enthusiast and the model to watch. One of the immediate benefits for Bertram on its succession to the Ferretti Group was the instant access it had to the world-class designers with which Ferretti had close working relationships. This meant that the 360 Open, being the first Open

to be developed since Ferretti's involvement, benefited from a large development and design team that worked on the strengths of Bertram's heritage and target market to produce a model that not only slips easily into its line-up, but would instantly become a market leader through its high standard of finish and usability.

To follow in the footsteps of its predecessors, it was imperative that the 360 was to be a yacht that would perform well in adverse conditions, especially those often encountered by sports fishers when far off the coast. To ensure a balanced running in adverse conditions, the engineering team created a sharp entry to the deep-V hull, which balanced with a substantial displacement creates a

reassuring stability when cutting through waves. To counter any loss of top end speed through this seakeeping initiative, wider chines enable for a shorter 'time to plane' to counteract and improve on the high prow characteristic often associated with the profile of sports fishers. Bringing a healthy dose of slick powerboat and luxury cruiser mentality to the design of the 360, Zuccon International Project was given the task of reinterpreting what makes a Bertram the brand it is, while also adding a touch of contemporary styling and comfort for the pleasure of those who want for more than simply a strong fighting chair. Working to this end, Zuccon was able to create the two model options from the one



Innovative bolster movement changes cockpit seating dynamics.



Shoji screens separate the master berth without darkening the saloon.



Tidy galley is simple and well contained.

profile, as without the tuna tower and spreaders the 360 loses its dedicated sports fisher look to rest comfortably beside other express cruisers in the harbour.

With the full beam open cockpit fitting flush into the transom, the raised helm station to starboard is flanked by comfortable seating to keep those watching the fishing proceedings safe from getting under the feet of enthusiastic hunters. So as to offer a number of different seating options from the same units, a neat system of moveable bolsters is incorporated around the collapsible table to port. Both benches incorporate a moveable

seat back that converts from an aft-facing, bait-watching settee for two to a sturdy forward-facing position for less-than-ideal conditions or when seated around the folding table. Further adjustment is possible as both these seats can be raised and lowered by pressing a button, so as to allow a forward view for everyone. The large helm seat also protects the security of the pilot with a bolster conversion, while in addition to the full air-conditioning blower for the pilot, the open-air pass through the centre of the windshield allows throughput of air when moving. Servicing the needs of the



The spacious saloon dinette-cum-berth.



The Bertram's legendary deep-V ensures maximum stability underway.

enthusiast, however, a live well and transom kill box are built-in, with an additional option of a further live well of freezer bait and tackle station to choose from, options normally not considered for yachts under 15 metres. So as to keep the view aft clear for the helm to aid the lucky fisherman in positioning the yacht, the ladders up to the crow's nest at the top of the tower are incorporated into the rear supports, like the rope rigging ladders in ships of yore. Simple in its functionality, access up or through the boat is opened up so that when action stations are called, there is no danger of over-enthusiasm spoiling the day.

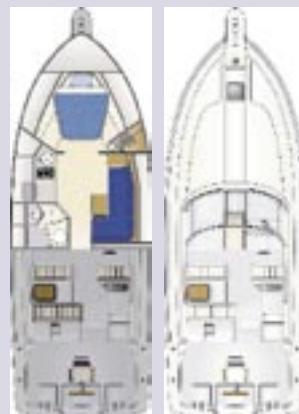
Though as noted, Bertram is respected for its sports fisher heritage, that is not to say that those engaged in sports fishing would never desire a bit of comfort aboard, particularly after a hard couple of hours in the chair. In addressing this and to also open up the attraction of longer family passages, Zuccon's interior is a world away from that which many associate as a sports fisher interior. Maximising the space created by the four-metre beam, a single saloon layout

incorporates an L-shaped divan dinette to starboard, facing a functional galley to port and a generous head with separate shower cubicle in the aft port quarter. Cherrywood is matched in its warmth with cream fabrics and contrasted by the dark faux-granite galley counter. A forward bulkhead-mounted flatscreen television offers entertainment for those seated on the banquette, which also converts to a double bed when the table is unfolded and lowered. Above this multifunctional lounge, a full-length rodbox creates room for the more prized of equipment, adding to the locking rodbox sited on the hardtop tower. Separated from the saloon by cherrywood *shoji* screens, the forepeak stateroom is taken straight out of the design of a luxury yacht. Centrally placed, the island bed is raised to take full advantage of the bow's flare, and to allow for much needed storage beneath the cherrywood edging. Overhead cherrywood cabinetry and open shelves running along the waterline offer extra storage and useful space for personal possessions or decorative items — a concept probably not overly

considered in Bertram sports fishers of the past.

The 360 Open demonstrates what the combination of traditional seakeeping heritage with contemporary aesthetic and functional comforts can offer to those chasing the fruits of the oceans. Taking the tradition of the Bertram sports fisher that built up the brand, Ferretti's guidance through the eyes of Zuccon has taken those popular characteristics and run with them to a new level. In creating a boat that not only caters for the complete and easy-access enjoyment of the sport of fishing, but also furnishing the guest with safe seating, useful facilities and comfortable accommodation, one could be tempted to ask whether sacrifices have been made at some point to allow for all this satisfaction.

But with the use of modern design, the smaller size of all things electrical and an injection of Italian style, the all-American Bertram in no way loses out to haute couture, but rather demonstrates that there is no point in using the same old bait to catch your prey — as your quarry changes so must you adapt your lure. 



Specifications

LOA	12 metres
Beam	4.15 metres
Draft	1.6 metres
Air draft	3 metres
Displacement	12.8 tonnes
Fuel capacity	1535 litres
Water capacity	310.4 litres
Engine options	Twin 420 hp CAT C7 (standard) Twin 460 hp CAT C7 (optional) Twin 575 hp Volvo D9 (optional)

Maximum speed 36 knots

Superstructure and interior design
Zuccon International Project

Guide price
US\$TBC

Bertram boats are built in the US
www.bertram.com

Distributed in the UAE by Duboats
www.duboats.com
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