# Find Your Center

The evolution of the age-old, center console design continues to improve its versatility and usability for a wide range of watersport enthusiasts.

By Zuzana Prochazka

enter console boats elicit images of everything from a single-engine, 20-foot runabout to a 60-foot, carbon-infused, luxury fishing machine with quad outboards dominating the transom. Each year, builders school us on how versatile center consoles are, how much they've evolved and what models technically fall under that moniker.

Your father's center console has morphed, and it's not hard to find upscale features offered as standard equipment. Multiple and larger engines, gyrostabilizers, air-conditioned cockpits, side gates cut into gunwales, full outdoor galleys, and complete interior accommodations are just some of the evolutions you can have on what used to be a fairly utilitarian design. That means these boats are asked to do double and triple duty as fishing boats, dive boats, tow boats, weekenders and crowd-pleasing entertaining platforms. Powerful, quiet, fuel-sipping propulsion has enabled the center console to go just about anywhere, get there quickly and maybe even stay the weekend due to numerous lux amenities so cruisers won't feel like they're camping. Whether you're an old salt with multiple center consoles under your belt or haven't considered one yet, check out some of the latest designs. Maybe one of these new models will leave you perfectly centered.

### **SEAVEE 322Z**

SeaVee's new 322Z center console (32' 9" LOA, 9' 6" beam) has some innovation up its sleeve. The hull, stringers and bulkhead construction is a vacuum-assisted resin transfer infusion that is not only a more environmentally friendly manufacturing process, but it also leaves the design light and strong for better handling and fuel economy. The cross-ventilated, twin-stepped hull has a four-port air induction system. It uses a central air reservoir to produce and maintain the necessary airstream that reduces the power-robbing drag of water flow. The new design replaces the 320Z and is powered by twin Mercury Verado 300-hp outboards. The 322Z is offered in two configurations: the Open and Luxury Editions (LE). The Open is a tournament fishing machine with a wide deck layout and options such as four live wells, additional fishboxes, an upper station with full controls, and a range of leaning post designs. The LE adds molded-in forward seating and optional rear benches, loungers with electric backrests, an oversized hardtop for more shade, a freshwater shower, and a head. A side boarding door for divers is optional. With many standard features, this is a worthy replacement for a popular predecessor. seaveeboats.com



### **BONADEO EXPRESS 45 WALKAROUND**

The Kevlar-infused Bonadeo Express 45 Walkaround (44' 11" LOA, 13' 6" beam) is the new flagship of the Florida-based, semi-custom builder that lets you spec it your way. With classic sportfisherman aesthetics, the new 45 shows off plenty of deck space and full mezzanine seating tucked under a serious tuna tower. Below the cockpit sole, you'll find a pair of 700-quart fishboxes accompanied by an expansive center storage compartment. A dedicated mechanical area houses a diesel generator, a 700-gallon fuel tank and a Seakeeper 6 gyrostabilizer along with most of the ship's systems.

Quad 400-hp Mercury outboards are nested behind a 72-gallon livewell, and a side door provides access to a dock or to the water for divers and swimmers. The custom interior below is a mix of traditional teak and white surfaces and offers a galley, a full head, a dinette that converts to a queen berth in the bow, and an entertainment space aft with another large berth and TV. If it gets too stuffy below, you can always sleep on the bow sunpad or ample aft and serve up some beverages and snacks at the wet bar behind the elevated helm. The first hull is scheduled to splash this month. bonadeoboatworks.com





### **VANQUISH 26 CENTER CONSOLE**

Handcrafted from advanced engineering, high-quality materials and innovative hull design, the Vanquish 26 Center Console (26' 8" LOA, 8' beam) delivers an exceptionally smooth ride in a user-friendly, fuel-efficient boat. Powered by a 250-hp Mercury Verado outboard, she can reach speeds of up to 52 mph. Her voluminous interior offers seating for eight, a large forward cabin that sleeps two, an enclosed head, and plenty of storage. The U-shaped forward seating, sheltered by a dodger to protect guests from the sun, is the perfect spot to sit back and relax. A forward-facing double bench creates an inviting social area. The teak helm features an acrylic windshield with a comfortable bench seat and a pair of multifunction displays, and the new lightweight hardtop can store any extra onboard electronics. Spend the weekend cruising with the family or opt for the fishing package—her versatility knows no bounds. vanquishboats.com

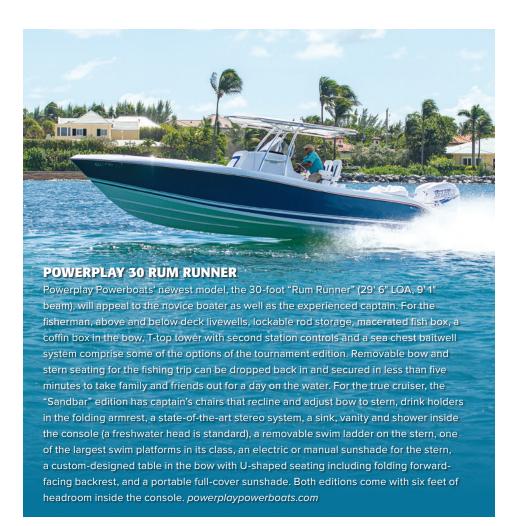
### SOLACE 345

Stephen Dougherty's SOLACE line of boats is ramping up in its Edgewater, Florida, facility and starts with the 345 (34' LOA, 10' 6" beam).

The model features a patentpending "FishThru" transom design where the hydraulic aft swim platform extends four feet beyond the transom door and between the twin outboard engines. The extra length adds a formidable space that allows divers and swimmers a safe and comfortable entry into the water. Dual 52-gallon, fully finished, pressurized livewells with tuna tubes sit to port and starboard. The bait prep center includes twin stainless steel drawer refrigerators, an electric grill, a bait rigging bin, and a freshwater sink with a pullout shower. That's a lot going on in the center of the cockpit.

Add sleeping accommodations for two, a microwave, a second station on the T-top, and ample rod storage, and you're in fishing heaven. When the fishing is done for the day, relax on any number of seating options from three-wide at the helm to the hydraulic mezzanine seat to the sunpad ahead of the console.

The new 345 is expected to be a perfect balance for work and play. *solaceboats.com* 





### Marlow Prowler 375 Havana

The Marlow Prowler 375 Havana (37' 6" LOA, 11' 8" beam) continues to evolve from its initial introduction in 2010. The newest model is powered by triple Yamaha 300-hp outboards that, per the builder, will get you to where you're going at speeds up to 40 knots. With her deep-V hull, she'll part the waves easily and then ride on the flatter aft sections that offer good stability. The latest Havana has a larger console than the debut model had with ample dash space to accommodate twin MFDs as well as engine displays and more. Two captain's chairs offer personalized comfort, and the windshield deflects spray regardless of speed. Impressive features include gyrostabilization, a generator, refrigeration, livewell, and a transom door for safety and convenience. Although technically a center console open fisherman, the Havana offers a full interior with accommodations in the V-berth, an enclosed head, facing settees, and a galley. The interior has more than six feet of standing headroom and plenty of natural light so you won't feel buried below. *marlowyachts.com* 

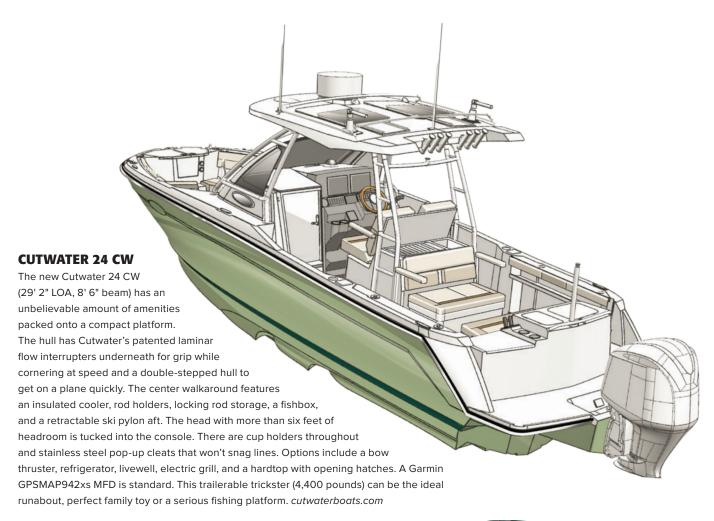


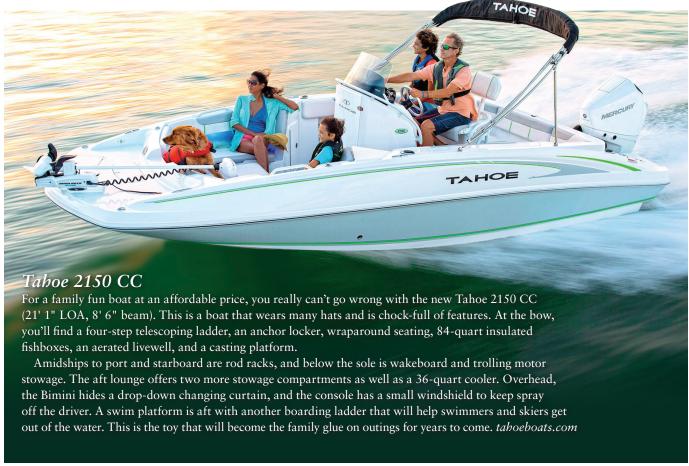




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### **ROBALO R272**

Second largest in a line of seven center console models, the Robalo R272 (27' 4" LOA, 9' 6" beam) is a lively package that reaches 40 knots with standard twin Yamaha 200-hp outboards. The Georgia-built speedster has a Kevlar-reinforced, variable deep-V hull that creates what Robalo calls their "feather-soft ride," which is stable and dry. Uncluttered on deck, the R272 has a flip-up transom bench seat for three and tubes tucked under the gunwale that hold six rods. A composite hardtop has four rod holders, lights and optional outriggers. Other cool add-ons include Garmin or Simrad electronics and a bait prep station that doubles as a wet bar. A dive door is to port, and the forward seats can be used as a casting platform with the cushions removed. Troll five lines simultaneously without tangling. A 30-gallon livewell will keep the bait fresh, and the high freeboard will keep anglers and kids safer at



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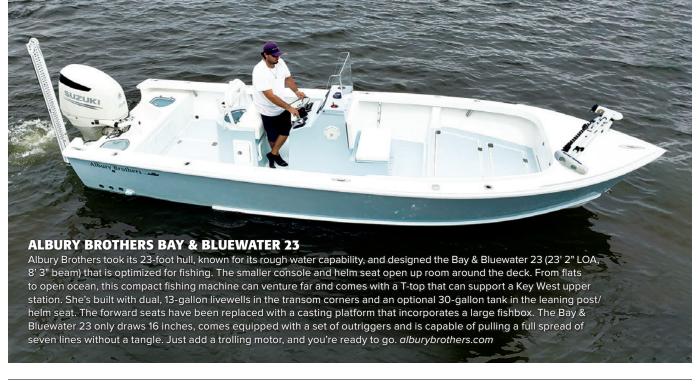
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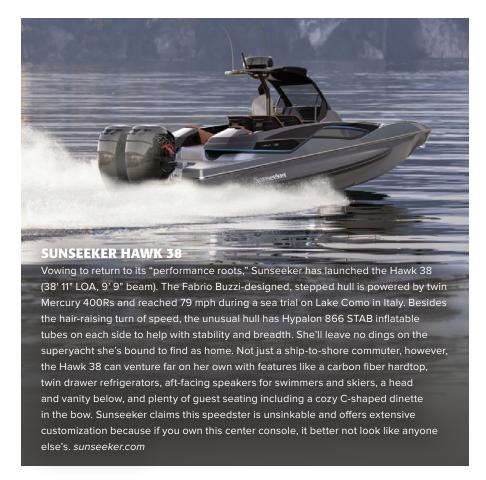
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14' 8" beam) is the company's newest luxury sportfishing flagship, and this "mega center console" is the latest addition to its popular LXF line. The 530 LXF is built on Scout's carbon fiber, epoxy-infused, double-stepped, fuel-efficient hull. The epoxy infusion process provides strength for stability while reducing overall weight. Electrically actuated port and starboard beach platforms, when deployed, extend the cockpit width to 17 feet for more room to entertain and play in the water.

Available in quad, quint or hex engine packages, the 530 LXF is packed with standard features that include a Seakeeper 6 gyrostabilizer, a unique glass helm, a cockpit island, aft-facing bar stools that retract and stow, and a cooler. A mini-galley offers a sink and cutting board as well as a granite countertop. A Fischer Panda 15kW generator and 16,000 BTU air conditioner/heater (in the cabin and helm area) ensure everyone is comfortable, and the electric sliding sunroof lets the sun shine in. scoutboats.com



### Pursuit S 408

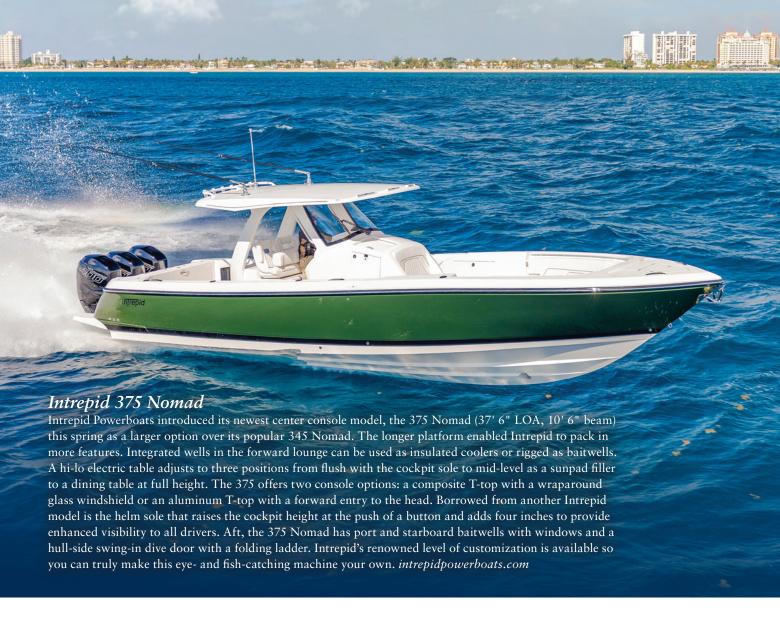
The S 408 (LOA 42' 10", 13' beam) has a new power package featuring triple Yamaha F425 outboards with Yamaha Command Link Plus display. Three captain's seats face a Garmin-equipped helm with two MFDs, sonar, open array radar, autopilot, and more. The bow includes wraparound seating with a pop-up table and a full sunpad. Anglers have 12 rod holders, lighted Oceana Blue 44-gallon recirculating livewell, in-deck fishboxes with overboard discharge, reinforcement plates and wiring for downriggers, aft cockpit prep center with sink, transom freezer box and electric grill and plenty of tackle storage. The cabin has forward seating that converts to a V-berth, a flat-screen TV, air conditioning, refrigerator, microwave, and an enclosed head. A rugged hardtop with windshield offers protection. The S 408 is an all-around boat for overnights or

weekend getaways. pursuitboats.com

### **NORTHCOAST 280CC**

Referred to as "a Caryon runner's dream and a tuna's nightmare," the new NorthCoast 280CC (28' LOA, 9' 1" beam) is the largest of the Rhode Island builder's models. The coastal angler comes standard with a pair of 250-hp Hondas that deliver a 45-knot top end and a 28-knot cruise with a 250-nautical mile range. The deep-V hull slices the waves and gets on plane quickly with a 24-degree deadrise. At rest, the flat platform is stable and minimizes fatigue as the fishing day rolls along. There's no shortage of baitwells with a 25-gallon well in the leaning portable range 20-gallon well centered on the transom and a 91-gallon sub-sole well for larger bait. A huge fishbox with a macerator pump will store what the bait brings in. Forward seating under a hardtop, lots of storage and a console with a portable head will make a great day out for three or more. northcoastboats.com

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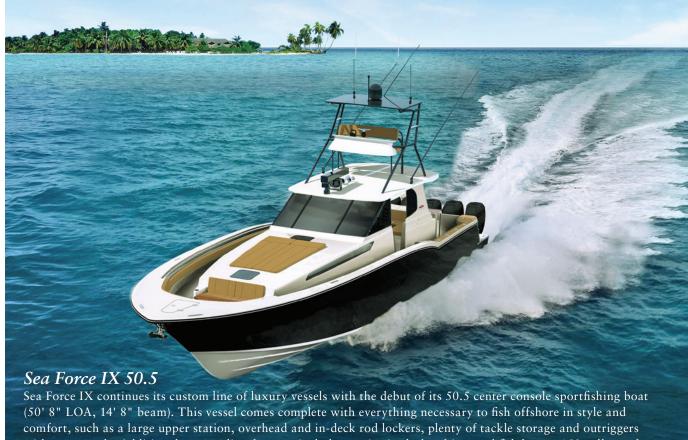




### **CIGARETTE 59 TIRRANNA**

If showmanship is your game, look no further than the new Cigarette Tirranna (59' LOA, 14' beam) that takes "flashy" to a new level. Powered by six Mercury 400Rs, the 59-footer has a combined 2,400 horsepower to get you to the moon and back. The jet-black hull is capped by a carbon fiber hardtop, and the boat is accessorized with a seating configuration in fire engine-red upholstery. By contrast, the Poltrona Frau leather interior is black and white—more subtle but sure to impress.

Despite her bold, knife-like hull shape, the Tirranna offers practical features for family outings, such as an aft deck summer galley and a full-beam aft swim platform ahead of the engine array. The top speed is reported as 72 mph but when cruising around 40, the Tirranna can expect to have a 750-plus-mile range, so she's no slouch in speed or distance. The long, aggressive-looking hull is built to do well in all conditions but just in case it gets rocky out there, a Seakeeper 9 gyrostabilizer comes standard. *cigaretteracing.com* 



with teaser reels. Additional outstanding features include massive in-deck refrigerated fish boxes, 150 gallons of total baitwell capacity and a Seakeeper gyrostabilizer.

The huge forward cabin has room for two for a quick weekend getaway. The first 50.5 currently under construction will be powered by a dual station, quint Mercury 400-hp configuration, while others may opt for a quad Yamaha 425 XTO setup. Regardless of power, her 1,000 gallons of gas will provide the range to fish remote venues, and the expected 60 mph top speed will give you more time "lines in."

Since each Sea Force IX is custom-built, the 50.5 can be transformed into a recreational dive platform for serious cruising in total luxury. seaforceix.com

### **WELLCRAFT 352 AND 162 FISHERMAN**

Wellcraft recently introduced a new flagship to its Fisherman line: the 352 (35' 6" LOA, 10' 8" beam). There's some serious innovation built in, including a T-top design that supports a second station up top with hinged feet so you can lower it to sneak under bridges. Access is easy with a well-designed pipework ladder. Power choices include twin or triple packages with Yamaha 350-425s or 350-hp to 400-hp Mercury Verados. The 352 features plenty of seating options, fish and tackle boxes, a 35-gallon clear curved livewell, side and transom doors, and more. Inside the console is a bed, head, sink, and, potentially, a Seakeeper stabilizer.

The baby of the Fisherman line deserves a mention because it's a different design that will appeal to another part of the fishing spectrum. The trailerable 162 (16' 4" LOA, 7' beam) has a high freeboard and a hidden flange under the rub rail that deflects spray. This flange also creates a handhold along the hull so you can move her along a trailer or sandbar with ease. The 162 has five seats plus a convertible seat/casting platform. The removable windshield allows the boat to stow neatly in a garage on the trailer that comes standard. wellcraft.com





### **MIDNIGHT EXPRESS 43 OPEN CARBON EDITION**

Although not the first carbon fiber center console by Midnight Express, the 43 Open Carbon Edition (43' LOA, 12' 6" beam) that launches this month is a special one. The full carbon-fiber model will have five Mercury outboard motors. Combine this power with the lightweight construction that saves 2,500 pounds over the previous version, and you have a stiffer hull that punches through rough water at a higher top speed—approximately 8 to 10 mph over her predecessor. That means it's possible to nudge 100 mph on this new boat, which is a hair-raising proposition. As with all Midnight Express models, this one is fully customizable with personalized flooring, interior cabin layouts, extra fuel tank capacity, and variable seating options. The Miami-based builder offers models 34 to 60 feet in length, and if you want to be noticed when you arrive, a fully carbon center console on steroids is not a bad way to go. *midnightboats.com* 



### **OCEAN 1 ROGUE 330**

The Ocean 1 Rogue 330 (32' 10" LOA, 10' 3" beam) is two boats in one, sort of. Engineered to provide top performance with supreme comfort, the stepped hull combines a lightweight cored composite construction with inflatable side tubes for exceptional stability. The Rogue 330 can go fishing and off to dinner without missing a beat. Because of the soft sides, some superyacht owners are eyeing this design as the perfect, bump-free, scratch-free tender. With twin Yamaha 300-hp outboards, expect a top speed in excess of 50 knots and with 275 gallons of fuel capacity, she can run all-day exploration trips in waters where the mothership can't venture. Seating abounds with two that foldout across the transom, two integrated into the port and starboard hull sides aft and one atop the cooler that rests behind the post. A double bench accommodates the driver and a guest behind a well-laid-out dash. Forward are two lounges with flip-up backrests, but if you remove the cushions, the whole bow becomes a casting platform. oceanfyachts.com





### **INVINCIBLE 35 CATAMARAN**

Invincible Boats adds its new 35-foot catamaran (35' 11" LOA, 11' 10" beam) to the 2019 lineup. The Morrelli & Melvin-designed center console is the eighth model overall and the third in the catamaran line. Multiple engine packages will include twins from various manufacturers, but a quad configuration will also be available. Each option is balanced to maintain a perfect running angle with no need for negative trim or ballast. Separate coffin boxes will remain standard as on the larger 40-foot model; however, there will be an option for an integrated console coffin as well as additional seating choices. Invincible's patent-pending, hybrid, semi-asymmetric, multihull design is touted as more maneuverable with steady "lean-in" turns at a range of speeds. This enhances stability and safety beyond traditional hull designs. The 35-foot cat purportedly provides more space than a 39-foot monohull on its single-level deck, which is sure to enhance its fishability. *invincibleboats.com* 



### **REGULATOR 26XO**

A "crossover" is how Regulator Marine describes its new 26XO (26' 9" LOA, 9' 3" beam) that can go from lakes to skinny coastal waters to offshore fishing grounds. The 26XO honors Regulator's commitment to fishing but is focused on family time and bringing new people into boating. The 26XO has more than 122 square feet of deck space, plenty of seating and a good amount of stowage space. Equipped with a single Yamaha 300 outboard, one Garmin 16 MFD, a 280-quart fishbox, a hardtop with a wraparound windshield, and a tackle center, the compact 26XO is a comprehensive package right out the door. Options include a factory-installed, 10-foot PowerPole for shallow water anchoring, a removable watersports tow bar and a Minn Kota trolling motor on the bow. Add built-in coolers, a stand-up head and a swim platform with a retractable ladder and the family can play all day. And with a 14-inch draft (with the engine up) there are few places this little gem can't go. regulatormarine.com



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