

Revo 601 – Super Fly



The Revo 601 Super Fly is by no means the first boat in New Zealand to be built from polyethylene (plastic).

But, unlike more familiar rotationally-moulded boats and kayaks, it uses high molecular weight polyethylene (HMWPE) panels, which is a New Zealand first. It is also the first HMWPE boat put into New Zealand survey and the first boat in New Zealand fitted with Suzuki's new high-thrust DF60AV three-cylinder four-stroke outboard.

The Revo 601 was designed and built for a very specific application: saltwater fly fishing. Designer Jim Pauling worked with Brett Patterson, who heads up Sportfish Adventures, and Matthew Von Sturmer, from specialist Auckland fly-fishing

outfitter and guiding service Rod & Reel, to develop the boat.

Although destined to charter-fish out of Auckland in conjunction with Von Sturmer and Rod & Reel, the Revo 601 was also designed with the tropical Pacific in mind, specifically the vast lagoon of Aitutaki in the Cook Islands, renowned for its hard-fighting bonefish. Bonefish are a fly-fishing prize, and Sportfish Adventures sends tour groups of keen fly-fishers to Aitutaki all year round. With the addition of a poling platform in the stern, this boat would be ideal for Aitutaki's lagoon, or anywhere else this style of fishing is practiced.

Stealthy approach

The boat's most noticeable fishing feature is the raised casting platform in the bow. This gives a fly-fisher a raised position from which to cast a fly, the U-shaped backrest providing welcome support and security. This platform is handy for any sort of lure fishing, not just fly fishing.

The Revo 601 draws very little water, so can fish over sand flats and nose into the shallows. HPWME construction has resulted in an extremely quiet hull, making the boat ideal for stealth fishing, and the plastic is also tough, which is reassuring when exploring shallow water where contact with the bottom is always possible. The Suzuki's high-thrust lower unit is handy here too, offering excellent control at low speed, especially in reverse should you need to back away from an obstacle in a hurry.

Long waterline

The 601's hull design is long and narrow, rather like the pangas or longboats many readers will be familiar with from the islands of the South Pacific. Like a longboat, the hull is easily driven and an excellent load carrier. The rear half of the hull is rather dory-like, but the bow is much more conventional, with a steepish forefoot and modest reverse chine/spray rail. The boat has a long waterline for its 5.99m length, which enhances its ability to plane at low speed and all but eliminates bow lift during the transition onto the plane.

Planing is achieved at around 10 knots boat speed, but once on the plane the hull holds level right down to seven or eight knots. Apply the power and the boat instantly slides onto the plane. Acceleration is strong, but performance tapers off towards the top of the rev range. We saw around 27-knots maximum on test day, which is ample for this style of boat. A proposed propeller change might add a couple or three knots, but there may be a trade-off in acceleration and/or time to get onto the plane. According to Jim Pauling, this hull will perform quite adequately with just 40hp, and with an all-up weight of 750kg on its unbraked, single-axle aluminium trailer, it's easy to tow.

A unique feature of the Revo 601 is a sealed air buoyancy ring right around the boat at gunwale height. The foam is part of the structure, added as the boat was being built. It helps the Revo 601 pass survey, ensuring it floats right way up when full of water, as well as providing welcome stiffness to the hull. The HPWPE material is itself buoyant, so the boat has plenty of reserve buoyancy.



Specifications:

LOA:	5.99m
Beam:	1.758m
Draft:	approx 0.2m
Weight:	approx 750kg incl trailer
Construction:	HMWPE sheets, welded over bearer and transverse
Engine:	Suzuki DF60AV 60hp four-stroke
Fuel:	2 x 25-litre tote tanks
Cruising speed:	12-25 knots
Max design speed:	29.6 knots
Packages from:	\$26,780, base open boat, tiller-steer.



Above: A snag-free casting platform makes presenting flies easy, while the support rail provides welcome stability.
Left: It might be only a 60hp Suzuki, but it proved more than enough.





The clean, uncluttered lines of the Revo Super Fly are captured here.

Sweet handler

The Revo 601 handles very nicely. The throttle-gear shift is a little stiff, a fault many centre-console boats share with their convoluted cable routing, but the steering is light and responsive. The turning circle is excellent and control in reverse outstanding. I enjoyed carving turns in the 601, which feels serenely unruffled, while pushing it through wakes produced very little bow lift. It was a calm day, but the hull gave the impression it is a soft rider.

A very noticeable feature of the high-thrust motor is how well it pulls in reverse. A long, narrow boat can be a bit of a pig to steer when going backwards, but the Suzuki offers so much thrust, it literally drags the stern of the boat around, making it much easier to manage when coming alongside or berthing.

The choice of HMWPE construction was an informed one. Pauling chose it because HMWPE's very robust, so can withstand the general wear and tear that goes with charter fishing. The boat could equally well be constructed using



The dashboard accommodates a comprehensive range of instruments and switch panels.



Top left: Railblaza Starport receptacles are spread around the boat and will accept a wide range of accessories. Top right: Cleats are retractable – if a flyline can snag on anything it will!



The console seat is well padded and comfortable – perfect for time spent changing locations.

Rêvolutionary 601

STRONG

UNSINKABLE

LOW MAINTENANCE

ANTI UV

STRONG: Engineered in super tough high molecular weight polyethylene, virtually indestructible.

UNSINKABLE: Built in sealed buoyancy compartments plus the natural positive buoyancy of HMWPE makes it impossible to sink.

LOW MAINTENANCE: Naturally resistant to electrolysis, corrosion, marine growth, etc. Just hose it down!

ANTI UV: UV resistant materials will not degrade in the elements.

Specifications
LOA: 5.99m
Beam: 1.76m
Disp: 750kg
Built to MSA survey

Designed by
Rêvo Boats
Built by
PFP09
POLYMER FABRICATED PRODUCTS

Photo: Jason Milne

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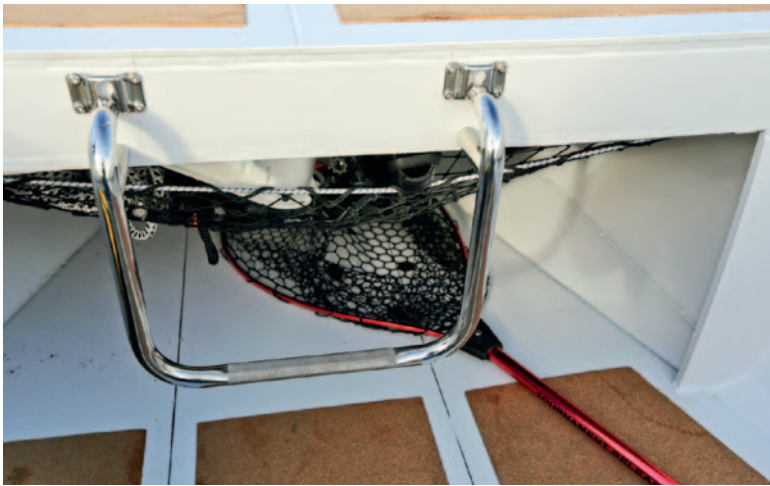


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Left: There is plenty of room for larger items under the casting platform, while the suspended storage mesh takes care of smaller items. Right: The anchoring system is very simple; a drogue can also be deployed from the recessed cleat to the rear.

are also made from HMWPE, computer cut and then welded together. Because it's a relatively narrow boat, the console is wide enough only for the helmsman, who stands up to drive. Motorcycle-style seating behind the helmsman will accommodate two people sitting astride, and there's a padded seat on top of the locker in front of the console for another passenger, or two at a squeeze. The boat's twin tote tanks slide neatly into transom recesses either side of the rear seat.

The dashboard has room for a reasonably comprehensive range of flush-mounted Garmin and Raymarine instruments, including a GPS-chartplotter-fishfinder and a separate GPS-engine data display, along with the VHF radio, a pair of switch panels and the throttle control. There are no analogue gauges. A large compass is hung off the back of the console beside the wheel (part of the survey requirements), while one of the boat's two batteries is housed in the console locker, with the second living inside the aft-seat locker along the boat's centreline.

Storage options

Dry storage can be at a premium in an open boat, and because it's long and narrow, the 601's internal volume isn't much greater than the volume of, say, a 4.6m boat with a wider beam. However, the 601 is reasonably well endowed for its

size: there's ample space for tackle bags, fly-rod tubes and other gear under the forward casting platform and quite a bit of dry stowage under the front- and rear-seat squabs. In addition, an open storage locker in the console accommodates a fire extinguisher and gives access to the bilge, while a shallow underfloor wet locker is used to stow the sea anchor. Further, there is fly-rod storage in racks along the sides and a plethora of rail- and flush-mounted Railblaza Starport receptacles all over the boat. These accept a wide range of accessories, including rod, drink, cellphone and tablet holders, and much more – a versatile storage solution for an open boat.

Anglers plus guide

Under normal operating conditions Super-Fly will fish one or two anglers, plus a guide. While underway, the anglers often occupy the padded seat forward of the console, or perhaps straddle the rear seat if conditions are unpleasant. Anglers can take turns at the casting platform in the bows with its stainless steel backrest. It's quite secure up there, with the U-shaped stainless steel backrest offering a decent handhold and the non-slip deck providing good footing. The boat's simple interior is uncluttered, and, importantly, up on the casting platform there is very little to snag a fly line – even the bow cleat is retractable. 🦉

