

BROAD-ANGLE **BASS BOAT**

**THE WIDE STANCE OF BASS TRACKER'S
NEW PROTEAM 190 TX MAKES FOR AN
IMPRESSIVE ENTRY-LEVEL BASS BOAT**



**PERFORMANCE
TESTED**



By Go Boating Test Team

The brand-new Bass Tracker ProTeam 190 TX reminds us of the lyrics of a popular song: “fat-bottomed girls you make the rockin’ world go ‘round.” In this case, however, an acceptable substitution might be “fat-bottomed boats you make the fishin’ world go ‘round.”

For the ProTeam 190 TX, Tracker basically took the 185 ProTeam and widened the bottom to 60 inches and the beam to 89 inches, which gives you a wider stance for more stability and an increased casting area. The extra girth also allows the ProTeam 190 TX to accommodate the heavier four-stroke engines that are all the rage these days. The craft is rated for as much as 135 hp, which, considering the light weight of

this aluminum fisher, will deliver peppy performance.

The platform is built using Tracker’s all-welded Revolution hull, which is designed with a variable deadrise starting at about 20 degrees at the bow and ending with 12 degrees at the transom for a smooth and dry ride. Full-length longitudinal stringers, integrated hull construction and compressed foam injection give you a tough and rigid structure that cuts through the water cleanly and quietly.

While it’s worth noting the ProTeam 190 TX is bigger in just about every area than all of Tracker’s other modified-V bass and panfish boats, it’s also good to know that it comes to the water armed with many of the features Tracker has found serious anglers demand.

The rear casting deck features a pair of insulated

» BASS TRACKER PROTEAM 190 TX



SPECIFICATIONS

Length	18 ft., 8 in.
Beam	7 ft., 5 in.
Capacity	5 people
Hull weight	1,075 lbs.
Fuel capacity	21 gals.
Maximum power	135 hp
Deadrise (@ transom)	12 degrees

its notable performance numbers with relatively lower horsepower motors, however, it's easy to tell that you're dealing with an aluminum craft.

Anglers are notorious for cramming gear and tackle into every little space, and the 190 TX's aluminum construction allows designers to get a little more out of the interior in terms of storage. There are two large locking rod storage compartments long enough for 7-foot rods on the outboard sides of the forward casting deck. There are two more compartments in between dedicated to dry storage. On the aft casting deck there are two insulated storage areas as well as room for three standard 3700 Plano tackle trays. There are even little storage compartments under all the seats in the cockpit.

Even though the 190 TX is priced for affordability, it comes standard with all the bass boat essentials — including a robust 18-gallon aerated recirculating livewell with timer and a pumpout system. The craft even comes standard with a powder-coated trailer with a swing-away tongue, chrome wheels and GalvaShield protection.

outboard storage areas where you can keep drinks, snacks and bait on ice as well as room for three standard 3700 Plano tackle trays. A centerline pedestal accepts one of the two standard deluxe fold-down fishing chairs, which feature composite frames.

At the forward end of the rear casting deck, just aft of the cockpit seats, is one of the most comprehensive livewells you'll find in this size of boat. The 18-gallon divided livewell has an aerator that can be run on a timer (typically 1 minute on, 3 minutes off) as well as a recirculation system that uses an air venturi to keep the water in the well oxygenated while you're making longer runs. The livewell also has a pumpout feature to make it easier to pull your catch out when you're ready.

Forward of the rear casting area is a newly designed seating setup for the driver and a couple of passengers. The main driver and passenger seats are comfortable and form fitting — and there's a third fold-down buddy seat in the middle for an additional passenger. When not in use as a seat, the back folds down to provide a step to the rear casting platform (it also has two cupholders built into it). All three seats have a stain-resistant top coating — and there's gear storage under each seat.

The console puts all the customary gauges and instruments within easy view and reach for the driver, and we especially liked the Lowrance X-37 fish finder, which is made exclusively for Tracker and includes surface temperature, battery monitor and swivel.

The main casting deck forward has another centerline pedestal base for the other fishing seat and features the main storage for your gear. Outboard are a pair of locking 7-foot rod lockers with more room than you will probably ever really need — but it's always nice to have extra room. In between is a pair of centerline dry storage lockers for PFDs and other items you want to keep away from the water. All of the compartments have aluminum hatches, and the entire deck is covered with marine-grade cut-pile carpeting.

All the way forward is a foot-operated 12v MotorGuide trolling motor with a 42-inch shaft and 46 pounds of thrust. There's also a small nonskid surface at the apex of the bow for added utility and durability.

▶ In most cases an aluminum boat looks like an aluminum boat. Bare gray aluminum, hard-edge corners, bulging welds and bumpy rivets are par for the course. In the case of the Bass Tracker ProTeam 190 TX, however, a lot of people don't realize that it's an aluminum boat at first glance. Its sleek low profile, clean welds and baked-on painted sides and gunnels make it easy to mistake it for a fiberglass bass boat.

When you look at the craft's weight or



PERFORMANCE

We had two people aboard and a full tank of fuel (about 21 gallons or 131 pounds) for our test of the ProTeam 190 TX. For power we had a 90 hp two-stroke Mercury OptiMax 90 spinning a three-blade aluminum propeller.

Even though 90 hp is considered modest in most cases, we were still expecting impressive performance due to the craft's lightweight aluminum construction. Acceleration was decent with a time to plane of 4.7 seconds and a 0-to-30 mph time of 11 seconds. Things got more interesting as we pushed to wide-open throttle — after trimming out for top speed we posted 43.5 mph (at 5,500 rpm) on our GPS, which is great considering our load and modest power. We dialed it back to find an efficient cruising speed of 25.4 mph at 3,500 rpm, which will yield a cruising range of about 114 miles (this might not sound too impressive until you consider the fact that the fuel tank only holds 21 gallons — 6.05 mpg is about as good as it gets).

Conditions on the water were smooth and glassy, so we were greeted with an equally smooth ride. The 90 hp motor

gave the boat a quick and lively performance personality, and we can only imagine how close to the edge you could push it with even more power. The ProTeam 190 TX utilizes what Tracker calls its Power Trac Offset Transom, which sets the engine back 4 to 5 inches to allow the prop cleaner water for a better bite.

OVERALL

Even though the ProTeam 190 TX is the largest boat in Tracker's fleet of aluminum modified-V bass and panfish boats, this doesn't necessarily mean it's going to cost you a bundle.

In fact, our test boat with the 90 hp motor lists for only \$16,920, and that includes one of Tracker's Trailstar trailers with GalvaShield protection. And because Tracker believes in no haggle, no hassle pricing, this is the price you can expect to pay regardless of where you shop.

If you're looking for an affordable bass boat that gives you the lightweight advantages of aluminum, an impressive array of fish-fighting features and spunky performance, the ProTeam 190 TX just might float your boat. **GO**

PERFORMANCE & PRICING

BASS TRACKER PROTEAM 190 TX

PERFORMANCE

	MPH	RPM	MPG	RANGE	\$/MILE*	DBA
PEAK	43.5	5,500	4.83	91	.61	93
CRUISE	25.4	3,500	6.05	114	.48	84
TIME TO PLANE						4.7 seconds
0-30 MPH ACCELERATION						11 seconds

Fuel consumption measured with FloScan digital fuel-flow meter; range based on 90% of total fuel capacity.

*Assuming a fuel price of \$2.93/gallon

POWER

TEST	Mercury OptiMax 90
HP	90
PROP	3-blade aluminum
WOT RANGE	5,000-5,750 rpm

STANDARD	Mercury 60 EFI 4-Stroke
HP	60
PROP	3-blade aluminum
WOT RANGE	5,500-6,000 rpm

Craft available with outboards ranging from 60 hp to 135 hp from Mercury Marine

LOAD

	PEOPLE	FUEL (GALS./LBS.)	MISC.
TEST	2	21/131	15 lbs.
TYPICAL	2	21/131	40 lbs.

BASE PRICE

WITH TEST POWER	\$16,920*
WITH STANDARD POWER	\$15,295*

*Price can vary depending on options and locations and does not include dealer prep and destination charges — price includes trailer

FINANCING

\$201/month for 10 years*

*Assuming a final price of \$18,000 with a 15% down payment and a fixed interest rate of 9.85% — does not include sales tax

NOTABLE OPTIONS

Trailer brakes (\$445)

FIVE NOTABLE STANDARDS

Lowrance X-37 fish finder (w/surface temperature, battery monitor and swivel), lockable rod storage boxes, tackle storage boxes, 18-gallon aerated livewell, custom trailer w/swing-away tongue

BUILDER

Tracker Boats, 2500 E. Kearney, Springfield, MO 65803; (417) 873-4555; www.trackerboats.com

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