



1



2

# SEALEGS 7.5M ALLOY

Words & Images by Nick Jones

## The backstory

After reviewing the Sealegs 8.5m Alloy in the June issue of *NZ Fishing News*, I received a call from Sealegs' Global Sales & Marketing Manager, Nicholas Glanfield.

"Would you like to take the new 7.5m Alloy Centre Console for a spin?"

Do the Irish drink whiskey!?

The name Sealegs is synonymous with amphibious boats not only in our fine country but also around the world (clue: Nicholas' job title). They've been pioneering amphibious recreational boating ever since their first production model was built in 2004, and you could say they've got it down to a fine craft.

The concept of amphibious boating is incredibly appealing – no boat ramp queues, no reversing trailers, no waiting for tides, and no need to round up a crew to assist equates to more time fishing and having fun.

The 7.5m Alloy Centre Console is based on the well-proven hull and floor plan of the Sealegs 7.5m Amphibious RIB. Just like the

RIB model, the 7.5m Alloy features a highly customisable modular deck plan, with three different layout options.

Naturally, the alloy construction allows for more interior volume (and rod holders) than the Sealegs RIB models. Even though it's not hard to imagine a broad spectrum of applications for this versatile vessel, I imagine its angling potential will seriously appeal to our fishing-mad readers.

## Construction

Although the hull design is based on the Sealegs 7.5m Amphibious RIB, the styling of the 7.5m Alloy Centre Console is not too dissimilar from the other models in their Sport Alloy range, largely due to the reasonably plumb bow, curving shearline and extended bowsprit.

The hull is constructed from 5mm aluminium plate and supported by robust underfloor ladder framing. This internal structure supports a payload of up to eight

passengers while on land, and adds value on the water too, matching nicely with a reasonably chunky reverse chine, long waterline length and 21° variable deadrise to deliver a comfortable and quiet ride.

The wide console, complete with a sizeable curved acrylic windscreen, offers good protection from the elements for both skipper and passengers. Housed within is the Honda EFI 28hp 4-stroke engine that powers on land adventures, which is air-cooled via waterproof mesh panels port and starboard. Aside from comfort, the wide console affords ample space for mounting all the helm-station gadgetry a keen fisher could ask for. The hatching below offers easy access to the inboard engine and fuses and trip switches for the nautical electrics.

Interior space is generous, with side decks that are wide enough to perch on while wetting a line without compromising the ability to walk around the console. The stainless steel and canvas targa top is

1) The Sealegs AWD system, which can operate continuously for up to 30 minutes, is intuitively controlled. 2) The ride is dry with the chunky chines deflecting spray down and away from the hull and the wide console affording great wind protection. 3) The helm is functional and cleanly presented. 4) The 7.5m Alloy features comfortable aft-facing seats and neatly hides a 56L chilly bin underneath.



3



4





long, affording considerable shading for the crew and plenty of headroom. The targa top also folds down to rest on the ski rail above the outboard, making garaging a simple proposition.

A Yamaha 225hp sat on the transom of our review vessel, and beneath the cockpit floor is a 180-litre fuel tank (serving both engines). Steps on either side of the outboard allow for easy disembarking, waiving the need for a boarding ladder.

Sealegs pride themselves on exceptional finish quality, and this boat is no exception with high-quality wrap and decal work, plush water-resistant upholstery, and generous application of U-DEK throughout.

### Layout and fishability

Sealegs offer three different layout options for the 7.5m Alloy: Open, All Round and Social. You could hazard a guess as to what the names imply! Our review boat showcased the All Round deck plan that accommodates everything: watersports, cruising with friends and family and, of course, fishing.

The helm is cleanly presented with the digital switching and controls, plus Yamaha's digital engine gauge, a Fusion stereo head unit, and a Simrad NSS EVO3 16" plotter/sounder and VHF. Sealegs' Enhanced Power Steering (EPS) system utilises a single helm wheel for steering both the wheels and the outboard. The dash features

1) The raised forward deck makes a safe and stable casting platform. 2) 7.5m Alloy has a highly customisable deck plan, with three different layout options – the All Round option features two rear seats in the cockpit. 3) On top of the midship station are four drinks holders, a recessed storage tray, and two USB charging ports. 4) Stability at rest is excellent.



handy storage for personal items like phones, wallets, or keys, and two drink holders.

The helming position is comfortable for either standing or sitting positions with plenty of toe room and a pair of adjustable, shock-absorbing JoltRider seats. Sealegs also offer the option of drop-down clears for additional comfort from the elements.

Moving up front, the extended fairlead reaching beyond the front wheel and auto capstan winch allow easy anchoring from the helm. The raised forward deck makes a safe and stable casting platform (I could certainly picture myself topwater fishing here in all but the worst conditions), and there is handy locker storage underneath.

The midship station in this model features comfortable aft-facing seats, dry storage, and neatly hides a 56L chilly bin underneath. On top of this station are four drinks holders, a recessed storage tray, and two USB charging ports.

For the keen angler, there are four rod holders along the coamings and another six on the rocket launcher. There's a baitboard above the transom, and although the adjacent rear seats marginally hinder fishing room in the cockpit, they do offer a great seated fishing position for the less die-hard anglers amongst





**HELLA**  
Hella marine

**PERFORMANCE AND STYLE,  
COMBINED**

**SEA HAWK-470 EDGE LIGHT**

**Powerful Long Distance Light Bar.**  
Vibrant blue or intense white, the Sea Hawk-470 light bar gives you the edge.



**APELO**

**Supercharged Underwater Lighting.**  
The new Apelo A3's Edge Light design enhances your lighting experience.



hellamarine.com  
apelobrilliance.com

Available at all leading marine outlets



Specifications	
Model	Sealegs 7.5m Alloy
Hull design	Sealegs International Ltd
Builder	Sealegs International Ltd
Construction	5mm marine grade aluminium
LOA	7.8m
Beam	2.25m
Deadrise	21 degrees
Height on wheels	2.7m
Displacement (dry)	1,600-1,900kg
Fuel capacity	180L
Recommended horsepower	200-225hp
On land engine	Honda EFI 28hp 4-stroke, air-cooled
On land top speed	7.5kph (or 10Kph with 2WD)
Pricing from	\$225,000
Price as tested	\$315,000



us! The Open layout option dispenses with these seats, anyway, so Sealegs can accommodate personal preferences. Although the targa top is long, it is reasonably narrow and wouldn't hinder casting from aft or side sections of the vessel or get in the way when moving rods around. The gunwales are a nice height for hauling in the big ones, and there's great side-pocket storage for longer items like gaffs.

### Performance

The transition in and out of the water is smooth and quick, and the Sealegs AWD system, which can operate continuously for up to 30 minutes, is intuitively controlled. There's a lever to operate forward and reverse speed, switches to raise and lower the wheels and an emergency brake button.

Although the Sealegs 7.5m Amphibious RIB are generally fitted with a 200hp outboard, our 7.5m Alloy was rigged with a Yamaha 225hp – perhaps due to the additional aluminium weight, or perhaps because the owner wants to go fast! Whatever the case, she had plenty of boogie, getting on the plane without a fuss and topping out at over 40 knots.

The ride is very assured, cutting through the typical 15-knot westerly Hauraki Gulf wind chop with precision and quietness. Importantly for a centre console, the somewhat bow-up ride is dry with the chines deflecting spray down and away from the hull and the wide console sparing us from any wintery wind blasts. In fact, within the 25-30 knots cruising range, she felt downright peaceful for a centre console. Due to the space at the transom taken up by the wheels, trimtabs are normally not fitted but they also aren't required. Stability at rest was good, even with three adults leaning over the same side of the vessel.



1) The targa top can be folded down to rest on the ski rail above the outboard, making garaging a simple proposition. 2) The 7.5m Alloy Centre Console is based on the well-proven hull of the Sealegs 7.5m Amphibious RIB. 3) The Yamaha 225hp provided plenty of boogie, topping out at over 40 knots.

# SEALEGS®

BE AMPHIBIOUS



THE **WORLD'S LARGEST** RANGE OF AMPHIBIOUS BOATS FROM THE **WORLD LEADERS** IN AMPHIBIOUS TECHNOLOGY



8.5M ALLOY CABIN

**BOOK YOUR DEMO TODAY! - CALL US 0800 SEALEGS**

