

## Grady-White *Fisherman 180* (2015-)



## Captain's Report



The Grady-White Fisherman 180 has a length of 17'10" (5.44 m), a beam of 7'5" (2.26 m) and a displacement of 2,150 lbs. (975 kg).

### Mission

The Grady-White Fisherman 180 is a classic center console with a Rybovich-type sheer and lots of flair forward making her better able to handle sloppy conditions. Built with the same quality as Grady-White's larger boats, the Fisherman 180 is a premium-level CC that should appeal to anglers who have knocked around the waterfront for a few years and understand the difference between price and value in an open

boat.

She is the smallest boat that Grady-White makes and with the addition of a few options, she can be a fun towing boat. Because she is light and nimble, her 150-hp engine will get skiers up fast. In this way she becomes an all-around family boat for those who want to do fishing, swimming, beaching, and just cruising along in the cool breezes of early evening. All at a reasonable price.



This picture illustrates how most angler buddies will use the Fishermen 180 when in shallow water.

## Major Features

The Fisherman 180 is a tried-and-true design in the Grady-White line, but this year's model offers some upgrades that may catch the eye of those who buy it for family fun as well as for hard-core fishing.

- Most obvious will be the completely new and improved seat cushions, with foam that's both thicker for improved comfort and more durable for an increased life span. The cushion covers also get improved quality in the accent stitching, which is heavy grade weather-proof synthetic.

- Enhanced hull graphics include a newly designed style line with an integrated, high gloss stainless Grady-White logo.

- There are now six color choices of gel coat and/or paint.

- The bench seat at the helm, with reversible back, is typical Grady-White quality--heavy gauge stainless steel bracketing rather than aluminum -- and should deliver life-time durability. This reversible seat, a standard feature, makes a useful leaning post for the angler at the helm during stand-up operations in bumpy water, and it's also a comfortable back rest for someone to sit and keep an eye aft on the trolling

rods--or on a skier when the boat is doing family watersports duty.

There's plenty of room underneath to stow a large cooler without taking up valuable deck space, though you'll probably want to add a couple of brackets or the ever-present bungee cords to keep the cooler from jumping around on long runs.



The helm's bench seat has a reversible back with a stainless steel frame.

## Fishing Features

**The big (89 quart) fishbox** forward is characteristic of the care Grady-White takes with everything on its boats -- for example, hatches are finished inside as well as out to prevent mildew/mold from getting a foothold. These hatches are thick and strong to handle the pounding of heavy feet as anglers standing on them.

**Multi-Purpose.** The lid is also gasketed, so that ice will last longer. The box drains directly overboard instead of to the bilge. (This box may wind up being a storage box on most boats, and when used for that



purpose, the gasket should keep stuff inside as dry as anything can be in a center console boat.) It can also serve as a beverage cooler for an all-day party with a gang of people aboard.



This 89 quart (84 L) fishbox is insulated and has a piston support strut and an overboard drain. Ice will last longer due to the gasketed lid.

**The anchor locker** at the bow includes stainless steel clips to fit the typical Danforth anchor when hung upside down, a thoughtful extra feature to help the hook from getting tangled in the rode. There's plenty of space here for the extra line that might be needed on those days when 5:1 is the minimum that will hold the boat in place.



The anchor locker includes stainless steel clamps and rode storage. It can accommodate a standard Danforth anchor.

**Console Fishing Amenities.** All the angling amenities are here, right where most anglers will want them; there are two vertical rod holders on each side of the console, four stainless steel trolling holders inset into the gunwales, and two horizontal racks with gasketed tubes on each side inset under the gunwales.



The console seat has everything handy for a angler: 2 rod holders on each side, 4 stainless steel trolling holders, 2 horizontal racks with gasketed tubes, as well as a cooler underneath the seat.

**Toe rails** along each inwale give anglers a place to brace when they're slugging it out with muscular species like AJ's or tarpon, and the fact that the cockpit is self-bailing means that washdown can be accomplished by bucketing some water across the decks as needed. (Optional freshwater and saltwater washdown hoses are available.)



The console's front 45-quart ice box also includes piston support and has rod racks to the side.

**The 45-quart insulated ice box** on the front of the console can be plumbed as a livewell. Though it would be small for fragile baits like scaled sardines, it's just the right size for shrimp, crabs or killifish, among other likely morsels. The top of this compartment is a heavily padded seat.

**For Watersports**



While there's no question that the Fisherman 180 is a dedicated fishing boat, she can also double as a watersports platform by ordering a few options. Add the swim platform, the ski pylon and the bow cushions, along with the Bimini top and the Fisherman 180 becomes an all-around runabout/tow boat that offers plenty of speed and sporty handling to please the kids who might want to go swimming or get involved with towing sports.

**Great “Utility”.** Most boat builders don't like to call any of their boats a "utility" boat, but the simple fact is that an open boat such as the Grady-White Fisherman 180 can be used for all sorts of boating activities, including just plain-old cruising around. With places to hang out all over the boat, the muscle of a 150-hp engine that can make the boat go 46-mph, there is very little that she cannot do. That gives the 180 great "utility" in our book.



If watersports are part of the boating mission, then the optional swim platform with a stainless steel ladder is something that should be considered.

## Seating

The Fisherman 180 is rated to carry 7 passengers. Starting aft there are two jump seats port and starboard of the outboard well. They are probably the most comfortable places on the boat.

The leaning post is also a seat for two, and with its reversible back rest it can be used for trolling and watching baits, or for spotting a skier. Forward of the console is the customary forward-facing seat that almost all center consoles have. And forward is a casting platform that has optional cushions. With this cushion in place two people can comfortably sit here.



Two aft jump seats surround the Yamaha outboard engine, and include storage.

## Helm





The Fisherman 180's helm console comes standard with a stainless steel wheel, a large electronic mounting area, an acrylic windshield and grab rail.

**Instrument Panel.** The broad vertical space on the console offers plenty of room to flush-mount a 12" sonar/GPS system. A self-leveling Ritchie compass, mounted in the captain's direct sight line, is standard, as is the stainless steel steering wheel and a pair of stainless drink holders on the starboard side.

The Grady-White panel includes digital readout of engine functions and fuel levels, with lighted rocker switches and waterproof breaker trips on the face for quick access -- that means no headstands when a wire overloads on this boat.



This GW panel includes information about engine functions, fuel levels and has lighted rocker switches and waterproof breakers.

The acrylic windshield has no frame, usually a negative, but in the case of the Fisherman 180, a heavy-gauge stainless steel railing runs just outside the edges of this shield, protecting it as well as providing a very usable grab rail for anglers standing at the console during an offshore run.

## **Performance**

We have not yet tested the Fisherman 180, but Grady-White offers these test results, based on F150-hp Yamaha power turning a 14 1/4 x 18 Reliance SDS prop:

### **Performance Tests at Optimum Conditions**

RPM	MPH	GPH	MPG
1000	4.4	.8	5.80
1500	6.0	1.2	4.96
2000	7.2	1.9	3.76
2500	8.0	3.6	2.25
3000	17.2	4.1	4.18
3500	24.4	5.3	4.65
3800	27.8	5.9	4.70
4000	29.5	6.5	4.57
4500	34.4	8.5	4.07
5000	39.4	10.6	3.72
5500	43.5	14.0	3.11
5900	46.3	15.5	2.99

**Best Cruise.** As can be seen in the table above, best cruise was at 3800 rpms and 27.8 mph, where the package consumed 5.9 gph and delivered 4.7 mpg -- a number that will make owners happy when they visit the fuel docks.

Note that with a 54-gallon fuel tank, this boat has some serious range. Top speed, 46.3 mph at 5900 rpm, is about as fast as any boat in the genre with 150 horses.

## Handling

Grady-White uses what it calls the SeaV2 bottom on its entire line. It is a C. Raymond Hunt & Associates design that combines a 19-degree deadrise at the transom with a progressively steeper angle running forward to the entry in order to cut through waves. This is a good compromise between a good ride and good performance. With a 19-degree deadrise and hard chine flats the boat has stability at rest, certainly more so than a boat with a deeper V-bottom.





The Grady-White Fisherman 180 is made to fish. Note her tall freeboard and nautical sheer line.

### **Construction:**

Everything is top-grade in Grady-White construction and that is why the brand has been so popular over the years. The quality of the stainless steel used by Grady-White is a case in point: it is 316 stainless steel, not lesser grades (such as 306) that we sometimes see. The hardware has a shine and deep luster that not only looks great when new, but that will last for many years around saltwater.

**Below decks**, all wire runs and hoses are neatly run and carefully clamped to stay put during long, hard service in the briny. All thru-hull fittings are stainless steel. Also worth noting is that Grady-White uses a cored deck for strength.

The piston-assist lids on the ice chest/livewell in front of the console and on the bow fishbox are premium pluses, making access much easier.

**Self-Bailing Cockpit.** The Fisherman 180 is fully self-bailing, which is a huge plus for security when headed offshore. And for those nights when you have to leave the boat in the water, there's no need to worry about a big rainstorm sinking her at the docks. In fact, we won't buy an open boat that did not have a self-bailing cockpit.

### **Propulsion System**

Grady-White offers only Yamaha power. The company has had a long and successful partnership with Yamaha, and though some dealers offer other outboard engines, it's rare to see a Grady-White anywhere in

the country with anything other than a Yamaha on the transom.

The boat is rated for a maximum of 150 horses, and given the 2,150-lb. (975 kg) weight, it would probably be wise to stick with the maximum to assure good hole shots with a full load of anglers, fuel, gear and ice. (Yamaha just released an upgrade of its F150 that's even lighter than before, and also is an engine that reportedly delivers increased torque as well as top-end speeds.)



The Fisherman 180 draws 15" (0.38 m).

## Options to Consider

- Even on a relatively small boat like the Fisherman 180, most captains will appreciate the smooth feel of hydraulic steering, so that's an option we'd probably check first --standard is no-feedback mechanical.
- Also, trim tabs are well worth the money on a boat in this class -- they not only help to get on plane when there's a heavy load aboard, but also make it possible to "cant" one side of the boat up when running in sloppy weather. They're also handy for leveling the boat when the owner/operator has an uneven passenger load.
- Most serious anglers will also add the aeration system for the console well, thus transforming it from an ice box to a livewell.
- If the boat is to serve a dual mission as a watersports platform, the swim platform, ski pylon, front lounge pads and Bimini will be appreciated extras.

- Some families with small children or older boaters might opt for the full bow rail as added security -- for anglers, though, this would mostly be an obstruction -- the standard low-profile rail is adequate.

- We'd probably also add the freshwater washdown system for use on saltwater -- great for knocking the brine off your face after a dip over the side, and also handy for rinsing down tackle and decks at the end of the day.

- **T-top or Bimini.** T-tops were made for anglers but if the boat is going to be used more for watersports then a Bimini will do.

## Price

Grady-White does not make pricing available on either its boats or its optional equipment: Prospective customers can find a list of nearby dealers at [www.gradywhite.com](http://www.gradywhite.com).



Note the freeboard height at the bow, something that sets this 18-footer apart from many 18' (5.49 m) bay boats.

## Observations

The Fisherman 180 has higher freeboard than many in this size range, moving her from the bayboat category into an all-around coastal center console, as far as we're concerned. In capable hands, she can take on a fairly serious chop in near-shore waters and on the large lakes, as well as running moderately rough inlet. The resulting added cockpit depth adds to security for those aboard, too.

A 15" (0.38 m) draft makes her backwater capable, though one wouldn't take on an ankle-deep bonefish



flat in this hull.

Finally, there is something very intangible and personal -- it is pride of ownership. Owning a Grady-White for most people we know -- no matter what size it is -- is a matter of personal pride in owning a boat well done.