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## 3 BOATS IN 1: MONTEREY'S NEW MSX 5

SAFER & BETTER ENCLOSURES THANKS TO NEW CLEAR PLASTICS

Strange New Power Cat Performs Surprisingly Well

How Merc's Mega Sterndrive Pumps out 1300 Ponies

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# TRIPLE

Is the new Monterey MSX 5 a sport boat, a deck



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# TRIPLE THREAT

Is it a fish boat or a wakeboard boat? The answer is yes

**M**ultipurpose boats sound like a great idea, but in actual practice, they're often neither fish nor fowl. For example, a fish boat that's also a family cruiser rarely works particularly great for either function. However, Monterey's MSX 5 seems to be a happy conjunction of a sport boat/deck boat/wakeboard boat that should make a whole lot of families happy.

This triple threat has the dashing good looks of a sport boat and performance to match, including hole shot times just above the 6-second mark with the MerCruiser 350 Mag MPI and Bravo Three drive on the rest boat. Top speed was 45.6 mph, and that's with the base engine package—the 300-hp MPI. The boat's rated for up to 425 horses, although that upgrade increases the price by around \$24,000.

The MSX 5 is a new variant of the Monterey M5, which received a *Trailer Boats* 2010 Excellence in Design Award in the Bowrider category. Yet this 25-foot, 10-inch hull has a

ton of space like a deck boat. There's seating for a dozen people, a couple of ice chests (one aft, one forward), a transom shower and a hideaway head that actually has a luxury feel thanks to teak-look floors and a Karadon sink top. The MSX 5 also features a moveable dinette table complete with side-mount supports, eliminating those toe-stubbing sockets in the deck.

And when it comes to wakeboarding, the standard ballast tank and trim tabs make it possible to put up a formidable wake, while the stylish tower offers a high anchor point for the tow lines and Wet Sounds waterproof speakers attached to the MB Quart stereo system. An aft-facing seat behind the driver's seat provides a good place to keep an eye on boarders, while a cavernous storage area accessed off the swim platform makes it easy to get at boards, tow lines and PFDs without dragging the equipment across the occupants in the cockpit. ▶

