

PERFORMANCE
TESTED



FAMILY FISH 'N' FUN

TAHOE'S 215 CC DECKBOAT OFFERS AN IMPRESSIVE MIX OF FISHING AND FAMILY RECREATION

By Go Boating Test Team
The original idea behind the Tahoe 215 CC was to build a deckboat that would appeal to coastal boaters who wanted a versatile family fun boat that could also fish very well.

The center-console layout offers a number of advantages to anglers, and the deckboat configuration ensures plenty of room for family, friends and gear. Add to that a 20-degree deadrise and Tahoe's HydroStep hull, which is designed for quicker acceleration, faster top end, better handling and improved fuel economy, and you come away with a boat that can handle a little bluewater to get out to where the fish are biting.

The funny thing is that Tahoe soon found that people in its home state of Missouri and other areas in the Midwest liked the idea as much as coastal nearshore boaters, especially because the 215 CC has family appeal beyond what you typically find with a fish 'n' ski boat, which is sometimes just a fish boat with a few extra seats and a tow bar.

Like most other deckboats or runabouts, the 215 CC has twin lounges in the bow and more comfortable seating in the cockpit for passengers. The full 8-foot, 6-inch beam is carried from the transom all the way to the large forward swim platform, which allows you and your guests to mix and mingle without constantly

bumping into each other.

The forward platform is the largest we've seen on a deckboat this size. It has two pedestal bases for the two standard removable fishing seats, and the large platform ensures there is plenty of room to sit, stand and fish, similar to that of a dedicated bass boat. When not in use, the fishing seats stow neatly inside the forward end of the console, so they're completely out of the way when it's time to go for a cruise or to bust out the skis or wakeboard.

The forward platform also has a fold-away boarding ladder and anchor storage — and just inside the bow aft of the platform is a large aerated livewell with a pumpout (another important feature for

serious anglers).

There's another platform at the transom, one that deserves some attention. We've seen small swim platforms on outboards before, which are typically just a postage stamp of a deck bolted onto one side of the boat. In this case, however, you get a full-beam integrated swim platform you can walk on from one side to the other as well as a starboard step-through transom. The motor takes up some room in the center, but on each side there is a large area just like on a stern drive with an integrated or extended swim platform. The starboard side has a boarding ladder and the port side has a small insulated compartment for gear or to keep drinks cold.

ABOUT THE BOAT:

TAHOE 215 CC



The interior of the 215 CC is outfitted to accommodate recreational boaters and anglers alike. For the recreational set there are a number of storage areas under the seats and in the sole forward of the console (plenty of room for toys in there). To port aft of the bow seat there's a small sink with a pressurized faucet for rinsing off food and preparing snacks. Under the center rear bench there is a large carry-on cooler with plenty of room for drinks and food.

SPECIFICATIONS

Length	21 ft., 2 in.
Beam	8 ft., 6 in.
Capacity	10 people
Weight	2,200 lbs.
Fuel capacity	45 gals.
Maximum power	250 hp
Deadrise (@ transom)	20°

All around the helm and up and down each side of the boat you'll find stainless steel grabrails — you know what they say: one hand for you and one hand for the boat.

Anglers will appreciate the two standard fishing chairs with two pedestal bases on the bow platform and one to port on the stern platform. There's also an aerated livewell in the bow, a large ice compartment aft of the starboard bow seat (with dedicated tackle trays below) and under-gunwale rod holders. Just aft of the rear seats you'll find flush-mount rod holders in the cap rails.

The 215 CC is pre-wired for an optional trolling motor (a hand-controlled MotorGuide trolling motor is available for \$965). Recreational options include a changing room, a wakeboard tower with racks, snap-in carpet and bow filler cushions.

PERFORMANCE & PRICING

TAHOE 215 CC

PERFORMANCE

	MPH	RPM	MPG	RANGE	\$/MILE*	DBA
PEAK	43	5,700	2.91	118	.83	98
CRUISE	25	3,500	4.04	164	.60	86

TIME TO PLANE 3.5 seconds

0-30 MPH ACCELERATION 9 seconds

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

*Assuming a fuel price of \$2.42/gallon

POWER

TEST Mercury 150 XL
OptiMax SaltWater

HP 150

PROP 17-inch 3-blade aluminum

WOT RANGE 5,250-5,750 rpm

STANDARD Mercury 135 XL
OptiMax SaltWater

HP 135

PROP 3-blade aluminum

WOT RANGE 5,000-5,600 rpm

Craft available with outboards ranging from 130 hp to 250 hp from most outboard manufacturers

LOAD

	PEOPLE	FUEL (GALS./LBS.)	MISC.
TEST	2	23/144	15 lbs.
TYPICAL	6-7	45/282	120 lbs.

BASE PRICE

WITH TEST POWER \$26,120**

WITH STANDARD POWER \$27,295*

**Price with "Power Up" savings on the featured engine - price does not include dealer prep and freight

*Price does not include dealer prep and freight

FINANCING

\$276/month for 12 years*

*Assuming a final price of \$29,000 with a 15% down payment and a fixed interest rate of 8.65% — does not include sales tax

FIVE NOTABLE OPTIONS

Changing room (\$375), wakeboard tower and rack (\$2,370), snap-in carpet (\$285), 24v, 82 lb. thrust, 50-in. hand-controlled MotorGuide trolling motor (\$965), bow filler w/cushion (\$375)

FIVE NOTABLE STANDARDS

Swim platform (w/concealed boarding ladder, insulated storage and fishing seat base), color-matched acrylic Bimini top w/boot and stainless steel frame, premium AM/FM CD stereo (w/MP3 jack and four directional speakers), Lowrance digital depth finder, removable ski tow pylon

BUILDER

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

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PERFORMANCE

We had two people aboard for our test and a half tank of fuel (23 gallons or about 144 pounds). For power we had a 150 hp two-stroke Mercury 150 XL OptiMax SaltWater outboard spinning a 17-inch-pitch three-blade aluminum propeller.

Our time to plane was 3.5 seconds and our 0-to-30-mph time was 9 seconds, which is on target for a deckboat and motor this size. Our peak speed was 43 mph at 5,700 rpm, which is near the top of this engine's power curve — top-speed range will be about 118 miles. Our most efficient cruising speed was 25 mph at 3,500 rpm, which will yield a cruising range of 164 miles.

Driving a center console is always fun because it puts you right in the middle of the action. The 215 CC has a playful, recreational feel to it, and the ability to up the power to 250 horses certainly gives you plenty of potential for more performance.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF DECKBOAT — Tahoe's 215 CC gives you the roominess and comfort of a deckboat along with center-console fishing functionality and a host of angler-friendly features.



OVERALL

We like what Tahoe offers boaters with the 215 CC. The roominess and stability of a deckboat makes it an ideal platform for fishing, and the center console makes it even better. Plenty of comfortable seating and large bow and stern swim platforms vastly improve this craft's family appeal, much more so than your garden-variety fish 'n' ski. And the boat's ability to tempt a little rough water increases your options for all kinds of enjoyment.

With a base price not much above \$25,000, the 215 CC is an economical option if you are on a budget and want a good measure of versatility. Whether it's a day of fishing the bay with the pals or a day of water-toy fun on the lake with the kids, the 215 CC has you covered. **GO**