

# Grady-White Fisherman 180 Review- Mini- Might

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The smallest model in the Grady White fleet, the **Fisherman 180** is a classic for small boat anglers.

Go through the Grady-White Fisherman 180 with a fine-tooth comb, and you'll find signs of **top-notch boat construction** from stem to stern. True, this isn't a boat for spendthrifts and there aren't all that many 18-footers out there that break the \$50K barrier fully rigged and ready to fish. But when it comes to tip-top quality and performance in a pocket-sized fishing machine, this boat will be very difficult to beat.



*The Grady-White Fisherman 180 brings big benefits in a small package.*

The very first thing to note about the Fisherman 180 is that despite its diminutive LOA, the boat self-bails. Very few 18-footers bail, and most that can, do so on a marginal level. Not in this case, however, which gives the boat a serious safety edge over other **center console fishing boats** of the same size.

Another way the 180 sets itself apart from the competition is its design and construction. Grady-White builds this model exactly like their others, starting with the variable-degree "SeaV<sup>2</sup>" Ray Hunt-designed bottom. It begins with a sharp forefoot beneath gobs of flare, to cleave open waves while keeping spray out of the boat and enhancing forward buoyancy. The V then tapers flatter as you move aft to enhance stability, ending in this case with a still relatively deep 19-degrees of deadrise at the transom.



*Grady-White's hull design does a great job of smoothing out a chop. But don't take our word for it – take a sea trial and we're pretty sure you'll reach the same conclusion.*

Next, consider the boat's fittings. How many 18-foot boats have stainless-steel cleats this big? Polyboard toe rails in the cockpit? Stainless-steel through-hulls instead of cheaper Marelon? An 11-gallon livewell with an overflow instead of the inferior stand-pipe, and a gas-assist strut on the hatch? Like we said before, going through the boat with a fine-tooth comb is quite illuminating; you won't see many others on the market which are this size yet are built to the same standards as much larger boats.



*You won't often see a livewell with an overflow – far superior to a stand-pipe, which gets in the way when netting baits and in some cases can get knocked free, draining the well.*

As far as layout goes, there are no big surprises. The boat does have aft jump seats and a dedicated anchor locker, which are missing on some 18-footers, as well as a (very small) swim platform with a telescopic ladder. There's a swing-back seat at the helm, a forward console seat which houses that livewell, and an elevated forward casting deck with an 89-quart fishbox underneath. The one optional feature which we'd call a must-have is the raw water washdown, and you can add to that a 10-gallon freshwater system with a vegetable-sprayer, if you'd like.

## **Grady White Fisherman 180 Specifications**

- LOA – 17'10"
- Beam – 7'5"
- Draft – 1'3"
- Displacement – 2,150-pounds
- Transom deadrise –19 degrees
- Fuel capacity – 54 gal.
- Water capacity – 10 gal.



Performance is another trait that makes this boat stand out among the crowd. It's normally powered with an **F150 Yamaha outboard**, the most popular 150-horse outboard ever built, which is max power for the boat. Updated four years ago, this 2.7L powerplant turns in a rather spectacular 4.6 miles to the gallon while cruising at 30 mph (4000 rpm). Nail the throttle, and top-end peaks right around 46 mph. Even then, you'll still be getting 3.0 miles to the gallon.



*With the F150, performance is well above average for an 18-footer.*

Despite the economical operation, truth be told, if you're looking for a small boat to save money then the Fisherman 180 isn't going to be a good option. But if you want a small boat that has the same big-boat quality you'd find in Grady's yacht-class offering, like the **Canyon 456**, then rest assured that this boat has it. In fact, Grady-White even includes "Captain Grady" (their iPad/iPhone app with an A/V systems and operation guide) with the Fisherman 180. And for many anglers an 18-footer is the ideal size boat for a number of reasons ranging from dock space to towing capacity. If that speaks to your needs but you still want top quality,

then looking more closely at a Grady-White Fisherman 180 will be a good move.



For more information, visit [Grady-White Boats](#).