

Coastal Craft 400 IPS

An aluminum-hulled cruiser from British Columbia turns in a superb performance.

BY PETER A. JANSSEN



SPECIFICATIONS

LOA: 43'
Beam: 14'
Draft: 3'6"
Disp.: 31,500 lbs.
Fuel: 400 gals.
Water: 100 gals.
Contact: Coastal Craft, coastalcraft.com
Price (as tested): \$850,000

PERFORMANCE

TEST POWER: (2) Volvo Penta 435 hp D6 diesel engines coupled to IPS 600 pod drives. Speeds measured by GPS in English Bay off Vancouver, British Columbia, in calm conditions with three people on board, half fuel and one-third water. Sound levels measured at the lower helm in dB-A.

RPM	KNOTS	GPH	DB-A
600	4.3	0.7	63
1,000	5.7	1.7	67
1,500	8.4	6.2	68
2,000	12.1	13.2	73
2,500	20.0	19.4	74
3,000	28.7	27.4	75
3,550	36.1	44.2	77

FIRST-CLASS CRUISER: The interior is warm and inviting with lots of cherry wood, teak and holly floors; Ultra-leather seating; and a comfortable two-cabin, one-head cruising configuration. The flying bridge provides three-across seating in front. The large, covered cockpit is equipped with its own IPS joystick station for easy docking and a vast amount of storage space.

Inside, the guest cabin, accessible via a sliding hatch in the port side of the salon, is larger than usual for this type of arrangement with comfortable standing headroom for me, and I'm more than 6 feet 1 inch tall. It has a queen-size bed, as does the generous master forward. The double-wide Ultraleather helm seat is a big plus, as it affords excellent visibility through large windows. Opposite it, on the port side, is another double seat.

It's not often that something new comes along in boating, but when it does, you've got to sit up and take notice. This is certainly the case with the Coastal Craft 400 cruiser, an aluminum-welded boat with IPS technology. It has a warm, inviting interior and sports-carlike performance. "This is a sleeper," Jeff Rhodes, president of Coastal Craft, tells me as we wheel through a 30-knot turn in English Bay off Vancouver, British Columbia. "There's a lot going on here that most people don't know about."

Made in Gibsons, British Columbia, about 18 miles north of Vancouver, the Coastal Craft 400 IPS has a relatively low profile; a raked, pilothouselike windshield; two state-rooms; and a 36-knot top speed. At a comfortable cruising speed of 30 knots, it has a range of 360 nautical miles; dial back to 7.5 knots and the range extends to 850 nautical miles. On the one hand, you have a fast performance cruiser, on the other, a long-range passage maker.

Rhodes, a former tugboat captain, has been making Coastal Crafts since 1996. All are made of commercial-grade, heavy-duty welded aluminum.

Awlgrip and nonskid deck coatings give the boats a finished look; indeed, the 400 looks like any other high-quality recreational cruising boat. Rhodes says the aluminum planing hull is lighter and stronger than fiberglass, with a superior horsepower-to-weight ratio. The safety of an aluminum hull is another advantage, he says, particularly in the Pacific Northwest, where there are a lot of logs and debris in the water. "If you hit something," he says, "you'll just make a dent. You won't sink the boat." Rhodes also placed fins in front of the forward-facing IPS props as additional protection.

On our test, the boat performed admirably. It was quiet, fast and, for a 40-footer, absolutely nimble. Acceleration from a dead stop — and throughout the entire speed range — was terrific. ❖



LOOK AROUND. The salon offers big views.