



■ **I-Command multifunction gauges are plug-and-play with very easy setup. One I-Command gauge can provide the same information as a half-dozen — you just have to screen through the pages to get the data you require.**

trailer. As tested, the package lists closer to \$43,000. It was rigged with a full complement of the new Evinrude I-Command instrumentation (a \$1400 option) that provides the operator with boat and engine sensor data. The new multifunction I-Command gauges allow you to see at a glance any and all information — engine rpm, oil level, engine hours and fuel flow, as well as engine diagnostics, battery conditions, barometric pressure and fuel economy.

Our test boat also included such options as a comfortable leaning post with backrest (\$376); hydraulic steering with tilt helm (\$847); raw-water washdown (\$286); aerated bow livewell (\$221); Maxi-Flow recirculation system (\$127); AM/FM/CD player (\$526); and a swim platform with folding ladder (\$257).

Also on board was a Lowrance LCX26HD graph (\$1400), and the priciest — and maybe coolest — option of all was the Power-Pole LX (\$1395) with remote control (\$289). This device has become a must-have for all of the



■ **This boat's console layout is very driver-friendly. The gauges are easy to see, the throttle in a comfortable position, and the switches and resets are at one's fingertips. Hydraulic steering and tilt-helm are options.**



■ **Bow storage is abundant, and the new 230 LX features a locking 8-foot rod locker built into the port side. The livewell/baitwell is also a new addition.**



saltwater pros and those who fish in shallow waters in general.

The cylinder-like device mounts on the transom and allows the boater to anchor in water up to 8-feet deep without doing anything more than flipping a little switch on the console. The hydraulically actuated Power-Pole lowers itself, and in the process forces the attached composite "stick" to dig into the grass and mud to hold the boat faster, steadier and stealthier than any anchor.

### GOOD PERFORMANCE

Of course, you can't judge a boat only by its design and options. The power on the transom plays a big part in overall performance. Our test model was rigged with a direct-injected Evinrude E-Tec 200. This might sound small to those who wonder if a 23-foot, 2450-pound hull might require rigging with a 250 to be worthwhile on the water. In many instances,



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