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**FIRST LOOK**

## WESTPORT PILOT 6

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## Westport Pilot 6

The new Pilot 6 has arrived - and it comes with the promise of easy everyday boating...



**A surprisingly sheltered open boat**  
Despite the absence of the traditional Pilot cuddy, the open boat is far less exposed than you might expect. The console and screen might be narrow to keep the walkways clear, but they do a good job of providing protection, as do the elevated bow and the extremely generous internal freeboard. Solid build, serious through-bolted deck furniture and effective drainage all help reinforce this impressive sense of security. Add to this a raised wave deflecting ridge on the bow to stop unnecessary water ingress, plus a pulpit rail wrapped around the entire forward end and this is an open boat that inspires huge confidence.

The existing range of Westport Cuddy boats has already been well received, gaining a reputation for dryness, stability and robust build quality. But introducing a new model of boat is not a cheap exercise. The initial development costs and subsequent tooling to produce the moulds require a big investment, so the finished product has to be right. And happily, in the case of the Pilot 6 Open, that product is based on years of experience and consultation with anglers, boat testing journalists and existing customers.

Significantly, quite a few of the major components are the same on the Open as they are on the Cuddy version, saving on the outlay required and ensuring continuity

between the two models. In fact it is only the top deck that has really changed - in this case to accommodate the addition of the console, and the result is a very user-friendly boat with excellent internal freeboard and plenty of room to move about.

As with other Pilot models, the Open version has a deck that is completely self-draining through large scuppers in each quarter - which means less reliance on your battery to power your bilge pump and a much easier clean down at the end of a day. You just sluice the washing water straight out through the scuppers and the job is done.

The upright console and screen should do a good job of providing protection, as should the high bow and the lofty (90cm) internal freeboard. Aside from that, the layout of the cuddy and open versions is almost identical - and given the popularity of the existing range, that is no bad thing.

These Pilots (the cuddies included) don't look as though they ought to be very fast, but the Open 6 with a 75hp Honda outboard will apparently achieve in excess of 31 knots. The moderate V of the hull certainly helps with this - making a low speed plane very easy and bringing impressive fuel returns from the habitually eco-friendly Honda outboard.

In short, with safe accommodation, lots of real world input and a user-friendly design, this looks like a sound new entry from Westport Marine. Keep an eye out for a full test very soon...



### Specifications

<b>Length overall:</b>	5.2 m
<b>Beam:</b>	2.2 m
<b>Weight:</b>	590 kg
<b>CE Cat:</b>	C
<b>Passengers:</b>	five
<b>50hp Package Price:</b>	£19,154
<b>75hp Package Price:</b>	£21,844

The package price includes a fully rigged boat with Honda outboard and braked Indespension roller trailer.

### Performance

90hp - 30-34 knots
70hp - 28-30 knots
60hp - 26-30 knots
50hp - 23-25 knots

### Contact

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