



Hatteras 64 Convertible

SOLID PERFORMANCE, LUXURIOUS RIDE

BY TOM THOMPSON

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL SPRING MORNING in Beaufort, North Carolina, but looks can be deceiving. Seas were rolling with 4-foot swells, just enough to make things interesting. They were a fair test of how the Hatteras 64 Convertible can handle rough water. Coming out the Beaufort Inlet to the Atlantic Ocean, *Hatterascal's* spray was deflected in enormous white sheets to either side as she cut through the whitecaps. Water droplets sparkled in the sunlight, but none came near us on the flybridge.

The Hatteras 64 Convertible handles very well at cruising speed, which is a swift 30 knots. I found the helm response quick and positive. I could feel the midrange acceleration from the pair of 1,800 hp C-32A Caterpillar diesels in the seat when I punched the throttles. Massive seven-

blade 47.5 by 60 propellers can take the boat from cruising speed to the top end of 36 knots in seconds. At slow speed, *Hatterascal's* captain, Dave Fields, made her dance like a ballerina, pirouetting on her center point. Backing down, not a drop of water came over the teak-finished

transom.

Although we put *Hatterascal* through her paces, my host for the sea trial, Hatteras marketing director David Ritchie, gave me a hint of what the Hatteras 64 Convertible could do when needed. He told me about the day *Hatterascal* was christened with her first catch. The Atlantic Ocean off Palm Beach, Florida, still had a good deal of bluster from a Nor'easter that had recently passed through. *Hatterascal* made small work of the 10-to-12-foot swells while running 28 knots quartering to swells. Don't try this with an ordinary boat.

