2007 Sea Ray 185 Sport

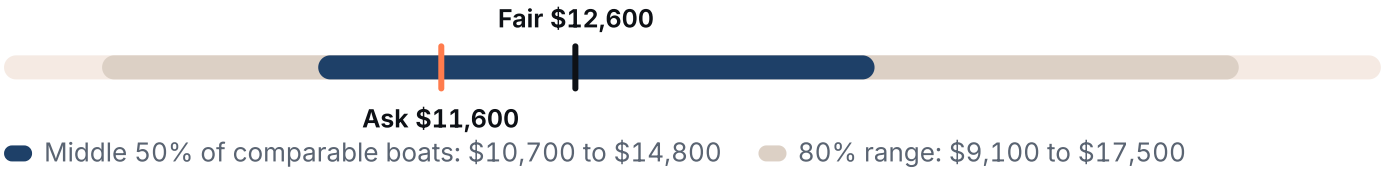
18 ft · bowrider / runabout · Gold Country, CA

Asking **$11,600** · the listing

Verdict **Buy**

The ask is 8% under our fair value of $12,600. Offer $10,750, and do not pay more than $11,500.

Open at	Fair value	Walk away above	Asking
$10,750	$12,600	$11,500	$11,600 -8%



The ask sits below our fair value, so price is not the main risk here. Hours are not stated and no HIN is listed, so condition and history are the open questions. The ad has been live for 40 days. A survey, a sea trial, and written service history decide whether this hull is worth the price.

01 What this boat is

Each fact with where it came from. When two records disagree, the row is marked.

Field	Value	Source
Builder	Sea Ray	the listing
Model	185 Sport	the listing
Model year	2007	the listing
Length	18 ft	the listing
Type	bowrider / runabout	the listing
Engine	Mercury 4.3L	the listing title
Location	Gold Country, CA	the listing

02 What it's worth

Fair value	Middle 50%	80% range	Comparable boats
$12,600	**$10,700 to $14,800**	**$9,100 to $17,500**	**187**
confidence: medium	half of comparable boats	8 in 10 comparable boats	31 same model, 45 same model line, 33 same builder, 78 other builders

Fair value of $12,600 draws on 187 comparable boats: 55 listed today and 132 that have since come down. Of those, 31 are the same model, 45 share the model line, 33 share the builder, and 78 are similar boats from other builders. The closest matches ask $7,500 (2007, listed now), $11,500 (2008, listed now), $11,500 (2006, last seen Nov 11, 2026), and $9,995 (2007, last seen Aug 5, 2026). Each comparable is adjusted to this boat's year and length before the comparison. These are asking prices, and boats usually sell for less.

The comparable boats

The strongest 12 of 187, in order of weight. "Adjusted" moves each boat to this one's year and length and the factors below. Prices are asks, not sales.

Boat	Match	Hours	Ask	Adjusted	Seen	Status
2007 Sea Ray 185 Sport 2007 · 19 ft · MD · BoatCrazy	same model		$7,500	**$7,300**	Nov 14, 2026	listed now
2008 Sea Ray 185 Sport 2008 · 18 ft · NC · Craigslist	same model		$11,500 cut from $12,500	**$11,800**	Nov 14, 2026	listed now
2006 Sea Ray 185 Sport 2006 · 18 ft · NJ · Craigslist	same model		$11,500	**$13,900**	Nov 11, 2026	taken down
2007 Sea Ray 185 Sport, low hours, excellent condition 2007 · 18 ft · CO · Craigslist	same model		$9,995	**$10,000**	Aug 5, 2026	taken down
2007 Sea Ray 185 Sport 2007 · 18 ft · OR · Craigslist	same model		$13,500	**$13,500**	Jul 6, 2026	taken down
2008 Sea Ray 185 Sport Boat & Trailer 4.3L V6 MerCruiser; Pristine! 2008 · 18 ft · Mercury · IN · Craigslist	same model		$13,500	**$13,400**	Sep 13, 2026	taken down
Sea Ray Boat 2006 185 Sport 2006 · 18 ft · AZ · Craigslist	same model		$11,200	**$12,000**	Sep 3, 2026	taken down
2005 sea ray 2005 · 18 ft · MO · Craigslist	same model		$6,000	**$7,200**	Nov 14, 2026	listed now
2005 Sea Ray 185 Sport Bowrider with MerCruiser 4.3L Engine	same model		$11,100	**$12,600**	Nov 4, 2026	taken down

Boat	Match	Hours	Ask	Adjusted	Seen	Status
2005 · 18 ft · Mercury · CA · Craigslist						
2005 Sea Ray 185 Sport 2005 · 18 ft · CA · Craigslist	same model		$11,500	**$13,100**	Nov 2, 2026	taken down
2008 Sea Ray Sport 185SP - low hours 2008 · 18 ft · AZ · Craigslist	same model		$15,500	**$14,500**	Jul 20, 2026	taken down
NEAR-MINT 2009 Sea Ray 185 Sport 2009 · 18 ft · VT · Craigslist	same model		$14,000 cut from $15,900	**$13,900**	Oct 6, 2026	taken down

Regional price level (west) **+$1,300**

The market right now

For sale now
55
comparable boats listed as of Nov 14, 2026

Time on market
34 days
median between first and last sighting, 132 boats since taken down

Price cuts
30 of 187
comparable listings cut the ask; median cut 11%

This listing: we first saw it for sale on Oct 4, 2026 on Craigslist, 40 days ago. We have not seen the price change.

Read this before you quote the number. Fair value is our estimate of a fair *asking* price for this boat in average condition. No free source publishes used-boat sale prices, so boats usually sell for less than these asks, and we do not invent a discount. On boats we held out to test the method (Nov 13, 2026), 8 in 10 asking prices fell inside the 80% range, and when the value leaned on the same model, the median miss was 18.6%. Condition moves a boat inside the range: the survey decides where this one belongs. Price trend: our data starts Jun 14, 2026, too short to measure one, so we do not claim one.

03 Engine

The listing names a Mercury 4.3L sterndrive, part of the MerCruiser gas family that dominates bowriders of this size. The block itself is reliable. The recurring costs sit in the drive and the exhaust: bellows, gimbal bearing, U-joints, and (in salt service) manifolds and risers. Hours are not stated, so engine wear is unknown. Make any offer subject to seeing the hour meter, the engine's diagnostic log, and a compression test. On inspection, have the drive pulled and ask for winterization and riser receipts.

Engine	Mercury 4.3L	the listing title

BoatVerdict engine note, editorial

MerCruiser sterndrive (gas, 4.5L to 6.2L). The most common inboard/outboard in US bowriders and cruisers. The engine itself (GM-based) is reliable; the maintenance burden is the drive and exhaust. Bellows, gimbal bearing, U-joints, and, in any saltwater service, exhaust manifolds and risers are the recurring costs.

04 Known issues for the Sea Ray SPX 190

Editorial notes from BoatVerdict's model profiles. Not recalls; verify each on the boat.

Sterndrive examples carry the full Mercruiser checklist (bellows, gimbal, risers, winterization history); outboard versions (2017+) sidestep most of it and are worth a premium.

Trailer-kept boats often show bunk-pressure stress at the chines, check the hull bottom where it met the bunks.

05 Negotiation

Opening offer	Aim for	Walk away above
$10,750	$11,500	$11,500

The ask is at or under our fair value. Open near the low end of the middle band and stop at the ask.

What to say

"I've looked at 187 similar boats for sale. Adjusted to yours, half price between $10,700 and $14,800. I can offer $10,750, subject to a survey and sea trial."

Fair value $12,600 drawn from 187 comparable boats; the core band is $10,700 to $14,800.

"The closest listings to yours ask $7,500, $11,500, and $11,500. I can send you the links."

2007 Sea Ray 185 Sport (listed now): $7,500. 2008 Sea Ray 185 Sport (listed now): $11,500. 2006 Sea Ray 185 Sport (last seen Nov 11, 2026): $11,500.

"The ad has been live since Oct 4, 2026. I can close this week at a fair number."

First seen for sale on Oct 4, 2026, which is 40 days ago.

"Of 187 boats I tracked, 30 cut their price while listed, by a median of 11%."

30 of 187 comparable listings cut their price; the median cut was 11%.

"My limit is $11,500. Above that, I keep looking: 55 similar boats are for sale today."

Walk-away is $11,500; 55 comparable boats are listed right now.

Your evidence

The closest matches ask $7,500, $11,500, $11,500. 2007 Sea Ray 185 Sport (listed now): $7,500. 2008 Sea Ray 185 Sport (listed now): $11,500. 2006 Sea Ray 185 Sport (taken down, last seen Nov 11, 2026): $11,500. Show these to the seller.

This boat has been for sale at least 40 days. We first saw this boat for sale on Oct 4, 2026. A seller who has waited this long is more likely to take a lower offer.

30 of 187 comparable listings cut their price. Of the comparable listings we tracked over time, 30 lowered the price while listed. The median cut was 11%.

55 comparable boats are for sale right now. The seller is competing with 55 comparable boats that are listed today. You have choices; say so.

Engine hours are not stated. Without hours and service records, the engine is an unknown. Make any offer subject to seeing the hour meter, the engine's own diagnostic log and a compression test.

06 Inspection checklist

Specific to a bowrider / runabout with a sterndrive. Print it and take it to the boat. Hire an accredited marine surveyor (SAMS or NAMS) for anything over a few thousand dollars.

Paperwork, before you travel

- [ ] Get a clear photo of the HIN plate on the starboard side of the transom and check it against the title and registration, character by character.
  A plate that is missing, re-riveted or does not match the title is a reason to stop.
- [ ] See the title in the seller's name. Ask whether there is a loan on the boat or the trailer.
  A lender can claim a boat that still has a lien on it. If there is one, pay off the lender directly at closing and get a lien release.
- [ ] Ask for service records with dates and engine hours on each invoice.
  Invoices with hours let you check the hour meter and see what was done and when.

Hull and structure

- [ ] Have a surveyor sound the transom and use a moisture meter around the engine mounts and every screw hole below the waterline.
  Wet transom core is the most expensive fiberglass repair on a boat this size.
- [ ] Walk the deck and cockpit floor. Press for soft spots near the console, seats and any deck hardware.
  Soft floors usually mean wet core or rotten stringers underneath.
- [ ] Look for star cracks and stress lines in the gelcoat at the hull-to-deck joint, the bow and around cleats and rails.
  Cracks at load points can mean an impact or a weak structure underneath.
- [ ] Open the bilge. Look for standing water, oil sheen, new fiberglass patches or fresh paint on the stringers.
  Fresh paint or new glass in the bilge often hides a repair. Ask what it was.

- [ ] Prefer the outboard variant; on sterndrives demand winterization and riser receipts.
  BoatVerdict model note (editorial).
- [ ] Hull-bottom inspection at the bunk lines.
  BoatVerdict model note (editorial).
- [ ] Upholstery and snap-in flooring condition, the visible price levers.
  BoatVerdict model note (editorial).

Engine and drive

- [ ] Look at the drive bellows (the rubber boots between transom and drive) for cracks and dry rot.
  A failed bellows lets water into the boat and into the gimbal bearing.
- [ ] With the engine off and the drive in neutral, turn the drive by hand and listen at the transom for grinding.
  A noisy gimbal bearing or worn U-joints means pulling the drive.
- [ ] Check drive oil. Milky oil means water intrusion. Ask when the bellows, gimbal bearing and U-joints were last replaced.
  Deferred drive service is the classic hidden cost on sterndrive boats.
- [ ] Ask when the exhaust manifolds and risers were replaced. Look for rust streaks and water in the cylinders during the compression test.
  Corroded manifolds and risers let water into the engine. This matters more on boats used in salt or brackish water.
- [ ] Do a compression test on every cylinder and get the numbers in writing.
  One low cylinder points to valves, rings or water damage.
- [ ] Bellows/gimbal every ~5 years; manifolds/risers every ~6 to 8 years (or 3 to 4 in salt) at $2.5 to 4K. Pull the drive on inspection, deferred drive service is the classic hidden cost.
  BoatVerdict engine note for MerCruiser sterndrive (gas, 4.5L to 6.2L) (editorial).
- [ ] Photograph the hour meter and compare it with the hours on the service invoices.
  The hours are not stated. Until you see them you cannot judge engine wear.

Sea trial

- [ ] Start the engine cold. Ask the seller not to run it before you arrive.
  A warm engine hides hard starting and smoke.
- [ ] Run at full throttle for a short time and check that the RPM reaches the range in the engine owner's manual.
  Low top RPM points to the wrong propeller, a fouled bottom or a weak engine.

- [ ] Check that the steering is smooth lock to lock, the trim works and the gauges read normal temperature and oil pressure.
  Steering and trim repairs are common and easy to miss at the dock.

Trailer (if included)

- [ ] Check the trailer title or registration and its VIN plate.
  The trailer is a separate vehicle. Some states need its own title.
- [ ] Read the date code on each tire (four digits, week and year). Spin each wheel and feel for rough bearings. Test the lights and brakes.
  Old tires and dry bearings fail on the drive home.
- [ ] Look for rust on the frame, axles and springs, and check that the bunks or rollers are not rotten.
  Trailers used in salt water rust from the inside out.

Ask the seller

Can you send a photo of the HIN plate and the title side by side?

Is there a loan on the boat or trailer, and who holds the title?

What does the hour meter read, and can you send a close-up photo?

Do you have service invoices for the sterndrive: bellows, gimbal bearing, U-joints, manifolds, and risers?

Has the boat ever run in salt water, and has it been winterized every year?

Has the boat ever sunk, grounded, caught fire, or had an insurance claim?

Where has it been stored: in the water, on a trailer, covered or outside?

Will you allow an independent surveyor to inspect the boat and run a sea trial before any deposit is final?

07 Sources and method

The listing on Craigslist, last seen Nov 14, 2026.

BoatVerdict market data: 38,132 distinct boats listed for sale since Jun 14, 2026 (Craigslist, Rightboat, BoatCrazy, MarineMax), reposts merged, valuation refit Nov 14, 2026.

BoatVerdict engine and model profiles (editorial notes written by our analysts, not a data feed), 2026.

Method: we collect boats listed for sale, merge reposts of the same boat, and keep boats after they are taken down (with the date we last saw them). For this boat we took same-model boats first, then the same model line, the same builder at a similar size, and other builders' boats of the same type and size. Each one is moved to this boat's year and length using price curves fitted on our data, and weighted by how close and how recent it is. The ranges are calibrated on held-out boats.

What this report cannot see

Sale prices. No free source publishes what used boats actually sell for. Every price here is an asking price, and boats usually sell for less than the ask.

Condition. We have not seen the boat. Photos, a survey and a sea trial decide whether this boat is better or worse than the comparables.

No HIN was given, so we could not check accident reports, USCG documentation, Texas registration or recalls for this exact hull. Ask the seller for the HIN and run it free at boatverdict.com/hin.

Engine hours are not stated. We cannot judge engine wear without them.

Liens and title brands. We check USCG documentation, but state titles and most boat loans are not in any public file we can read.

BoatVerdict is independent. We take no money from sellers, dealers or lenders. Report BV-99XSUAXOLBCV, generated November 14, 2026; prose edited by an AI model and checked against the data.