

Soundome gyro gives better sonar view

WESMAR'S newest sonar the HD850 has completed its first year with the fleet and given "outstanding results," according to the US-based manufacturer.

Says Wesmar: "The technology expands the forward scan view by 30% and electronically stabilises the soundome.

"Key to this new system is 'active' stabilisation, which allows the user to find fish quicker and stay right on them. Wesmar places the electronic gyro in the soundome, making stabilisation nearly instantaneous and far more efficient.

"The sensors in the HD850 system monitor the hull's movement and constantly adjust the aim of the transducer mechanically to compensate for waves. Wesmar offers this system with both an 8 and 10 in. transducer.

"This new, actively stabilized, sonar system is all about efficiency and accuracy. When the transducer scans, the gyro scans with it. Corrections are made in the exact direction the transducer is looking, keeping the

sound beam on target.

"The Wesmar gyro runs 100% of the time, while Wesmar claims that other units have the sensor mounted to a bulkhead which delays the response time."

New Trawlscan technology in the software enables scanning 30% more fishable area than traditional sonars, the company claims.

As the beam moves off the bow the transducer will tilt up to scan a straight line perpendicular to the vessel's course. Trawlscan is viewed on a second monitor with three off centre zoom modes to select from.

Features of the HD850 include:

■ **Active stabilisation:** the stabilisation gyro is in the soundome. When the transducer scans the gyro scans with it. Corrections are made in the exact direction the transducer is looking, keeping the sound beam on target.

■ **New digital link:** long interconnect cable runs are subject to noise and low sonar performance. Wesmar's digital link between the sonar electron-

ics near the transducer and the computer console in the wheelhouse run noise-free for maximum sonar performance.

■ **Searchlight advantage:** 100% of the transducer surface area points in the same direction. Dispersed fish or hard to mark fish are detected clutter free. Omni sonars have 65% of their transducer's crystals pointing in the wrong direction.

■ **Split screen with profile:** scan forward then across the bottom to suit mid-water and bottom trawling operations. Head for the fish and watch as they pass to either side of the vessel.

Sounders mark only under the vessel and not to the sides. In the profile mode, bottom coverage is claimed to be "six to ten times greater than traditional sounders."

■ **Stabilised down sounder:** when seas get rough even the best sounders can lose track of the bottom. With the HD850 in the down sounder mode, active stabilisation keeps the sound beam straight down. The hoist can be lowered below

the bubble layer to improve the picture while, when fishing in the ice, the transducer can be raised inside the seachest to keep running.

Heavy-duty transducer hoist: five seconds up or down. The hydraulic power-pack requires only AC power to run. Two down positions and automatic shutdown for safety. The transducer travels up to 150 cm.

Screen 1, full screen sonar: detect targets all around the vessel.

Four screens 2, split screen: forward scan on top, port starboard bottom profile on lower half. Each screen has its own controls to maximise target detection.

Screen 3, split screen: dual monitor display. One monitor shows split screen with bottom history on the top half and profile on the lower half, with depth displayed in the centre of the screen. The second monitor shows the Trawlscan display.

Screen 4, sounder: full screen sounder with or without fish lupe will operate with the hoist up or down.