

WESMAR Trawl Sonar Saves Russian Trawler \$80,000 in Fuel During 3-Month 2007 Winter Pollock Season!

Most skippers and fishing companies just ‘bite the bullet’ and consider the high cost of fuel as part of doing business, at the same time recognizing that the use of thousands of gallons of fuel each year adds thousands of dollars to their vessel’s operating costs.

JSC Turnif, a fishing company in Russia’s Far East that operates a fleet of 10 large-capacity vessels, thought the same thing until they analyzed the fuel savings realized when they began using a WESMAR Trawl Sonar on their Trawler ‘Pioneer Nikolaev.’

With the WESMAR, the ‘Pioneer Nikoleaev’ became far more efficient in their fishing. The WESMAR system provided them critical information about the trawl net, the location of the fish, and this information reduced their searching time. With the WESMAR, they could also see fish filling the net. Before the WESMAR catch sensors they were in the dark and they often hauled poor quality fish. Now they know when to pull the net for peak quality fish.

With the WESMAR’s ability to monitor ahead of the net, below and the whole net, they were able to catch more fish in less time thus using less fuel.



The factory trawler Pioneer Nikolaeva is well equipped for successful fishing. On board is a WESMAR Trawl Sonar, plus block freezers for production of roe and LBH freezers for frozen fish production.

The WESMAR system provides a 360-degree picture of the net mouth (full length of the headrope, wings and footrope) and bottom, plus fish in and around the net. This information allowed the skipper to make adjustments for optimum catching efficiency. It also allowed the skipper to immediately spot and diagnose gear problems.

This allowed the Pioneer Nikolaev to change their catching techniques, spend less time towing for fish and more time catching, with it came the shocking cost reduction. Analysts found the ‘Pioneer Nikolaev’ saved over \$80,000 on fuel alone during the Winter Pollock in the Okhotsk Sea, in just 3 months, January through March 2007!



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