

## Thruster Customer Report

**“Now Bill just puts the boat wherever he wants it. He has total control.”**

Bill McSharer has successfully pursued rock lobster on the westcoast of Australia for several years. This Lancelin Professional operates near hard ground around coastal rocks so maneuverability is critical for McSharer's 17 meter (5.1 meter beam) Kate Mac.

Any mishap is expensive, and McSharer had recently damaged a propeller on a reef when he spoke with Rick Matson, of Legend Boat Builders in Western Australia, about installing a bow thruster. "I thought if I installed a bow thruster it would give me the ability to extend my fishing and protect my boat," he explained.

"I was sitting with Bill talking about increasing the boat's maneuverability and mentioned that a bow thruster would allow him to walk it sideways," Rick says. "We were very confident it would work and after putting a budget together, the WESMAR 12" 25- hp, Dual Prop Bow Thruster was installed and flawless sea trials followed." The Thruster was fully installed by Legend and is incorporated with the vessel's pot winch.

"Our initial concern was that the thruster might affect speed and fuel consumption, but it hasn't changed at all," Rick said. "Now Bill just puts the boat wherever he wants it.

He has total control over the boat and can just simply run it in circles within it's own length."

How have other westcoast fishermen reacted to Bill McSharer's innovative use of a bow thruster?

"Most of them have been pretty impressed," states McSharer. "Other boats will have bow thruster once they see it work."



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