

Thruster Customer Report

“I was shocked at the power put out by WESMAR’s Double Thrust.”

‘This boat has so much windage that even five knots of wind used to push me away from the dock,’ says John Henrichs, owner and skipper of the 88,000 lb., 60’ Hatteras sportfisher, Tiger.

The Tiger’s narrow slip doesn’t make docking a cinch in any conditions - there’s only two feet of clearance on either side (throw in the boat’s fenders and you’re down to a foot). “Backing in was a nightmare,” Henrichs says. “I was even accused of being an inept boat handler.”

Though hardly anywhere near inept - his father was a boatbuilder and Henrichs himself a 747 captain and instructor pilot - the embarrassment of trying to dock in the wind proves universal.

However, embarrassments are a now a nonissue; Henrichs installed a WESMAR electric “Double Thrust,” counter-rotating bow thruster. “At first I was a little leery that a 10 horsepower thruster motor could provide enough power,” he says. “I was seriously considering a hydraulic thruster, but after seeing a WESMAR Double Thrust in operation, I bought one.”

And?

“I was surprised at the thrust the WESMAR put out. The combination of a 12” tube and the counterrotating dual prop delivers more power -



John Henrichs has only 2 feet of clearance when backing his 60’ Hatteras sportfisher into his narrow Lake Washington slip. With his WESMAR thruster he can do it easily, even in the wind.

way more - than I could imagine. The thrust is immediate, it really moves water.

“We’re going to Canada and Alaska this summer where there’s a half dozen places we have to dock in 4-6 knots of current. Without the thruster I had to let my wife Sandy (she weighs 100 pounds) off the boat to handle the lines, and we’d get one shot at it. Now, docking is simple. We can go anywhere single-handed.”

Henrichs demonstrated this very fact during a cruise around Lake Washington, where he successively walked the boat sideways, backed into the narrow slip with nary a touch, and tied everything off himself. Henrichs says the electric

dual prop installation took “three days total, as opposed to what would have been several weeks of hydraulic work.”

Cost? “Less than half of the hydraulic system we considered.”

Any side effects from the tube installation? “None. The boat ran very smooth prior to the thruster installation, and it’s still smooth, with no loss of speed.

“This installation has allowed us to dock a heavy, large windage boat single-handed. It proves to me that the WESMAR thruster is not reserved for just motor yacht type vessels. It should be considered standard equipment on all boats, including sportfishers.”

