

The Unsinkable Meets the Dependable A Match is Made

Boston Whaler: *The Unsinkable Legend* **WESMAR:** *Fish Detection the Professionals Depend On*

Tournament fisherman Tom Stark chose a 30-foot Boston Whaler to get to where the fish are, faster. He chose the WESMAR sonar to be sure he found the fish when he got there. The match seems perfect. Boston Whalers are legendary for being fast and unsinkable and WESMAR sonars are legendary for finding fish and being dependable.

Stark said he bought the Whaler after he entered some tournaments and he saw a number of people buying the smaller, premier fishing boats, such as the Boston Whalers, because they could get to the fishing grounds faster and that is also where he became aware of the larger directional sonars.

The decision to match the Whaler with the WESMAR took some research. He began looking at sonar after observing their success in a Marlin tournament. He looked at WESMAR sonar in part because of a recommendation from a friend with a dive boat who uses a WESMAR to track his scuba divers. He decided to work through Seaside Marine after talking to owner David Lawson who has 17 years of installation, sales and service in Newport, California, and whose business includes mechanical and electronic installations on vessels like the Boston Whalers. "When I got serious I learned Furuno did not have a 6" soundome anywhere near the class of the WESMAR. I met with David at Seaside Marine and he gave me enough confidence to go ahead with it. If he had not handled it correctly, I would not have gone ahead with it.

"I chose the HD800 series WESMAR with a lead screw hoist. The mechanical hoist was less expensive and I was under no pressure to get the transducer down quicker than 20 seconds.

"Space was an issue for installation. I was impressed with how it was done. They lifted up



the back deck and built-in the seachest filling in with foam. The controls are in the overhead at the helm area. It is a real clean job, a great job," says Stark.

About the sonar he says he is still practicing with it and educating himself on how to read the returns. "I'm pleased. It's working great. I can look back and see the twin outboards, and the props in the water. Traveling around Catalina Island I can identify both individual and schools of fish. I followed three sea lions recently for a couple of hours. I've identified bait balls and a couple of large fish hanging around the bait balls." He says he plans more practice when the squid arrive off the coast of California in late March.

The Boston Whaler is advertised as beautifully appointed for both fishing and relaxing. While there are less creature comforts than a yacht, it is hard to make a case against comfort on Stark's boat. It's well appointed for fishing and cruising and the roominess afforded by its wide beam provides plenty of elbowroom for several guests.

The carefully designed cabin has a galley area and enclosed head with room to spare. Four can overnight comfortably and there is lots of storage for gear, clothing, rods, beverages and the catch of the day. Power comes from twin 225 HP Mercury Optimax outboard engines with a fuel capacity of 300 gal. A hard top provides protection from weather. The cabin interior is nicely appointed.

