

## The WESMAR Advantage:

### Two Sonars and a Bow Thruster

Sitka Roe Herring highliner credits WESMAR for great fishing

Competition in the Alaska Roe Herring fishery has become so intense that the boats look for any advantage they can. There were two very short openings in Sitka in March. With so many seiners crowded in the bay it took careful work, fast reaction, and the best equipment to compete. Most of the boats had sonar, so the playing field was even. Or was it?

One of the highliners had two WESMAR sonars and a WESMAR Bow Thruster. He credits them with his success.

“I used both sonar at the same time—the HD800 for searching and the 600E for setting in really shallow water. We used the thruster to herd the fish in and when they got in the right spot we set. The bow thruster helped me keep position and set around the boats. Because of it we could maneuver easier on the grounds, and with twins we can throw around pretty fast,” said Captain Steve Suydam.

The 58-foot whaleback *Crimson Beauty*, a fiberglass Purse Seiner, is owned by Steve and Linda Suydam, of Kodiak and is well equipped with electronics.

“I’ve always been a WESMAR fan because the sonar really works well. I’ve used WESMAR since the early 80s. The HD800 is the fifth one I’ve owned and I can tie improvements to each. The HD800, for example, has much finer definition.”

“This year we installed the WESMAR DPC bow thruster for maneuverability and to get



out of the way in the more congested areas. It’s worked really well,” said Suydam.

The *Crimson Beauty* fishes all the Roe Herring seasons and from June to October she fishes Salmon in Southeast, Kodiak, and Chignik. Suydam has fished almost all his life as an independent. He bought his first boat in 1979 and in 1990 he built the *Crimson Beauty*. Last Winter she went through a major rebuild adding two feet to her length and 5 feet to her beam to increase packing space.

“It’s been a good season so far, thanks in part to WESMAR. Every year I fire up the sonar and it just works as well as when I turned it off.”

