

“WESMAR’s HD800 Sonar Is The Best”

Finnur Jonsson, General Manager, Rafhus, Reykjavik, Iceland

Fishing success and WESMAR Sonar are well connected in Iceland says Finnur Jonsson, General Manager and owner of Rafhus Company in Reykjavik. He was WESMAR’s top International Dealer in 2000. His company serves the fishing fleet in Iceland which primarily fishes the 200 mile zone.

“WESMAR makes excellent products, especially the HD800. It is wonderful for bottom fishing because you can discriminate the fish close to the bottom; and you can profile and can really get a good picture,” said Jonsson. “The WESMAR sonar is the most popular of the scanning sonar in Iceland because it’s the best one. It does a better job locating the fish, and it’s more reliable. It is the best one,” said Jonsson.

Jonsson’s company sells sonar to Trawlers and Seiners. This successful business keeps him and his 6 employees extremely busy. The top dealer award was presented by sonar manufacturing pioneer Bruce Blakey, WESMAR President and founder. “Rafhus has been successful because of their strong technical capability and outstanding service to WESMAR’s customers in Iceland,” said Blakey.

Jonsson’s company has three technicians and covers the entire coastline of Iceland. Jonsson said their WESMAR trained technician, “is one of the best.”

Finnur Jonsson is no stranger to fishing. He formerly managed a fishing fleet on the West Coast of Iceland, where he was responsible for the operation of between 2 to 7 boats. Each boat was in the 70-meter size with 24-hour operation. He is well acquainted with Iceland’s fishing industry.

Iceland’s fishing fleet has 1600 vessels ranging in size from 8 to 90 meters. Of these, 120 are purse seiners and 100 are factory trawlers. Iceland’s seiners are 25 to 30 meters in size, often Scottish Seiner designs, and they are fishing year around for all kinds of bottom fish. They are mostly equipped with WESMAR’s HD800 searchlight sonar.

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Dennis Soderberg, WESMAR’s Vice President of Electronic Products, and top international dealer, Finnur Jonsson, discuss special design characteristics responsible for the outstanding success of the HD800 sonar.

bottom; and you can profile and can really get a good picture,” said Jonsson. The industry is highly competitive and carefully regulated. Both existing fishing vessels and newly constructed vessels need WESMAR to be competitive.

WESMAR’s TCS Trawl sonar is used by the larger trawlers— 45 meters and above— catching both the prized red fish (priced above \$200 per fish USD), and the commercially valuable mackerel. Sometimes herring and caplin as well.

Ninety-nine percent of the capelin is used for fishmeal and delivered to the many fishmeal plants in Iceland for processing to meal and fish oil, which are exported to fish farms around the world. Cod, Haddock, Pollock and Red Fish are the primary consumption fish and Iceland’s 270,000 populous are among the world’s highest per capita consumers of fish, comparable only to the Japanese and Portuguese, said Jonsson.

Iceland’s Research Institute keeps careful watch on quotas carefully balancing the allowable catches. The Institute limits the months that the vessels can fish as well as the amount they can catch.

The vessel’s in Iceland’s purse seine market are 25 to 30 meters in size, often Scottish Seiner designs, such as the GEIRpH-150 above, are fishing year around for bottom fish.

