

New Zealand Trawler Chooses WESMAR

Ocean Fisheries Ltd. of Lyttleton, New Zealand, is no stranger to large vessels or WESMAR sonar. The 16-metre, 76-ton Steel Trawler FV CRESSY is legendary in the local South Island Trawl Fishery, where expertise, sonar, and a magnificent boat have proven that all fishing operations are not equal.

To build upon past success, Ocean Fisheries launched a magnificent new boat, aptly named The Frontier in August 2004.

The 19-meter, 143-ton vessel made regional headlines when it was introduced. Just moving the boat required three cranes and white-knuckle planning. The Frontier is the largest fishing vessel to be constructed in Lyttleton for at least 50 years, and required a 19-month building period.

The Frontier's introduction signals a healthy local fishery.

Builder Stark Brothers Ltd. in Lyttleton began their operations in 1958 and is synonymous with vessel quality in New Zealand.

The Frontier includes a variable pitch propeller and shaft generator. No auxiliary engine will be fitted; all 230v / 400v electrical requirements being supplied from the shaft generator. Everything on the boat is first-class, handpicked, and critical for good fishing. The Frontier will be searching for Red Cod, Blue Wahoo, Squid, Terikihi, and Flat Fish while fishing the inshore east coast Fishery on New Zealand's South Island. The boat is surveyed for up to 200 miles from shore.

Benefiting this search is a WESMAR HD800/110-8 sonar, a critical tool according

to Andrew Stark, Manager of Stark Brothers. He described how the WESMAR equipment is used in a recent interview with WESMAR.

"The WESMAR Sonar is a component of the package of electronics on board, all are valuable tools in maximizing catch rates," said Stark. "The sonar is mainly used for locating schools of fish forward of the vessel we have used the sonar (WESMAR) to locate fish forward of the vessel, then maneuver the boat/trawl net as required to ensure that the school of fish enter the net."

This delicate navigation is critical when a fish school is located and there is limited time to take advantage of this good fortune.

Stark underscored the value of the equipment when outlining the size of the weekly catch.

"The weekly tonnage landed is expected to be in the region of 40 tons."

A lot of fish; but worthy of a 143-ton boat.



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