

Best Month Ever

Prawn fisherman endorses HD800

Prawn fishermen Paul Daniels has some advice to vessel owners currently seeking prawns around the world. Do yourself a favor and just try the new WESMAR HD800. "Trust me, they will know what I'm talking about when they see the performance," says Daniels, who just finished his best month of fishing in the five years he has sought spot prawns in his 86' dragger, the Lady Rosemary.

Daniels, a man of multiple talents, was a former general contractor in California and did not begin fishing full time until five years ago. Amazingly, he chose to enter the industry in one of the most specialized fisheries in the world. Daniels and his crew operate one of only about half a dozen vessels that comb the West Coast for spot prawns. The November to March season can be taxing because of the technical knowledge involved in the process. The crewmen on the Rosemary deal with a live product, carefully landed during tows that take place every 1 to 2 hours. Special oxygenation tanks and other expensive equipment is necessary onboard to ensure a fresh product for the marketplace.

Because of the specialized nature of this process, and the fact that fishing for prawns requires the ability to distinguish fish schools from nearby rocks and cliffs, a difficult proposition for sonars of the past, Daniels has never considered purchasing a sonar system before, and frankly has never seen the utility of such equipment. But when he was introduced to WESMAR's HD800 and read about the dual screen application in the WESMAR brochure (see description below), he realized that he may have to change his mind about the use of sonar for prawn and shrimp fishing.

"The HD800 makes our fishing much more efficient," says Daniels. "We have a 160 kHz model and we search for the spot prawns in 120-160 fathoms. The sonar lays out the canyons and we are able to see where to position the boat for an efficient set. We use less time per tow and are able to get the trawl positioned correctly."

"The HD800 also enhances our safety and saves our equipment," Daniels notes. "We see a vivid picture, so we know when to move from a cliff or pull in our gear. The pictures are true to the brochure, a clear screen view. You can even dial out the clutter if necessary. We are no longer shooting in the dark."

Daniels was also impressed with the expert assistance he received in installing his first sonar system. WESMAR showed a tremendous amount of courtesy when showing us what the HD800 could do and Earl Sherman of A & E Electronics did a fantastic job with the installation.

What does he plan to do next with his new sonar? "We plan to explore all of our options in the Pink Shrimp fishery," says Daniels. "I'm excited about it already."

****WESMAR HD800 Dual Screen Action**

In the full sonar screen format, the HD800 will astound you with an expanded screen feature that empowers operators to scan in the traditional forward mode while providing instant soundbeam manipulation that shows on an overlay screen. The simple flip of a switch immediately maneuvers the soundbeam to vertical scanning, producing a window on the sonar that shows the captains the density or size of the fish school they are monitoring. In Dual Screen mode, 75% of the screen shows the sonar searching forward and 25% displays the fish school in a vertical plane.



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