

Powerful HD800 Profiling Sonar Finds Crab Pots and Where to Place Them

“The definition on this screen is excellent.”

After years of fishing across the Pacific Ocean for Hake, Albacore, Rockfish and Crab, Charles Eickhoff is familiar with nearly all applications of sonar use. He has relied on fish-finders during many of his journeys and has a fantastic recollection of what methods are the most effective in specific regions and fisheries. Currently, Eickhoff is focusing much of his energy seeking crab along the Pacific Coast of the United States.

The use of profiling sonar for locating crab pots and finding ideal sites to leave them, is a rather daunting task. Conventional searchlight sonar systems often do not offer the high resolution necessary for discovering these critical targets and analyzing the contours of the bottom. To ensure he was introduced to every bit of new technology, Eickhoff spent a great deal of time scouring the profiling sonar market for value and performance. After sampling all available units and consulting with several fishermen, Eickhoff settled on the WESMAR HD800-110 profiling sonar system. The WESMAR unit was the most advanced, and Eickhoff was comfortable with WESMAR since he had successfully used systems manufactured by the company in the past. The new HD800 was installed six months ago on the Raven Dancer; a seaworthy 52' vessel built in 1981 at Little Hoquiam Boatyard.

While using the HD800 along the coast of Washington State at the end of his crab season (he usually begins the first week of December and continues until the beginning of May), Eickhoff discovered the brilliance of the HD800. He was able to find crab pots and locate “holes” in which to place them, a tremendous advantage. Although Eickhoff was familiar with reports of other fishermen using the HD800 to locate their crab gear along the Oregon Coast, he was still a little skeptical. To become familiar with his new



The WESMAR advanced high definition HD800-110 sonar system installed on Charles Eickhoff's 52' Raven Dancer is ideal for bottom profiling and forward or vertical scanning, making it the perfect sonar for locating crab pots.

profiling sonar he started searching for rather small round pots (42" wide x 15" tall) to see what all the fuss was about.

He was pleasantly surprised by the results. “With the WESMAR profile mode, you can easily see pots in front of the boat and pots as you drive over them. They appear as raised red spots on a green or yellow background,” says Eickhoff. “They are really easy to see. I am excited to use this profiler for a full Crab season next year.”

How will the HD800 help Eickhoff place the pots?

“The profile will help us find holes, see rock edges and determine whether the bottom is gravel or sand, or other bottom grades.” Eickhoff continued, “I think the HD800 will be a tremendous tool for fishermen placing and chasing down Dungeness Crab pots in Alaska and Lobster pots on the East Coast. They will definitely be able to see what they are looking for.”

High definition is paying off.

