

# New Zealand Pilchard Seiner Sees More Fish Than He Can Catch!

The F/V San Antone is a pilchard purse seiner operating out of Whangerei, New Zealand. The vessel is owned by Gary Penzone who has been using WESMAR sonars for many years. Early this year, Gary decided to upgrade his WESMAR HD600 sonar to the new HD800 sonar to improve his efficiency.

Dean Basford, the other skipper of the San Antone, credits the HD800 sonar for allowing him to select which schools of pilchards to target—especially when there are several schools to choose from. According to Dean, “I once picked up 2 large schools of pilchards with the WESMAR sonar. One school was about 70 ton and the other about 40. I went for the 40 ton school because going for the larger school might have caused my nets to go under the boat, resulting in serious damage to my gear. It is not often when one goes for a smaller school of fish—but there is no point trying to catch beyond our capacity and cause expensive damage to our gear.”

Alan Leong, WESMAR’s International Sales Manager, explains that the WESMAR HD800 works very well for



*Newly upgraded F/V San Antone, was recently outfitted with a WESMAR HD800 sonar after having an HD600 sonar for many years.*

pelagic fishing in shallow waters. The high frequency focused narrow beam angle of the high frequency HD800 sonar allows for maximum range detection in shallow waters. A wider beam would have resulted in limited range as the sonar beam hit the surface or bottom before detecting the fish school.

“The WESMAR sonar has paid for itself already,” Dean expressed.



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