

WESMAR SS395 SONAR TAKES THE GUESSWORK OUT OF SQUID JIGGING

FV Angelina is one of the top prawn trawlers in South Australia, which has one of the best managed fisheries in the world. About 38 prawn trawlers fish for King Prawns on an average of 70 nights a year in the pristine clear waters of Spenser Gulf and the Gulf St Vincent. What FV Angelina catches in 70 nights in South Australia is as much if not more than what many prawn trawlers catch in a whole year in other parts of Australia.

The owner of FV Angelina & FV BeauieJ (sister ship) is Andrew Puglisi, a top prawn skipper himself. Andrew is a firm believer in having the right equipment to do the right job. FV Angelina & FV BeauieJ are ergonomically designed for crew comfort and have a very well equipped electronics package including WESMAR sonars. Andrew's philosophy is to have his crew be comfortable so that they can focus on the task at hand – maximum catch.

Fishing for King Prawns only 70 nights out of the year means that the vessels are under utilized. Ever the entrepreneur, Andrew recently obtained squid licenses and purchased squid jigging gear to be able to fish for squid in between the prawn season. WESMAR's Australian distributor Quin Marine introduced the new WESMAR SS395 sonar to Andrew who decided to use it for their squid fishing. Andrew was very impressed with how quickly it was to install the SS395. He was able to use his existing soundome and all the cables were plug and play. What impressed him even more is what David Holland, skipper of FV Angelina had to say after the first voyage with the new SS395 sonar:



FV Angelina is a 22 meter combination trawler/jigger

“I can sit back on my chair and control the sonar using the hand held controller. The SS395 sonar picks out targets better than previous sonar I have used. Steaming to the fishing grounds, I was able to distinguish different fish types, pilchards, leather jackets etc. I was worried if it would detect squid since squid is generally a difficult target to detect even for sounders. So I put the SS395 sonar to the test. Early in the evening, I see a very light blue target off the bottom on the SS395 sonar screen. Moments after switching on the underwater lights, I see the light blue target moving towards the surface. As it moved up, it separated to become individual targets in various shades of blue. It is unbelievable to actually see dispersed squid coming towards the boat and separating into individual targets. This information allows me determine when to start working and when to stop or move to another fishing ground. The WESMAR SS395 sonar takes the guess work out of squid fishing.”

