

Longest Detection Range Ever

WESMAR SS395 sonar see fish 300 meters away in only 8 meters of water!

Fishing in the Kingdom of Thailand is very competitive. There are over 17,000 registered fishing vessels with purse seine vessels accounting for about 2000 of those. The majority of the domestic ships operate in two bodies of water: the Gulf of Thailand on the East Coast and the Andaman Sea on the West Coast. The majority of the fishing is done on the continental shelf where the average depths are less than 50 meters deep.

According to Mr. Wisarute Decharin, Managing Director of SDA Group (a leading marine electronics dealer) in Thailand, it is not uncommon to have 2 sonar systems installed on Thai vessels. One unit is for daily operations while other unit is a back up unit in case the main system fails. Fishing is so competitive in Thailand that a skipper of a vessel without working sonar might as well not go to sea. On any given day there could be 20-30 vessels operating in a 10 square mile area, and with those numbers it becomes survival of the fittest.

“Going to sea without sonar is like walking about blind, it is absolutely essential equipment for fishing.” Wisarute knows what he is talking about. His father, Mr. Suwit Decharin, sold and installed the first sonar in Thailand over 20 years ago, since then the SDA Group has sold over a thousand units of sonar in Thailand. “Back when my father first started selling sonar he had to plead with the skipper to try out the sonar. Today, no purse seine skipper in Thailand fishes without a sonar. The goal of most vessels is to detect the fish, set their nets, haul in the fish and head for home first. This is all an effort to save on time and fuel.”

Mr. Wisarute Decharin recently installed the first unit of the new WESMAR SS395



Mr. Kaek, Captain of the FV Thanasak 9

sonar in Thailand onboard FV Thanasak 9. The skipper, Mr. Kaek, is one of Thailand's finest purse seine fishing operators and is very experienced in using sonar and was very satisfied with the performance of the new WESMAR SS395 sonar.

During sea trials on the first night out using the SS395 sonar Mr. Kaek detected a 5 ton school of scad on the sonar. The school was first detected 300 meters away in a water depth of less than 10 meters. In many parts of the world 5 tons may not seem like much, but in an area where fish are sparse to begin with, it's a good catch. There were roughly 30 vessels that went out that same night, most of them came back empty handed. The few vessels that came back with catches only averaged 1 ton or less in fish.

“The WESMAR SS395 sonar allowed me to stay ahead of the pack, have complete control of the seining operation and get a lot of the fish inside the net. The compact size of the unit made installation very easy. The SS395 picture appears extremely sharp & clear and has the longest detection range of all the sonar units I have ever used.”

