

PowerSource

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Get a high-throttle thrill in Florida

Repowered *Cap Coz* pursues pink clam

JDPS expands its Tier 3 engine lineup

Towboats that push with Tier 3 engines

Qualified technicians offer quality engine service




8

12

18

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ENTERTAINMENT VESSELS

Polish shipyard powers a new Baltic entertainment cruiser with twin John Deere engines 3

Four John Deere engines quietly power the elegant French cruiser *Zohar* 4

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Gary Wood shares his love for lobster fishing and loyalty for John Deere 6

Croatia's NCP Refit builds a fleet of catamarans for Norwegian fish farms 8

An Alaska gillnetter opts for John Deere-powered jet propulsion for his new boat 10

George Dow hauls in lobster with one of the first Tier 3 marine engines 11

Cap Coz searches for pink clams off of France's Brittany coast 12

COVER STORY

Get up to speed on the new *Sea Blaster*. Built by Bonner Boats in Wetumpka, Alabama, this go-fast vessel gets the adrenaline pumping as it gallops across the water with a lot of John Deere horsepower. We're talking twin PowerTech 6135AFM marine engines rated at 485 kW (650 hp). We'll also introduce you to a one-of-a-kind Hydro Jet. Powered by a 373 kW (500 hp) PowerTech 6090SFM engine, it can be best described as a personal watercraft (PWC) on steroids. Check it out for yourself in this issue's cover story, and hold on tight! 14

WORKHORSES ON THE WATER

Florida Marine Transporters grows its fleet of towboats with Tier 3 engines 16

The tugboat *Bison* shows its strength in the Baltic Sea 17

Busy French port pilots large vessels with the repowered *Korvenn* .. 18

Hawk Bay samples and surveys marine wildlife in remote British Columbia 19

NEW PRODUCTS

John Deere meets Tier 3 emissions with a growing number of new marine engine models 20

SERVICE AND SUPPORT

Qualified John Deere technicians are key to quality engine service 22

Order engine parts quickly and conveniently on JDParts.com 23

Wilderness Wanderers

Hawk Bay heads into the remote waters researching wildlife with John Deere power



Some people pay big money to experience what Stan Hutchings and Karen Hansen get paid to do every day aboard *Hawk Bay*.

From Vancouver Island, British Columbia, up to the Alaskan border, they boat into pristine isolated waters, scoping out all sorts of wildlife: killer whales, humpbacks, dolphins, sea lions, seals, sea otters, salmon, and sea birds. They count them, take pictures, and record their findings. Throughout their travels, they also spot grizzlies, black bear, and wolves.

Hutchings and Hansen perform research for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in the summer. Currently, they are collecting spawning salmon counts and monitoring commercial salmon fisheries. In the winter, they collect PSP (paralytic shellfish poisoning) samples for the geoduck fishery. They also occasionally do marine mammal surveys and other biological research work.

Hawk Bay is their work platform. It's also their home, which they share with their chocolate lab, Kona, and two "evil cat monsters" they named Nemo and Dory.

The 16.4-meter (54 foot) *Hawk Bay* has an extensive work resume. It was built as commercial salmon troller, converted into a shrimp trawler, and then switched to drag for bottom fish. In 2003, Hutchings and Hansen converted the fiberglass boat into a year-round liveaboard by extending the main cabin by 3 meters (10 feet) and turning the fish holds into living accommodations.

This past January, the couple repowered the *Hawk Bay* with a new PowerTech 6090AFM engine. "I was looking for a reliable, quiet, and fuel-efficient engine," says Hutchings. "We use our boat all year in mostly isolated locations. We are traveling most days, and the less fuel consumed, the longer we can stay out."

Hutchings purchased and installed the PowerTech 6090AFM engine from John Deere dealer Richie Shaw of Sointula Power Products. The two paired the 213 kW (285 hp) engine with a 51x34-inch (130x86 centimeter), 3-blade prop through a Twin Disc

5090 transmission with a 4.5:1 gear ratio.

"It was actually fun working with Richie, and he did a great job," relates Hutchings. "He is meticulous, well-prepared and informed, and hard working. I have been recommending him to everyone."

The repower took place at Sointula's local shipyard, Tarkanen Marine Ways, "which went above and beyond assisting with the changing of the propeller," says Hutchings. "And the Sointula Harbour is awesome, providing facilities for used oil, bilge water, recycling, and the Sointula Co-op Hardware Store cheerfully provided most of the fittings and hydraulic products we required."

Hutchings is pleased with the compact size of his PowerTech 6090AFM, which takes up a lot less space than his previous 2-stroke engine. He says it's also quieter and easier on fuel. Preliminary figures show a fuel rate of 13.3 liters (3.6 U.S. gallons) per hour — almost half the rate of his previous engine. "This is great," he says, adding: "It will extend my time between fueling."

The 16.4-meter (54 foot) *Hawk Bay*, recently powered by a PowerTech 6090AFM engine, serves both as a work platform and year-round home to wildlife researchers Stan Hutchings and Karen Hansen.

Stan Hutchings and Karen Hansen have spent their careers monitoring wildlife populations in British Columbia.

Carrying 6,000 liters (1,585 gallons) of fuel, *Hawk Bay* now has a longer range and only needs refueling every other month. The fuel efficiency and range are especially good considering the vessels weight and construction. The full-displacement Pelagic hull has a 2.4-meter (8 foot) draft and its keel is built using a large, steel I-beam. So even though it's not built for speed, it still cruises a comfortable 7 knots at 1600 rpm.

Hutchings and Hansen don't seem to be in a real hurry, though. It takes awhile to count 1,200 sea otters floating in the water.

Engine Model	PowerTech 6090AFM75
Displacement	9.0L
Rated Power	213 kW (285 hp) @ 2100 rpm
Cylinders	6
Aspiration	Aftercooled
Distributor	Frontier Power Products Delta, British Columbia (604) 946-5531 www.frontierpower.com
Dealer	Sointula Power Products Sointula, British Columbia (250) 973-6262 www.sointulapowerproducts.com

