

Offshore bubble and toil

Generation Fisheries' new rock lobster vessel is a sleek and efficient workhorse

■ Barry Wiseman

The western rock lobster fleet operating out of Cervantes, 200km north of Perth, has a new addition which signals a recovery in WA's fishing and boat-building industries.

The Thompson family — third-generation fishers after David Thompson Sr launched his boat Seatips in 1966 — operate the Generation Fisheries company. They also run the Indian Ocean Rock Lobster processing factory to maintain quality control of the product and, in 2011, opened the Lobster Shack, a popular tourist attraction where visitors get to experience all facets of the rock lobster industry.

The new 19.4m aluminium vessel Boiling Point is the first new boat commissioned by brothers Michael and David Thompson Jr in 12 years and brings new technology to their existing fleet of eight vessels.

During their 30-year partnership the brothers have built about 40 new boats, but Michael says this latest vessel is the best.

"It really showcases the quality of people Australia has to design and build a 60ft boat with a propeller that can do in excess of 30 knots," he said.

"The vessel has lived up to all expectations. I've had some very good boats over the years but the whole build process on this one has been pain-free and the designers have met all our needs. The quality of workmanship is a credit to the builder, and the tradespeople who worked on it should take a bow."

Costing \$1.3 million, the vessel was built in seven months by Shoreline Marine Fabrication at Henderson, headed by 30-year WA aluminium boat-building industry veteran Brad Moseley.

The commissioning of Boiling Point comes hard astern of the



Boiling Point is Generation Fisheries' first new-build for 12 years. Inset, fabricator Brett Sibum checks the plans with Shoreline Marine's Brad Moseley. Pictures: Heather Moseley, Barry Wiseman

recent addition of the 19m Oceaneer 62 rock lobster vessel Opah off Jurien Bay, built by Fine Entry Marine at Geraldton for the Servaas family.

These new builds can be seen as a sign of recovery, both in the fishing and the professional cray boat-building industries after the introduction of a quota catch system for western rock lobster six years ago.

Boiling Point has been specifically designed as a day boat, operating out of Cervantes on a daily basis rather than staying at sea for lengthy periods. The latest trend is for more tank storage space in the hull to keep the live rock lobsters in top condition.

Skipper Adam Radford said the boat could now store 36 baskets below deck and two on deck. "And with the latest hydraulically-driven water pumps with aeration included, we can guarantee lobster quality at the end of each day," he said.

Radford's previous vessel had a capacity of 27 baskets. "We're really happy with the boat," he continued. "It rides well and we've found the sweet spot and can cruise at 1650rpm doing 18 knots, burning 100 litres of fuel an hour, depending on sea conditions and how many pots we've got on the back."

"When the whites are running at their peak we'll operate 300 pots, pulling 150 per day. There's a lot of interest in the boat coming to Cervantes because it's been a long time since a new boat was built."

Boiling Point is fitted with a 1360hp MTU motor designed to provide a top speed of 30 knots. It has a walk-through wheelhouse to the foredeck, allowing for pot storage up front as well as on the rear deck.

Both Michael and David Thompson had a major input into the design. Leaving the foredeck open uses the whole length of the boat. Vision is paramount, with the bridge designed so the skipper has an unrestricted view. The rear bulkhead is virtually all window, allowing full view of the work deck.

Focus has also been made on the welfare of the crew, with the bridge extending well back to provide sun and rain shelter over the winch working area.

Because it's a day boat workhorse, there was no need for sleeping accommodation and the helm station is fitted with just one skipper's seat.

The dash boasts the latest Furuno electronics fitted by Taylor Marine at Henderson.

Shoreline Marine employs 10 experienced fabricator/welders and Mr Moseley is optimistic the boat building industry is recovering from the GFC.

"There's still the maintenance and re-fits in the pipeline as the fishing fleet recovers," he said.

"Some guys are wanting to increase their holding capacity and fit the new pump technology and I'm sure we're going to see more new boats built."

LOWDOWN

BOILING POINT
Length 19.4m
Beam 5.2m
Draft 1.45m
Max speed 30.5 knots
Cruising speed 26 knots
Fuel 4000 litres
Manufacturer Shoreline Marine Fabrication, 1/8 Redemptora Road, Henderson
Phone Brad Moseley, 0408 519 980

AROUND THE BUOYS

Freo's Smith aims for Olympic glory

■ Edited by Bernie Kaaks

Fremantle Sailing Club's Carrie Smith and her Victorian sailing partner Jaime Ryan are enjoying their first Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, starting their campaign last Wednesday on the Escola Naval Course and finishing with the medal race next Thursday.

Smith's preparation has been challenging. In October, the pair placed ninth in the 470 World Championships in Israel to qualify for the Olympics. But Smith then had to undergo multiple surgeries which kept her off the water for six months.

Their return to international competition began with an 18th at the 470 Worlds held in Argentina in February but they followed up with an eighth place in the European Championships in Spain.

In June they moved to the UK for the Sailing World Cup at Weymouth and placed fifth.

With coach Nathan Willmot directing their campaign, Smith and Ryan are poised for success in Brazil and have a huge following in the WA sailing community.

Meanwhile, David Walling's Farr40 The Next Factor and Scott Glaskin's Farr30 Cougar were rewarded for their polished performances throughout the Valmadre Series and Recco State IRC championship when each boat won first place on both IRC and YAH handicap categories in divisions 1 and 2 respectively.

So dominant was Cougar's performance in division 2, the two worst races dropped from her IRC scoreline were a second and a first, giving her a perfect score of six points from six races. Bill Henson sailed Circa into second place with 17 points, two points ahead of Laurie Flynn's Dynamic.

The Next Factor finished two points clear of Paul Arns' Obsession in division 1, with Chris Higham's Argo in third place, seven points further adrift.

In the double-handed division, Hillarys sailor Wayne Pitcher finished with seven points. Second and third were tied on eight points but Alison Stock's Selkie claimed second place on a countback ahead of Peter Henley's Cutty Wren.

Unsurprisingly, The Next Factor and Cougar also won their divisions in the Valmadre Cup Series but Selkie won the double-handed division by a single point from Dart Vader.

The Voladora Race was run last Saturday and was the final race of the series. Fortunately, the weather gods smiled on the fleet. Winds eased towards the finish of the race but all crews were back in the clubhouse to enjoy the Valmadre Cup presentations.

The Regatta was well organised by the Fremantle Sailing Club and run by the offshore race team. For full results see sportspage.com.au.



The Next Factor win the Recco IRC State Championship. Picture: Bernie Kaaks

MARTIN BOX MARINE



Sunseeker 66' \$989,000
Luxuriously appointed 2006 model offered for immediate sale. Powered by twin C18 1001hp Caterpillar diesels with only 939 hours supported by a Kohler 17.5Kva generator for all onboard systems. Four cabin layout, full beam master suite and crew quarters. Cherry wood timber and leather interior with a rear galley adjoining the large cockpit complete with refrigeration and icemaker. Hydraulic swim platform for tender storage.
Jamie Dodd 0418819181



LeisureCat 8m \$89,900
Twin 225hp Suzuki Four strokes with only 362 hours power this craft to a healthy 40 knots. Extensive electronics including touch screen Garmin Gps, Sounder and Radar package with auto pilot. Large back deck with catch tanks and cuddy cabin with toilet for overnighting make this an all-rounder. This 2009 example is a good low hour boat at an attractive price on a perfect tri-axle trailer. Save big on replacement cost.
Jake Flintoff 0402905911



Sambraileo 55' \$189,500
Constructed to the highest of standards for the shipwrights own personal use this iconic vessel features crafted woodwork throughout her interior which provides accommodation for the entire family or you can head to the Abrolhos Islands with a full team. Spacious saloon features a large dinette and galley that opens onto a massive cork laid rear deck. Powered by twin Volvo diesels with auxiliary power provided by an Onan generator.
Jamie Dodd 0418819181



Sunrunner 33' \$109,000
This Sunrunner is in a class well above the rest of its competitors with faultless presentation and is the perfect Rotto weekend with loads of seating in the cockpit, functional galley and two cabins. Equipped with a GENSET for running all the extras including air conditioning. Complete with an inflatable dingy, Honda outboard, camper covers and a stainless BBQ. This boat is highly recommended by our team and available now.
Adam Scahill 0419847439



Thomascraft 40' \$149,500
Big volume family cruiser perfect for extended stays at the islands with big horsepower from the Caterpillar diesel for fast comfortable cruising. Twin cabin layout provides accommodation for six plus lounges. The rear deck has a full length canopy with side clears and has a dinghy cradle and davit above. Equipped with solar panels, inverters, bow thruster and Raymarine electronics. Cruises at 20 knots and can achieve 27 knots when asked.
Jamie Dodd 0418819181

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