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SEAFOOD

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The refit of the Sea Hawke II

By Kirsty van Rijk
Photographs by Kevin Piper
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It might seem strange that a country as cold as Sweden is the home of one of the most efficient and practical hold refrigeration systems available today, but it is, and Pacific Trawling and Ngai Tahu Fisheries, joint owners of six fishing vessels, can attest to the Searef systems efficiency, and its easy adaption to use in the New Zealand fishing industry environment.

Searef offers a system so well suited to the purposes of New Zealand fishing vessels that vessel managers, Forty South Ltd, Napier, have followed their initial installation on thirty-one metre stern trawler Pacific Explorer with a second unit on their vessel *Sea Hawke II*.

“We are that confident with the Searef system and how it has performed for us on the *Explorer* that we had a second set of hold coils shipped over with those for the *Sea Hawke II*,” says Bryan Hjorring, vessel manager for Forty South.

Bryan discovered the system when he was planning the upgrade of the *Pacific Explorer*. But it was the ease of installation and efficiency of the system once operating that got him thinking and the *Sea Hawke II* was earmarked for a refit also.

The installation of the system was a key buying point for Forty South.

“We realised we could do it ourselves,” Bryan says.

“The polymeric coils are flexible and constructed in four metre lengths – easily lowered into the hold without fear of damage.”

And once operational the Searef unit will have the hold temperature at one degree within two hours.

“The guys on *Pacific Explorer* said they turn it on at the start of



Pictured here is skipper of the *Sea Hawke II* George Wairau (right) and crewman Dan Sylva.

the trip, turn it off for a short period to defrost during the turn-around and in between it runs itself whilst we catch the fish,” Bryan reports.

But the *Sea Hawke II* is a different vessel to the *Pacific Explorer*, a testament to the adaptability of the system.

“We did a lot of work on *Sea Hawke II*,” Bryan says. “It was fitted with a new 3412 Caterpillar rated at 720hp at 1800rpm supplied by Gough’s. We also rebuilt the Hiemdal reduction box. Genset fully rebuilt the ultra reliable 3304 Caterpillar after 64,000 hours and one previous rebuild.”

The main winches were removed and the net rollers rebuilt. The winches were built by Jaden Engineering in Australia and, Bryan

The Searef system has proved its reputation for being tough, yet flexible, efficient and effective – a lot like the team at Forty South Ltd.

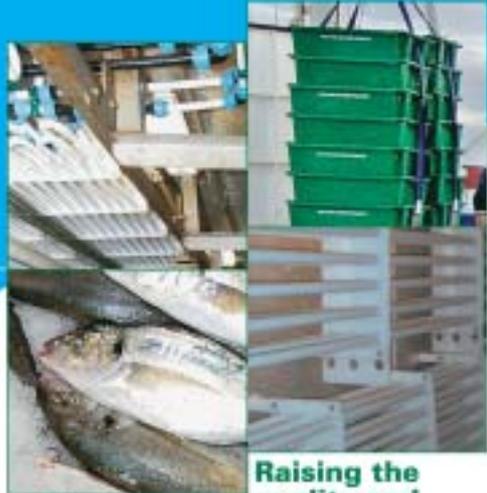
reports, have also proved their worth during the 15 years the vessel has been operating.

During the refit and survey the old hold refrigeration unit was removed and modifications were made to the fish hold to allow a change from mainly bulk fishing to binning of the catch.

“We also ordered a new refrigeration system from Searef,” Bryan says. The system is hardy and flexible, easily installed and has proven >



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Skipper George Wairau and his daughter Cedar aged 3yrs.

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on the *Pacific Explorer* to be able to take the hard knocks that are dished out. This, coupled with a high efficiency in operation, makes it the perfect system for the job, on either vessel.

That system is waiting for installation but Bryan has high hopes that they can get the system in without any disruption to *Sea Hawke II's* fishing plan.

"It's a big ask," he says.

"We want to fit it over two or three turnarounds, but having the first system fitted by Martin Starzman and his technician from Searef and with the continued support that we receive from him."

But Bryan is confident he and his team will meet the challenge. "We found with the installation on the *Pacific Explorer* that one of the big advantages of this system is the ease in which the hold coils can be retro fitted into a vessel."

Forty South are a small group of highly skilled people working efficiently together. There is an atmosphere of enthusiasm in their workshop, and Bryan and managing director Chris Robinson exude a zeal for their work that is sorely missing in many industries. Both have an obvious confidence not only in the Searef system but also in their own team's abilities.

"I am confident that the team at Forty South is capable of achieving this goal," Bryan says.

"And we are planning a third installation." This will see the 17-metre inshore vessel *Torea II* fitted with Searef refrigeration coils.

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