

Dongara Marine has taken apart and rejuvenated the 'Windjana' cray boat, adding 2.1 metres to the boat's length and updating its functionality.

'Windjana' was originally launched in November 1995 at Port Denison in West Australia. Designed by John Fitzhardinge before the formation of Southerly Designs, the hull was built in aluminium by Geraldton Boat Builders then transported to Dongara Marine where the composite superstructure they had constructed was installed, and the wiring, fit-out and painting carried out.

The boat was skippered by Tim Fitzhardinge for the family company until he retired from fishing, and the boat was then sold to another Dongara-based fishing family.

In 2015 she was sold to fisherman Terry Lissiman who installed a Scania V8 DI 16 producing 670kW at 2,300rpm, and had Dongara Marine carry out modifications to the stern gear and skeg, and re-paint the composite wheelhouse and refurbish the interior.

'Windjana' was then sold to the Groom family who have also acquired the Fitzhardinge family's fishing licenses and infrastructure at North Island.

After purchasing the vessel, the Groom family contracted Southerly Designs to plan a 2.1-metre extension amidships with a new 48-basket cray tank.

Dongara Marine was tasked with carrying out the extension which involved cutting the vessel forward of the engine, moving the parts apart and building the new section into the boat. With the new tanks installed, the vessel has a capacity of over two tonnes of live lobsters, double the capacity of the original tankage.



Dongara Marine added 2.1 metres to 'Windjana's' length

A new 25kVA three phase genset from MASE was installed to provide power for the increased pumping system for the new cray tanks. Dongara Marine's Keith Parris completely re-wired the boat incorporating three phase circuits for the enlarged cray tank pumping system. Following the construction work, the hull was re-painted by Dongara Marine.

The sea trials proved the anticipated improvement in performance with the additional length, with an operational speed of 19 knots at 1,850rpm, and 25 knots at the

maximum rpm of 2,300, with full fuel tanks and no water in the cray tanks.

With cray tanks full, an additional nine tonnes of deadweight, operational speed was 16.5 knots at 1,850rpm.

Jared Groom who skippers the boat for the family, is delighted with the performance of the extended boat, and has caught the majority of their large quota in a short time mainly fishing in the deep water on the continental shelf.

The modifications were completed in three months, allowing 'Windjana' to be ready in time for the opening of the new quota season.

## 'Windjana' SPECIFICATIONS

Type of vessel: Lobster boat

Classification: 3B NSCV
Owner: Groom family, WA

Designer: John Fitzhardinge /

Southerly Designs, WA

Builder: Dongara Marine, WA

Hull construction

material: Aluminium

Superstructure construction material: GRP

Deck construction

material: Aluminium

Length overall: 19.1 metres

Beam: 5.2 metres

Draught: 1.5 metres

Displacement: 16.95 tonnes (light)

Main engine: Scania V8 DI 16 diesel,

670kW at 2,300rpm

Generator: MASE 25kVA 3 phase

Maximum speed: 25.5 knots

Cruising speed: 18.5 knots

Electronics supplied by: Furuno

Fishing equipment: 68 baskets

