

Hamilton Jet Model 391
 Application Review

Twin HJ391 Jets for New Whale Watcher “Wheketerere”



A distinctive new Hamilton Jet powered whale watching catamaran has been introduced to the fleet of eco-tourism company Whale Watch Kaikoura in New Zealand. The 17.5 metre aluminium vessel has a cruising speed of 30 knots, which is achieved from the thrust of twin Hamilton Model HJ391 jets directly driven by MTU 8V diesel engines.

“Wheketerere” is one of several Hamilton Jet powered excursion craft operated by the tourism company which specifies waterjets in their vessels for their advantages in efficiency, manoeuvrability, low maintenance and ability to operate in shallow or weed infested waters. Additionally, with no exposed propellers, there is no threat to marine mammals in the water when operating at close quarters.

A Hamilton HYRC power assisted follow-up control system is incorporated to provide full 360° thrust vectoring control whether at high or low speed manoeuvring. Hydraulic power for the operation of the integral astern deflectors is supplied by a JHPU

hydraulic pump mounted on and driven by each jet.

The catamaran hull is foil assisted to allow the vessel to plane easier and higher out of the water for greater efficiency. As the craft operates on an exposed coastline where there is often considerable floating weed, an intake screen rake is incorporated in the jets to clear ingested weed. The rakes are hydraulically operated by a separate DC power pack.

“Wheketerere” can carry 50 passengers and has been designed to provide a high level of comfort, with aircraft style seating indoors and extensive outdoor deck areas provided for viewing the variety of marine life.

▶ Brief Specifications

NAME: H.S.C.Wheketerere	WATERJET CONTROLS: Hamilton Jet Type HSRC
SERVICE: Whale Watch Excursion	ENGINES: Twin MTU diesels
LENGTH: 17.50 metres [LOA]	Model 8V 2000 M70, each 525kW (704hp) @ 2100rpm
BEAM: 6.40 metres	DESIGNER: Teknicraft Design Ltd Auckland, New Zealand
CONSTRUCTION: Aluminium	BUILDER: Q-West Boatbuilders, Wanganui, New Zealand
DISPLACEMENT: 24 tonnes [lightship]	OPERATOR: Whale Watch Kaikoura, Kaikoura, New Zealand
PAYLOAD: 50 passengers	Hamilton Jet DISTRIBUTOR: Hamilton Marine Christchurch, New Zealand
SPEED: 30 knots (cruise)	
WATERJETS: Twin Hamilton Jet Model 391	

