



## New Zealand operator introduces fifth foil assisted catamaran

A fifth Teknicraft Design 18m foil assisted catamaran has been delivered by Q-West Boat Builders to another company on New Zealand's South Island, Whale Watch Kaikoura. The operator describes its latest acquisition, *Wawahia*, as "a new generation whale watching vessel".

### *Wawahia*

Built to Maritime New Zealand Restricted Limits Passenger Ship rules, *Wawahia* has the same overall dimensions as Whale Watch Kaikoura's earlier foil assisted catamarans coupled with a restyled superstructure, different main engines and a different generator.

Two Volvo Penta D16 MH diesels, rated at 551 kW at 1,900 rpm, each directly drive a Hamilton HJ 403 waterjet. Hamilton also supplied its blueArrow electric control system.

The main engines each deliver 26 kW more power at 200 less rpm than those installed on the other catamarans in the Whale Watch Kaikoura fleet, giving *Wawahia* a 70% mcr loaded service speed of 29 knots and maximum speed of 35 knots.

A single saloon is fitted out with 48 Beurteaux Ocean Club seats, a forward position for a naturalist guide, and a crew

*Whale Watch Kaikoura's latest vessel, Wawahia, entered service on November 5*

seat and two toilets aft. The wheelhouse has two crew positions.

External stairs on the aft deck lead to an open viewing deck on the upper superstructure. The foredeck is also available as a viewing area when the vessel is operating at reduced speed.

### Whale Watch Kaikoura

Q-West delivered Whale Watch Kaikoura's first Teknicraft 18m foil assisted catamaran, *Wheketera*, in 1999. Three others entered

*The single saloon has 48 passenger seats*



service with the operator in 2000, 2004 and 2006. Now that *Wawahia* has been delivered, *Wheketera* will be sold.

Whale Watch Kaikoura schedules three daily whale watching excursions during April-October and four during November-March. Each one lasts up to 2 hours 30 minutes.

Trips are scheduled every day except December 25, although the company warns, "Whale Watch tours are always dependent on sea conditions. Whale Watch staff constantly monitor the weather and respond professionally to any changes. This may mean a tour is cancelled or safety restrictions are placed on children or passengers with medical problems."

Whale Watch Kaikoura was established in 1987 by the indigenous Kati Kuri people, a Maori sub-tribe, and its growth during the past ten years has been spectacular.

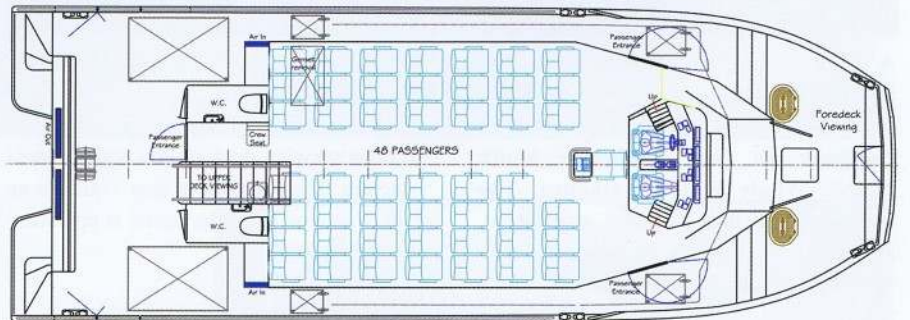
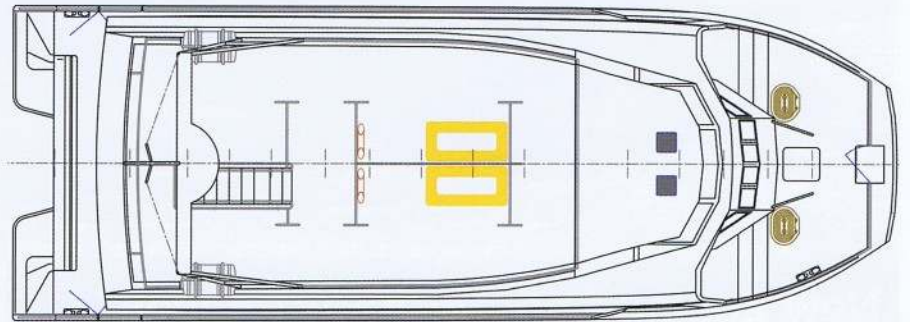
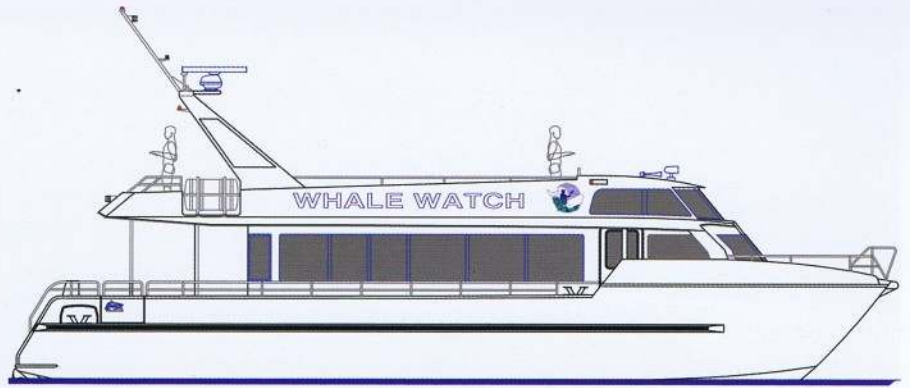
Tracing its history, the company says "Whale Watch was formed at a time when Maori were casualties of Kaikoura's declining economy. At this time of difficulty, Kati Kuri leaders believed the local Sperm Whales held the answer to the unemployment problems of the Maori community.

"The founders of Whale Watch mortgaged their houses to secure a loan to start the business. In the early days, passengers travelled aboard a small inflatable vessel. In time, the inflatable was replaced by a larger boat with an upper viewing deck. Today, the Whale Watch fleet of modern catamarans is specially designed for whale watching.

"The expansion of the Whale Watch fleet required the building of an entire marina in South Bay. Due to the phenomenal success of Whale Watch, Kaikoura is now one of New Zealand's leading tourism experiences, offering a diverse range of exciting marine wildlife encounters.

"The company has stimulated investment in new accommodation, restaurants and an impressive array of cafes and galleries filled with the work of local artists."

| Teknicraft Design Q-West<br>18m foil assisted catamaran<br>Wawahia |                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Length overall                                                     | 17.9m                                            |
| Length waterline                                                   | 17.0m                                            |
| Beam moulded                                                       | 6.4m                                             |
| Depth moulded                                                      | 1.8m                                             |
| Draught                                                            | 0.8m                                             |
| Capacities                                                         |                                                  |
| - Fuel                                                             | 2,000 litres                                     |
| - Fresh water                                                      | 500 litres                                       |
| - Sullage                                                          | 500 litres                                       |
| Passengers                                                         | 48                                               |
| Crew                                                               | 3                                                |
| Speed                                                              |                                                  |
| - 100% load/100% mcr                                               | 35 knots                                         |
| - 100% load/70% mcr                                                | 29 knots                                         |
| Fuel consumption                                                   |                                                  |
| - Service speed                                                    | 6.1 litres/n mile                                |
| Range                                                              |                                                  |
| - Service speed                                                    | 300 n miles                                      |
| Main engines                                                       |                                                  |
|                                                                    | 2 x Volvo Penta<br>D16 MH<br>551 kW at 1,900 rpm |
| Auxiliary power                                                    |                                                  |
|                                                                    | 1 x Kohler<br>20 kVA                             |
| Waterjets                                                          |                                                  |
|                                                                    | 2 x Hamilton<br>HJ 403                           |



General arrangement of Teknicraft Design Q-West 18m foil assisted catamaran Wawahia

On trials prior to delivery from Q-West Boat Builders' Wanganui yard

