

ROBSON DESIGN

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launches into fishing

▼ by Winston Fiennes

ROBSON DESIGN, ONE OF NEW ZEALAND'S LEADING DESIGN FIRMS HAS CELEBRATED TWO VERY SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHINGS IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS.

THE LARGER OF THE TWO CRAFT, THE R50 Sportsfisher, has an alloy hull with a fibreglass superstructure. This new 15m Robson designed vessel replaces Cerveza Charters of Christchurch existing 14.8m vessel, which has operated very successfully off the west coast of the South Island fishing for blue fin tuna and for marlin at the Three Kings in the north island over the past four years. The R50 craft has been custom designed by Robson Design with considerable input from Cerveza Charters owner Dave Wooff, with the fighting cockpit, enclosed bridge and tuna tower area really reflecting that input. The hull is based on Robson Designs' proven deep-vee form with quattro chines for added performance and stability. With the twin Detroit Diesel 8V92TA DDE's purring away the craft easily exceeds 32kts. Skipper Trent Boulton is impressed with the craft's ability to back down and its overall ability as a fish-fighting machine, he reports two blue fin tuna of 250kg and 220kg bought to the boat and released first trip out and has a woman's all tackle blue fin tuna record pending at the time of going to press. The vessel's accommodation is configured specifically for fishing charters with four bunks fwd, a cabin on



the starboard side with twin bunks and a double berth stateroom on the port side. There is a day head with shower and toilet to starboard and an ensuite bathroom with shower and toilet off the stateroom. One of the features of the vessel is the large toilet shower compartment off the cockpit to the starboard side. The accommodation could easily be configured to a more pleasure boat style with a double berth fwd and two bathrooms.

The other vessel, the R405 also a sportsfisher, was launched recently in Nadi, Fiji. This model, a stripped out game fishing vessel features an open plan interior with a double berth forward, a pullman berth for two on the port side with a shower and a toilet with the galley and dinette on the starboard

The first R405 has been fitted with a tuna tower. (above)
The Robson R50 has the distinctive lines of a Scott Robson design. (below)
The R56 can be configured as a pleasure boat in various custom layouts. (overleaf)





side. The Sports Bridge is air conditioned with seating on the port and starboard sides with a large command station on the starboard side. There is a large cockpit setup for game fishing with mezzanine seating and bait prep station against the bridge bulkhead. Like the R50 the R42 has a tuna tower and this really sets the boat apart. The vessel is powered by two Yanmar 440hp diesels and achieves a max speed of 35kts.

Robson Design has two other new sports fishing models due to start construction, the R56 and the R30. The R56 is a development of the R50 and is optimised for offshore fishing charters work out at the canyons, while the R30 is the entry level boat in the range. The first R56 will be constructed in alloy which is a requirement as it will charter in the islands and at the Barrier Reef at a later stage and the owners like the robustness of the alloy around tropical reefs. There is also interest to build

a further craft in GRP composites. The R30 is the entry level boat in the range of flybridge sports fishers and is unique in that it can be built as a twin diesel conventional props vessel or it can be powered by twin four stroke outboards. The first of the R30 flys is being built in Fiji out of alloy and will be used as a sportsfisher charter boat around the islands. This model can be configured as a centre console, open or hardtop.

Robson Design is able to offer all the above designs as detailed alloy kits for fisho's with engineering skills or businesses, who wish to build and customise their own vessel, rather than buy a standard production boat.

Robson Design is also in discussion with two alloy builders in Queensland to form an alliance to market and build these craft and the other models as customised turnkey craft for the discerning fisherman.



PLEASURE: KWIKKRAFT 1022



CHARTER: ROBSON R50

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