

Skipper's praise twin rig monitor



THE DEVON trawler *Our Josie Grace* BD 287 (pictured) is one of a growing number of vessels that have installed a twin rig trawl monitoring system from

Canadian firm Notus. The firm opened a branch in Fraserburgh earlier this year and is reporting buoyant sales of the system. Scott Wharton, skipper of the 14.95m *Our*

Josie Grace, says he "would not hesitate to recommend the Trawlmaster to any fisherman". Other skippers have also given it the 'thumbs up'. ■ Story - page 14.

'Twin rig monitor raises earnings'

Sales of the Notus Trawlmaster twin rig net monitoring system are booming since the Canadian company set up a branch in Fraserburgh earlier this year.

James Masson, the Broch branch manager, says 17 sets have been sold since July this year and that skippers are impressed with the catch performance and fuel savings they are achieving with the kit.

"It's been going absolutely brilliantly – I never believed when we started that we could achieve so much in such a short time," James Masson tells *FN*.

The most recent Trawlmaster sale was to Skipper David West for the new *Amethyst*, which is under construction at Macduff and is due for delivery at the end of the year.

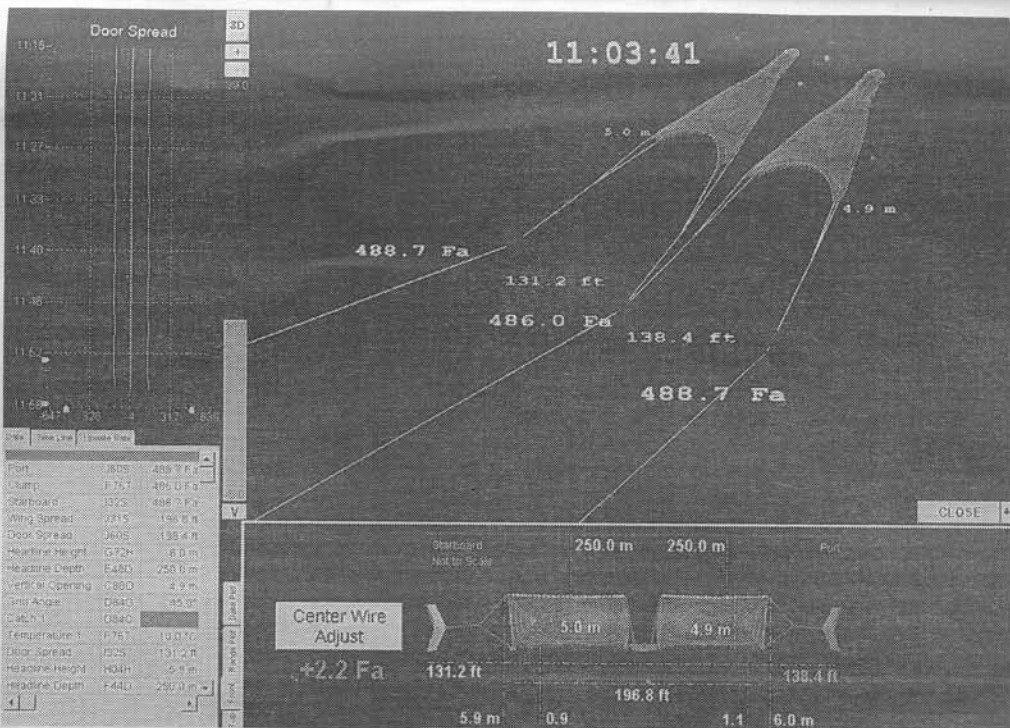
Notus UK supplies the Trawlmaster net monitoring system, which is designed for twin rig gear. It monitors spread on each net and the distance from the vessel to each door and the clump, and an accurate middle wire adjustment is provided – all at an affordable price.

The accuracy of the Trawlmaster's gear measurements has enabled skippers to increase grossings by up to £2500 a week and to make fuel savings of up to £500 a week, says James Masson.

He says there is a tendency when twin rigging for the port net to catch more than the starboard net, although the reason why is not known. But installing a Trawlmaster results in equal catches in both nets.

"With the Trawlmaster the gear is always properly squared up, the clump and doors are lined up properly and you get the same catch in each net," he says.

Trawlmaster is designed to boost catches and reduce fuel costs



Notus: Screen shot of the Notus Trawlmaster twin rig monitoring system.

Although vessels have shortened the middle wire to align the clump and doors, the Trawlmaster indicates many are not taking the clump in enough. By simply clicking the centre wire adjustment on the Trawlmaster, an accurate adjustment is provided and catches immediately increase, claims the company.

The Trawlmaster has been installed on another Fraserburgh vessel that was catching more in one net. The system showed immediately that one trawl was spread 10 fathoms more than the other. Because of this the gear was re-rigged so both nets had the same spread and fishing increased.

The Trawlmaster also shows skippers when the nets are mudding up on muddy grounds, as the mud decreases the spread and this shows up straightaway on the monitor.

It also provides an accurate measurement of the three warps and therefore has eliminated the need to check the trawl wire marks.

Notus has also recently installed net monitoring gear aboard Whitby pair team *Nicola M WY 485* and *Good Intent WY 378*, where it was "an instant success", says James Masson.

Several skippers who have installed Trawlmasters have paid tribute to the equipment's efficiency and the

improvements it has made to their earnings.

Skipper A McLean of the Fraserburgh twin rigger *Ocean Harvest III* (FR 145) said: "The Trawlmaster has greatly increased our fishing and reduced fuel consumption, while another NE of Scotland skipper, Willie Runcie of the Banff-registered *Ocean Challenge BF 85* said: "I wouldn't leave the harbour without the Trawlmaster."

And down at the opposite end of the country in Devon, Skipper Scott Wharton of *Our Joise Grace BD 287* said he "would not hesitate to recommend the Trawlmaster to any fisherman".