

# Stabi-Craft Marine Limited

Adventure With Confidence

## Media Release

(For immediate release)

September 2005

### **NZ boats Tahitian bound**

Stabi-Craft Marine is helping scientists glimpse into the secret lives of some of the world's most elusive marine animals.

University of California researchers have been using five boats, designed and manufactured by Stabi-Craft Marine in Invercargill, at Moorea Coral Reef in Tahiti since July to observe and gather information on the coral and its creatures.

UCLA Marine Science Institute research associate Keith Seydel ordered three 389 dinghies and two 509 dinghies after experiencing the Stabi-Craft's unrivaled attributes for himself while visiting New Zealand earlier this year.

"The locals are constantly stopping us on the road and asking us where we bought the boats. All eight of the professors that have used them so far have been delighted with their performance and think they're a dramatic improvement over our old boats.

"We have been able to use the 509 with a 40HP engine and put six people with 12 Scuba tanks in and still cruise at about 18 knots – nothing but smiles from me with that," Mr Seydel said.

Last year Moorea Coral Reef became the 26<sup>th</sup> site to be monitored as part of the Long Term Ecological Research network set up by the USA's National Science Foundation in 1980 to help scientists forecast the impact of environmental changes.

Stabi-Craft boats have already proven a vital research tool in New Zealand waters.

Massey University's Dr Mark Orams said safety was his primary concern when he investigated suitable boats for their Coastal Marine Research Group.

"We have students going out in open and exposed water and they have to be safe. The boat also had to be tough, manageable for two people, and a stable platform from which to conduct research – and Stabi-Craft came out head and shoulders above the rest," Dr Orams said.

Gulfland Marine in Whangaparoa put together a sponsorship package for the Massey University group featuring a Stabi-Craft 559 XR boat, which is based in

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the Hauraki Gulf. A Stabi-Craft 559 Fish'r, provided by The Powerboat Centre Marlborough, works with bottlenose dolphins in the Marlborough Sounds.

Dr Orams said the group was finding vital information about the marine mammals that call New Zealand waters home.

“There are enormous mysteries out there – it’s ground-breaking research in that we are only just scratching the surface and understanding more about their lives.”

Stabi-Craft Marine managing director Paul Adams said the company was proud to provide researchers with the tools needed to conduct their important work.

Stabi-Craft Marine pioneered positive buoyancy boats, turning out the first rigid-hulled aluminium pontoon boat from a back street workshop in 1987 launching a tradition of answering tall orders.

Today, there are 24 standard Stabi-Craft models and its boats are at work in waters world wide – relocating man-eating crocodiles, supporting big game fishers, even assisting the United Nations.

Stabi-Craft boats are built to stringent Coastguard-approved standards to comply with the New Zealand CPC standard that was voluntarily introduced by manufacturers in 1997.

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