

# 'Kingfish'

Aluminium Boats Australia (ABA) has recently built the 200-passenger ferry 'Kingfish' for Queensland tourist operator Cruise Whitsundays.

Measuring 25.9 metres in length overall with a 24-metre measured length, the vessel will be used for Barrier Reef resort connecting routes. Conventionally laid out with seating on the main and upper decks, the vessel has been designed and equipped for maximum efficiency by New South Wales-based naval architect One2Three.

Indeed, ABA has built more One2Three designs than any other builder, and ABA principal Tommy Ericson says every vessel has exceeded the performance criteria – the latest catamaran being no exception.

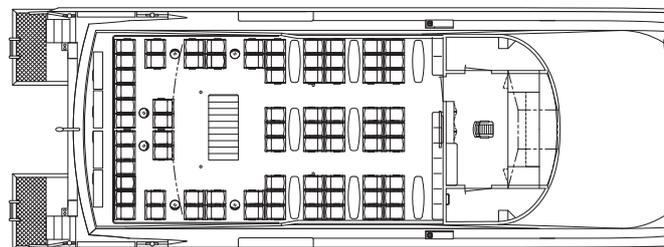
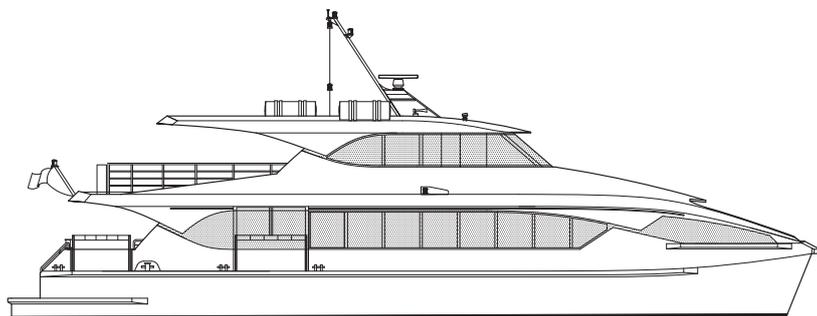
Within the interior, fit out and trim are to a median tourist level, with carpeting, Beurteaux Traveller seats and a kiosk. The wheelhouse has been fitted to a very high standard, with extensive space and facilities for crew to take rest breaks. It is ABA's view that the master and crew deserve a high standard work area, as 12-to-14-hour working days are common. At the helm, ergonomics are excellent, with shaded exterior wing stations provided on both sides for berthing operations.

The 'Kingfish' is powered by a pair of Caterpillar C18 engines, each rated for 499kW. Despite a relatively modest 998 total kilowatt rating, the vessel comfortably maintains a cruising speed of 24 knots fully

loaded. Optimum trim was established on trials, maintained by computer-controlled interceptors through varying passenger and luggage loads.

Servicing resorts means passengers and sizeable quantities of accompanying luggage. ABA made provision for this, optimising the vessel for the rapid handling of both. Aft of amidships on both sides are built-in boarding ramps that allow passenger boarding and departure without the need to put crew ashore and, once brought aboard, luggage is stowed in a large dedicated main deck area.

ABA was an early and enthusiastic adopter of vinyl wrap in place of conventional paint systems above the





## ABA delivers first-in-class ferry for Queensland

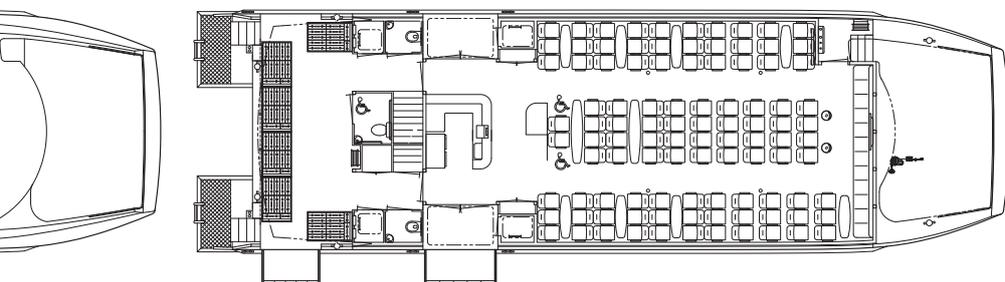
waterline. ABA's Tommy Ericson says the choice was a no-brainer, "It's quicker to apply, longer lasting, less permeable to moisture penetration, it's easier to apply decorative effects and it is far easier to repair any damage it might take. And overall it costs less."

Tourist vessels especially do not look good wearing battle scars, and vinyl can be cropped and renewed between trips rather than waiting for the next slipping.

Further reducing downtime is ABA's arrangement that the main engines power all essential systems – generator breakdowns will not delay a sailing.

ABA welcomes the opportunity to both build new vessels and develop them into a series fitting a range of tasks within a general class. As the 'Kingfish' is the first in her particular class, the build time of 20 weeks is especially creditable. The 24-metre vessel fits well into ABA's product range, which spans vessels up to 35-metre lengths and passenger capacities of over 400, including the remarkable 450-passenger ferry recently built for the Seychelles.

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### 'Kingfish'

#### SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Type of vessel:</b>	Passenger vessel
<b>In survey to:</b>	1C/1D
<b>Home port:</b>	Airliie Beach, Queensland
<b>Owner/operator:</b>	Cruise Whitsundays, Queensland
<b>Designer:</b>	One2three Naval Architects, New South Wales
<b>Builder:</b>	Aluminium Boats Australia, Queensland
<b>Construction material:</b>	Aluminium
<b>Length overall:</b>	25.9 metres
<b>Measured length:</b>	24 metres
<b>Beam:</b>	7.85 metres
<b>Draught:</b>	1.16 metres
<b>Depth:</b>	2.75 metres
<b>Tonnages:</b>	158GRT, 65NRT, 24DWT
<b>Main engines:</b>	2 x Caterpillar C18; each 499kW
<b>Gearboxes:</b>	2 x ZF 500 1A
<b>Generator:</b>	Caterpillar C 4.4
<b>Exhaust system:</b>	ABA/Foreshore Marine
<b>Maximum speed:</b>	25 knots
<b>Cruising speed:</b>	24 knots (fully loaded)
<b>Electronics supplied by:</b>	Furuno
<b>Radar:</b>	Furuno 4kW
<b>Depth sounder:</b>	Furuno FCV- 627
<b>Autopilot:</b>	Simrad
<b>GPS:</b>	Furuno GP 33
<b>Winches:</b>	Muir VRC 4500 24V DC
<b>Anchor:</b>	Sarca Excel
<b>Paints/coatings:</b>	Orca Vinyl/Poly U400 (Wattyl)
<b>Seating:</b>	Beurteaux Traveller (internal), Transport Seating Breeze (external)
<b>Panelling:</b>	Ayres
<b>Liferafts:</b>	RFD Open Reversible
<b>Fuel capacity:</b>	2 x 2,500 litres
<b>Freshwater capacity:</b>	550 litres
<b>Crew:</b>	3