



Shipments You Can Count On From People You Can Trust.

*****For Immediate Release*****

Shearwater Marine Group Announces “Central Coaster” to Return to Service in June 2015 after Extensive Refit.

Vancouver, British Columbia | May 1, 2015

Fast, nimble, and efficient, Shearwater Marine’s Freight Division has been using the self-powered ramp barge, the **Central Coaster**, to deliver deck cargo, freezer, cooler, dry stores, propane, gas, and diesel to coastal communities, fishing lodges, logging camps, and other commercial customers on BC’s central coast between Port Hardy and Hartley Bay since 2008.

After several months of serving its customers with a temporary tug and barge solution during this major refit of its freight flagship, Shearwater Marine Group announced today that the significant upgrades and modifications are progressing well and that the **Central Coaster** is expected to return to service by the end of June.

Once the refit is completed, the *Central Coaster* will feature:

- 90’ of New Hull/Deck – includes a 30’ increase in length overall (120’ to 150’).
- Double-Bottoming of Hull – improved safety for transportation of fuel.
- New Pair of Scania 400hp Diesels – increased speed and fuel efficiency.
- New 15-ton capacity Seven Stars Crane with 70’ boom – greater reach and load.



“Before” at 120’ loa without ramp



Hull cut, awaiting new sections

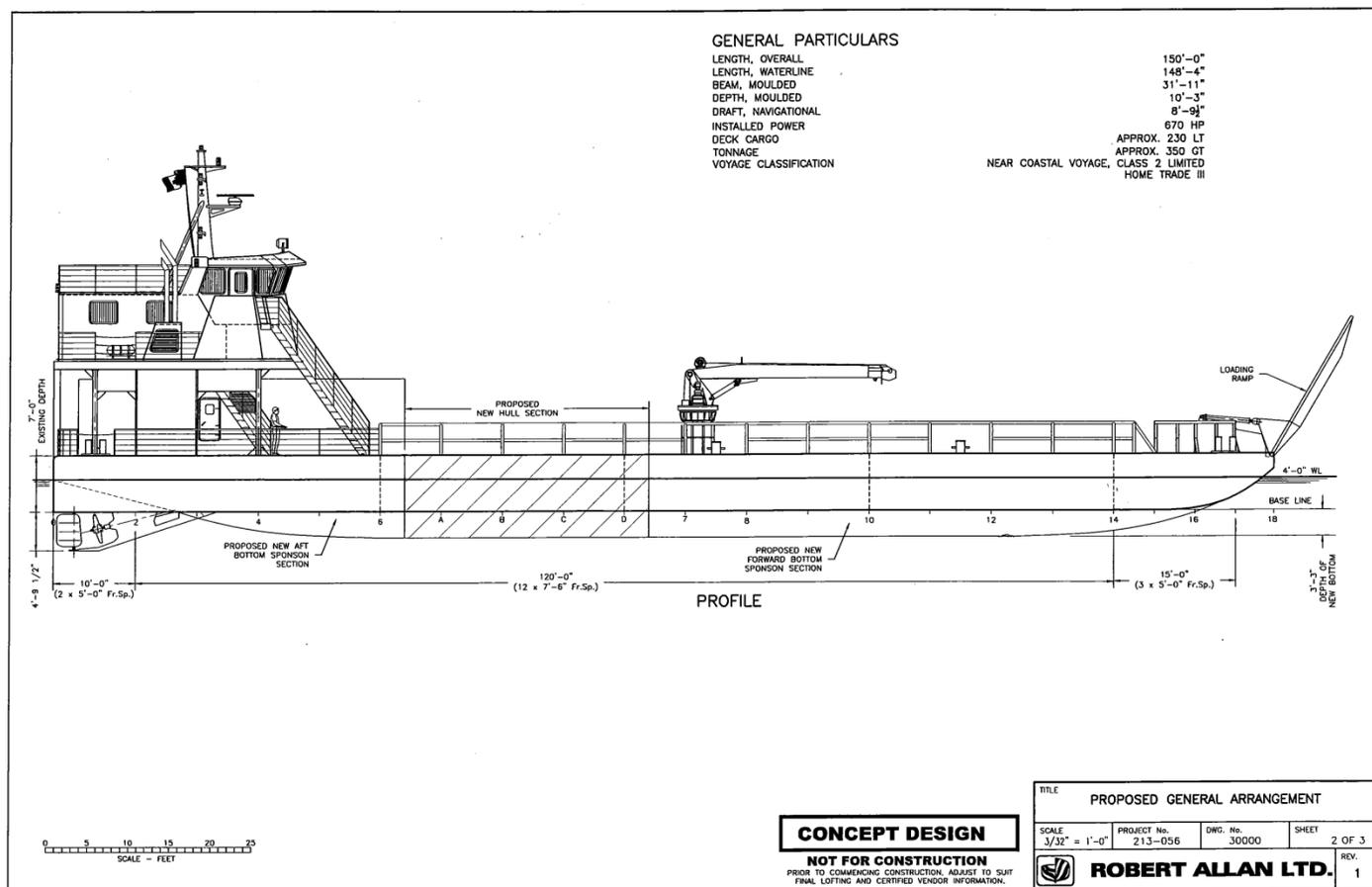


New 30’ section in place



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“We are excited to see our 5 year vision of upgrades come to life ahead of schedule” says Mark Schlichting, CEO and President of Shearwater Marine Group. “The freight component of our business represents a significant revenue channel and we are pleased to be able to further upgrade our service to be amongst the best in the business”.



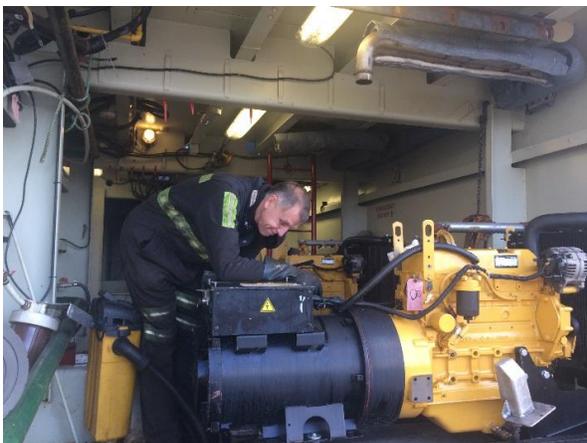
Architect rendering of phase II refit result

The upgrade of the *Central Coaster* is actually the second phase of an overall reinvestment to the Marine Operations division of Shearwater Marine - with phase I occurring in 2010. Both Arrow Marine Services and Canron Western Constructors have been hard at work to complete the hull sections to meet the June deadline for phase II, while Shearwater’s Project Manager Brad Widsten and his team of Troy Gurr and John Gerry have been taking care of all the details to ensure that the project stays on schedule.



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“It’s an exciting time for us as we anticipate the new Central Coaster” said Vida Friesen, Freight Manager in Pt. Hardy. *“This is a major upgrade for our clients and the increased capacity will help ensure that their shipments continue to be transported as worry-free as they have always been – and faster!”*



Brad Widsten hard at work during the refit



One of two new Scania 400hp high efficiency diesels

During the refit Shearwater Marine has serviced the *Central Coaster’s* route using its own tug (the *Gulf Rival*) and barge combination, supplemented by a leased 1,000hp twin engine tug (Amix’s *Finlay*) and a second barge. While it has been ‘business as usual’ during the winter months, the refit comes just in time for the increased traffic of the high season and Shearwater’s investment to its freight future sure looks like a smart bet.

About Shearwater Marine Group

In addition to its Freight and Marine Services division, Shearwater Marine Group (<http://www.shearwater.ca>) also operates a full service Marine Resort (includes hotels, conference facility, bar & grill, moorage, fuel dock, water taxi fleet, sport fishing lodge, shipyard with travel lift, marine store, and grocery store) on Denny Island near Bella Bella. Founded in 1947, Shearwater Marine Group is a privately held Canadian company.

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