

Reel Chase Extends Range With MTU Series 60 Repower

- **Excellent fuel efficiency**
- **Extremely reliable and quiet**
- **Brilliant performance**



'Reel Chase' is a name well known in game fishing circles from Port Stephens on the NSW coast through to Cairns and Lizard Island on the Great Barrier Reef.

Skipped by Jim Dalling, 'Reel Chase' is a custom-built 17-metre game fishing boat that was originally launched in March 2000.

Mr Dalling's track record as a professional skipper is second to none. Townsville born and bred, he grew up around the waterways of the city with fishing in his blood.

Mr Dalling originally got involved in game fishing as an angler and immediately gained notoriety at many tournaments, including the prestigious Australian International Billfish Tournament, the Tangalooma Classic and the Cairns Light Tackle Tournament.

Making the transition to a professional skipper, Mr Dalling's skills have seen him captain boats that have won many tournaments including the world renowned Lizard Island Black Marlin Classic three times, the Lexus Tournament twice, the Townsville Billfish Challenge 6 times, the Dunk Island Billfish Classic and the Gold Coast Marlin Cup – just to name a few.

With all these wins comes a swag of world records, like the original women and men's Black Marlin record on 1 kg line class, and the junior's Black Marlin record on 130 lb line class – capturing a 864 lb Black Marlin for Marcus Malouf.

Mr Dalling's largest capture to date is a 1,289 lb giant Black Marlin for Swiss angler, which was the heaviest Black Marlin captured anywhere in the world during 1995.

Working closely with scientists from the Australian Institute of Marine Science near Townsville researching all aspects of marine life in the area, Mr Dalling is predominantly a 'tag and release' exponent.

Added to this, was Mr Dalling's involvement in discovering and developing the fishing potential of the Cape Bowling Green billfish grounds near Townsville, which now rates as one of the world's leading light tackle fishing areas for Pacific Sailfish and juvenile Black Marlin up to 50 kilograms – his best effort stands at 32 Marlin tagged and released in one single day's fishing, and it's fair to say that there's not much about game fishing that Mr Dalling doesn't know.

"We average 2,000 hours a year, which sees us traveling from as far north as Lizard Island on the Barrier Reef to Port Stephens on the NSW coast just north

of Sydney and experience all types of conditions, ranging from glassy seas to taking green waves over the bow, so there's no margin for error when it comes to our equipment.

"With such a tight schedule we are always looking for ways to improve and optimize the boat's performance and the biggest advancement to date without doubt has got to be the repower we undertook a couple of years ago.

"Originally powered by twin 12V92 two stroke Detroit Diesels, we found that while they were extremely reliable we were a bit hamstrung in terms of range which was limited to about 7 days, which meant that often we were burning fuel to get back to get fuel.

"So when the decision was made to refit 'Reel Chase', in 2004, I did my homework on the alternative engine and gearbox packages that were available and came up with some amazing results.

"I found that by repowering with MTU's 825hp Series 60 diesels we would not only extend our range from 7 to 12 days, but that the fuel saving alone would enable us to recoup the capital cost within 4 years – which was music to the owner's ears.

"And just on 3 years later we've recouped their original costs with the fuel they've saved.

"They are really remarkable engines. To give you an idea, with the Series 60s' we are now using 9 litres an hour at our 5-knot trolling speed as opposed to 26 litres an hour with the old 1292s.

"At the top end we've dropped from 235 litres to 215 litres an hour at our cruise speed of 24 knots, which when we get slugged up to \$1.90 a litre in some ports for diesel the savings soon become massive.

"And with 5,000 hours under their belts I've got to say that they've performed brilliantly. Apart from regular servicing we've never had to touch them – which with our tight schedule is a must.

"Over and above the economic benefits, the Series 60's are the quietest engines I've ever experienced and often chuckle to myself when I'm conning the boat from the 12-metre tuna tower that the only engine noise I can hear is that coming from other game boats that are 100 metres away," Mr Dalling said.

For further information please contact:

Gemma Beard, Communications Coordinator Australia/Pacific

Tel: 03-9243-9248 Email: Gemma.Beard@mtudda.com.au