



Derecktor launches NGA 38m catamaran for Bermuda

Derecktor Shipyards has launched a BMT NGA 38m catamaran at its Bridgeport, Connecticut, yard for the Bermuda Government Department of Marine & Port Services' Sea Express ferry division.

The builder reports, "The low wake ferry is designed for very low maintenance. The hull is treated with an environmentally friendly non toxic, silicon based paint that will not require reapplication for approximately five years.

"Above the water, Derecktor applied vinyl to the exterior surfaces, as it did successfully to both of the ferries built for the Alaska Marine Highway System [BMT NGA 73m catamarans *Fairweather* and *Chenega*]. The vinyl has a service life of approximately ten years and is not prone to fading due to ultraviolet rays from the sun. Other 'green' features include a zero discharge policy on all tanks."

BMT NGA 38m catamaran Warbaby Fox features a resiliently mounted superstructure



BMT NGA says that loading arrangements have been optimised for fast turn-round times. The vessel will usually berth bow on, although side loading is also possible.

Service

The Bermuda Department of Marine & Ports Service, which is part of the Ministry of Tourism and Transportation, introduced its first fast ferry in 2002 and it continues to increase the fleet and expand the route network. *Warbaby Fox* is the fifth catamaran ordered and there are plans to acquire a sixth.

The reason is increasing traffic congestion on the island. In its marketing for the Sea Express service, the Department advises, "The ferry is a good way to beat fearsome road traffic. Traffic congestion in Bermuda is really becoming a headache."

Referring to *Warbaby Fox*, Marine and Ports director Francis C. Richardson recently commented, "This is the fifth and the largest catamaran delivered to the Bermuda Government as part of a transportation initiative to reduce road congestion by providing a viable alternative to the motor car.

"This new ferry has been built specifically for a new commuter route operating between the centrally located capital city of Hamilton and the town of St. George on the eastern end of the Island. This new route will complement the very successful Hamilton - West End route currently provided."

The BMT NGA 38m catamaran, which is significantly bigger than Bermuda's other fast ferries, will be operated on both commuter services and off-peak excursions.

Main engines

Four MTU 12V 2000 M70 diesels rated at 788 kW at 2,100 rpm each power a Hamilton HM 521 waterjet via a ZF 2500 gearbox to give a 85% mcr service speed of 33 knots.

Passenger saloons

The BMT NGA 38m, *Warbaby Fox*, has a resiliently mounted superstructure. The main deck saloon is equipped with 212 Beurteaux Ocean Diner seats, modified for the United States market, plus four wheelchair spaces, and two toilets and a kiosk aft. Up to eight scooters can be stowed on the foredeck.

The upper deck has 137 Beurteaux Ocean Steamer seats in a partially enclosed area behind the wheelhouse and an open area aft, plus two toilets, one for passengers and one for crew.