

Images courtesy of Mooney Boats &amp; Ivan Reid

**NEW BOAT**

Ocean Challenge leaving Skerries after the naming

**FACT FILE**

**NAME:** MFV OCEAN CHALLENGE  
**REGISTRATION:** B47  
**HOME PORT:** SKERRIES  
**COMPANY:** JOHNSTON FISHING LIMITED AND OCEAN WAY FISHING COMPANY  
**SKIPPER:** LESLIE HUGHSON  
**CREW:** FISHING WITH 7 (CAN ACCOMMODATE 8)  
**YARD:** MOONEY BOATS LTD  
**DESIGNER:** VESTVAERFTET  
**TYPE:** TWIN RIGGER  
**LOA:** 28.50  
**BEAM:** 8.7M  
**DRAUGHT:** 5.6M

# OCEAN CHALLENGE

## A MASSIVE BOOST TO SKERRIES

**By Niall Duffy & Hans Marter**

The arrival of a brand new state of the art whitefish trawler at the outlying community of Out Skerries has been described as a major boost to the small community by skipper Leslie Hughson.

Built at Mooney Boats yard in Killybegs the Ocean Challenge arrived in Lerwick before heading

to her home port of Skerries for the naming ceremony.

Back in Lerwick to take on gear ahead of fishing trials, Hughson said sailing the new vessel home to Skerries had been a "proud moment".

And while making a living in Shetland's outlying islands has become more and more difficult, Hughson says Skerries is very much home and he and his wife Diane were trying to spend at least most weekends on the small island

group.

The Ocean Challenge joins the Renown and Sharyn Louise who are also both registered in Skerries.

Most of all, however, the new 28-metre trawler is a statement of confidence in the future of fishing beyond Brexit, and as such an investment into the next generation of local fishermen. Leslie's son Steven is currently second skipper.

The new £5 million vessel was initially due for delivery in June this year but the coronavirus

pandemic caused a delay after the shipyard in Donegal was forced to close down temporarily.

Hughson said the trawler had been ordered after the previous vessel Ocean Way sunk in March 2017 and crews and quota were transferred to the company's other vessel Fairway.

They soon realised that they required a new vessel, Hughson said, and placed an order with Mooney Boats "who we were introduced to during the Skipper

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# VESTVÆRFTET

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Expo Aberdeen three years ago.” Speaking to The Skipper, Yard Owner Lee Mooney said: “The ‘Ocean Challenge’ was a rewarding yet challenging build for Mooney Boats Ltd at 28.50 LOA she was the largest boat completed by the shipyard to date. We would like to thank Leslie and the Hughson family for choosing our shipyard for the construction of Ocean Challenge. We wish them all the very best and safe fishing for many years into the future.”

#### CONSTRUCTION

Arriving from the initial yard of construction in Poland the hollow hull began fit out in the first quarter of 2020. Unforeseeable at the time a global pandemic was about to take place., like many industries, Mooney Boats quickly found ways to adapt due to the vessel owners being unable to travel to the Donegal based shipyard.

To overcome this Mooney Boats Ltd Design team began sophisticated 3D design drawings of various layouts which were sent digitally to vessel owners to review and walk around proposed designs on their mobile devices such as iPad and Laptops.

From the success of these 3d design drawings Mooney boats Ltd where later tasked with designing the fish processing system, a first for the shipyard. Using the latest 3D software, the yard digitally designed and rendered the fish processing deck for approval by the owners in Shetland.

At 28.5 metres with a beam of 8.7 metre, the new vessel is powered by an ABC 6DZC engine with two auxiliary engines Caterpillar all from Padmos, while gearbox and propellers have



Ocean Way crew from right- Skipper Leslie Hughson, 2nd Skipper Steven Hughson, Deckhand Arthur Johnson, Engineer Callum Nicol, Deckhand Paul Moodie, 2nd Engineer David Wynn and Deckhand Leonard Johnson.



been supplied by Heimdal.

The new Ocean Challenge is larger than the Ocean Way, offers significantly more safety at sea and while fishing, and also brings more comfort to the crew quarters.

In typical Mooney Boats style the accommodation areas of the vessel is modernised as we've come to expect. LED strip lighting guides you around the accommodation areas. 24" Flatscreen tv's can be found in all 7 cabins while the mess boasts a 55" screen and comfortable crew seating with built in USB charging ports. A decorative glass partition depicting the vessel side profile breaks the Mess area from the Galley. Underfloor heating throughout the two accommodation decks creates a comfortable area of rest.

#### DECK MACHINERY

RAPP supplied the complete trawl and deck machinery equipment on board the vessel based around 3 x 800 fathoms capacity Type TWS2521S Trawl Winches controlled by a Rapp

## OCEAN CHALLENGE



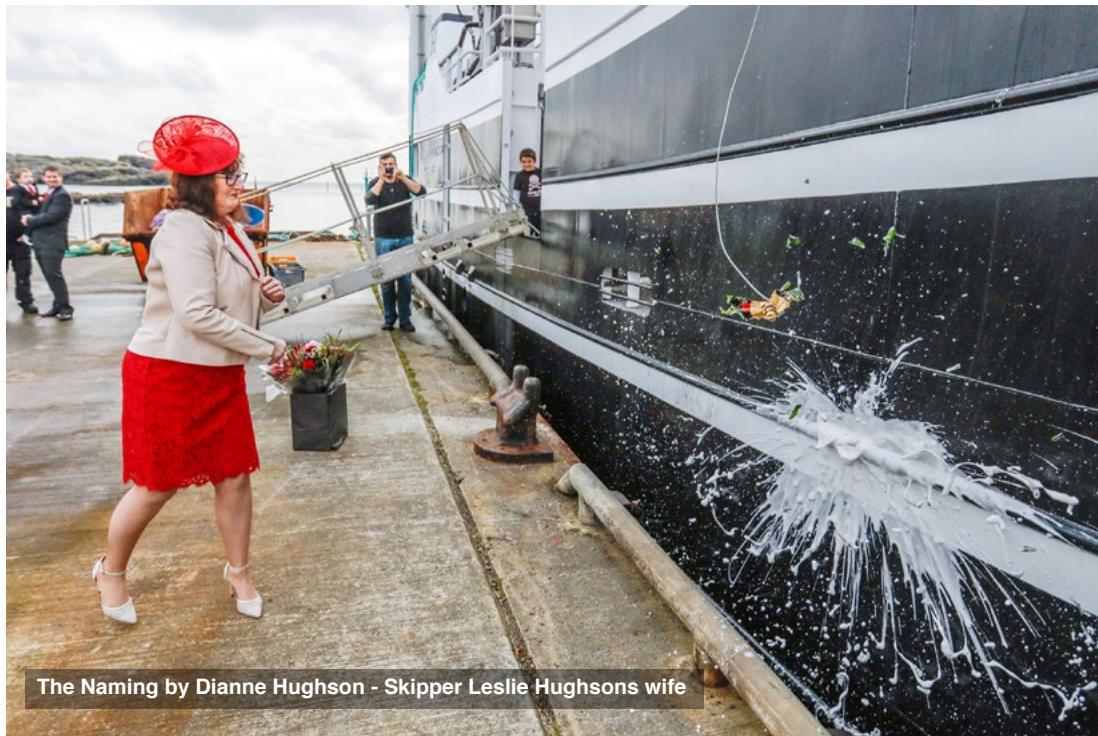
**CONGRATULATIONS  
to Owners & Crew with the  
new Vessel!**

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**MACGREGOR**



Hydema Trawl Computer with PTS-Pentagon CbusHF.

The PTS-Pentagon CbusHF system is well tailored both for bottom trawling, pair trawling, Scottish seining as well as for pelagic trawling and is based on experience with the PTS-3000 system and first generation PTS-Pentagon. The PTS-Pentagon CbusHF can control the trawl

winch using the remote control system and remote control panel in the wheelhouse.

There are also possibilities to integrate the system with sonar & echo sounders.

The deck machinery consisted of a NDD-2500 Split Net Drum, 2 ND2000 Bagging Drums, GW2600S Gilson Winch, Mooring Winch, 2 Out-haul Winches, a

1 1.4 ton Landing Crane and a Pullmaster PL1 Auxiliary Box Pulling Winch.

RAPP Service Manager Drew Elphinstone and Technician Alan Candy worked closely with Mooney Boats to commission and test all the systems before Ocean Challenge left Killybegs and they will also attend the vessel in Shetland for fishing trials.

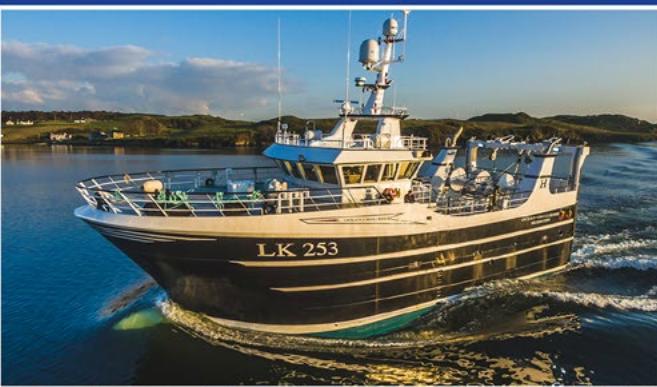
#### REFRIGERATION

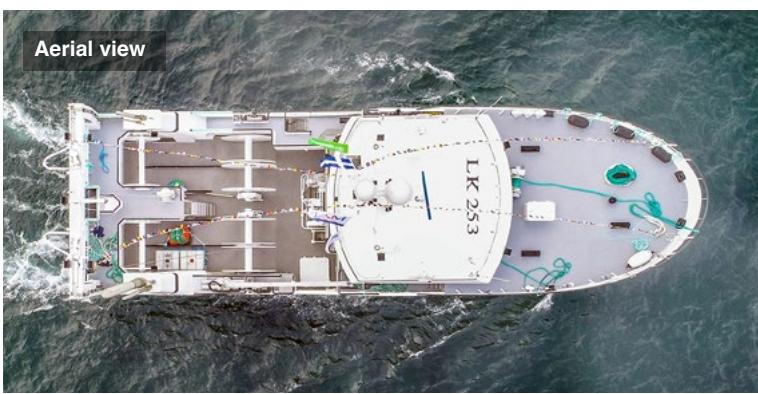
KER Group supplied and installed the full refrigeration package on the new Ocean Challenge. "We were delighted to be awarded the contact," says Derek Mc Brearty. "The process was simple, Leslie knew what he wanted to achieve, and we offered the solution." Equipment installed consisted of:

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[info@mooneyboats.ie](mailto:info@mooneyboats.ie)



MOONEY BOATS LTD Proud Builders Of The MFV Ocean Challenge.  
Wishing Leslie Hughson Family & Crew Every Success For The Future





The extensive electronics systems for Ocean Challenge were supplied by Scalloway based H. Williamson & Sons Ltd, and due to the Covid restrictions on travel, installation was carried out by Barry Electronics engineers.

#### Ocean Challenge Equipment List

##### Radar

Furuno FAR2228 BB 25Kw 6.5ft scanner

Furuno M1835 10" LCD display, 4kw 24" radome

##### Navigation

2x Furuno GP-39 GPS

Furuno SC-70 Satelite Compass

Furuno FA-170 AIS

##### Plotters

Sodena #1 - 24v Sodena Easywin, AIS, ARPA, Tides, Charts

Sodena #2 - 24v Sodena Easywin, AIS, ARPA, Tides, Charts

##### Anemometer

Furuno RO Wind (interfaced to Sodena System)

##### Acoustic

Furuno FCV295 10" display, 28kHz

Furuno FCV1900G BB (chirp+sizing) sounder

##### Trawl Monitoring

Scanbas 365 system, double distance + angle, clump sensor, 1x flow sensors

##### Autopilot

Navitron NT921G autopilot

3x NT920 NFU - non follow up control

1x NT920RAI - rudder indicator

Furuno RD33 remote display

##### BNWAS

Furuno BR500

2x BR560 motion sensor

BR540 cabin panel

##### Communication - GMDSS

Sailor 6222 DSC VHF

2x Comrod AV7 VHF Antenna

Sailor 6310 MF/HF DSC 150W

COMAT62 - 6m Comrod Transmit

##### Whip

COMAR42 - 4m Comrod Receiver

##### Whip

Furuno NX-700B Navtex

Tron 60GPS EPIRB c/w float free bracket

Entel HT649 GMDSS handheld VHF

##### Communication - Non GMDSS

2x Sailor 6248 non-DSC VHF c/w handsets

2 x Comrod AV7 VHF Antenna

2x 6204 remote handsets

Furuno VSAT system

VOIP and telephone

GSM Phone

Procom phone antenna

Sailor SC4000 Iridium Sat Phone

Entel HT644 handheld VHF

Safety helmet with entel comms set with single earpiece

##### Entertainment

2x Fusion RA55 AM/FM Radio c/w bluetooth, 2x 6" speakers (wheelhouse/messroom)

7x 32" freesat TV for cabins

##### Intercom

Phonetec 3101 - 10 Station

Talkback

6 x 9001 Indoor cabin unit

Engineroom headset substation

3x 9004 outdoor call unit

3x DNH waterproof speaker

##### Satellite TV

Seatec 80 Sat TV System

##### CCTV - IP based system

16x POE cameras with 5x viewing station with independant control at each

##### Computers

Wheelhouse PC - elog, internet, weather, etc

Wheelhouse PC - scales

##### Scales

VCU Scales system

##### Monitors

4x Neovo QX-32

17x neovo RX-24

2 x 2.5T BUUS Ice Machines  
c/w Bitzer compressors and condensers

1 x Complete fish hold refrigeration system c/w Bitzer compressor and condenser

1 x Fish hopper refrigeration circuit

The fish hold evaporator consisted of 700 mtrs of stainless steel pipe specially designed with close radius bends to achieve maximum surface area coverage. The system is fitted with temperature control system. The ice machines were fitted over each other on stainless steel framework. Chute to carry the ice to the locker was manufactured from PE plastic completed with inspection hatches.

All pipework from the seawater pumps was installed using marine grade stainless steel pipe and all Tig welded to ensure the longevity of the install. All electrical panels for the refrigeration and ice machines were manufactured, installed and terminated by KER Group engineers.



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## SAFETY AND HYGIENE FROM PBP

Renowned paint and coatings technology company PBP Services completed a state-of-the-art anti-slip deck resin project on the Ocean Challenge.

During installation onboard Ocean Challenge the four-layer resin compound application was installed and fully cured in each area within two 24-hour working shifts with the experienced team working hard and efficiently throughout the night to a strict application system which can not afford any miscalculation as the rapid curing of the process could go drastically wrong if not applied correctly by experienced personnel and, working to this schedule allowed for the shipyard workers to continue uninterrupted with their normal start time the following morning and with their work schedule for that day ahead.

Each layer in the four-layer system fully cures within one and half hours at temperatures as low as -30 degrees - meaning that this coating system has also commonly been used within refrigerated rooms and cold stores in previous projects.

On Ocean Challenge, the trawl deck had the areas between the sacrificial flat bar deck protection strips brought back up to level of top of the flat bar before having the four-layer application fully installed from the trawl winches and net drums all the way back to the stern shooting gate and inside the stern rails. The net tracks were left in a smooth resin finish to provide ease of shooting and hauling in order to prevent the netting sticking and fraying.

The areas outside of the net tracks on the trawl deck, as well as down below in the fish handling and processing deck, had the FB quartz system applied in order to enhance anti-slip properties on these decks.

## FUTURE

Skipper Hughson said they had a crew of seven at the moment but were planning to introduce a two-shift system employing 11 people. With the Fairway sold to a new partnership in January this year, Hughson and his men are ready to get going, particularly at a moment in

history when big changes to fishing are just around the corner.

"There are far too many foreign boats fishing around here which after all are our own waters," he said, adding that as much as 70 per cent of the local fleet's traditional fishing grounds were taken up by gill nets set by French and Spanish vessels.

Hughson said that he and his crew also have had several encounters with those vessels over the years, including two memorable moments with the German registered Pesorsa Dos who has been in the headlines lately.

He said he was well aware that it would take some time for changes to be implemented once the UK had become an independent coastal state, but the direction of travel was clear in that the presence of EU-registered vessels in Shetland waters would be reduced.

And that, he said, "can only be a good thing for the fishing industry here in Shetland."

*The Skipper would like to wish Leslie, Steven, Family and crew many years successful fishing with Ocean Challenge.*



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Best wishes to Leslie, family & crew on your new Ocean Challenge.

Killybegs, Co. Donegal | Contact: Glen Campbell  
Mobile: 086 1567411 Email: [gcmpainting@hotmail.com](mailto:gcmpainting@hotmail.com)



**BEST WISHES TO LESLIE, FAMILY AND CREW WITH YOUR NEW VESSEL OCEAN CHALLENGE**

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