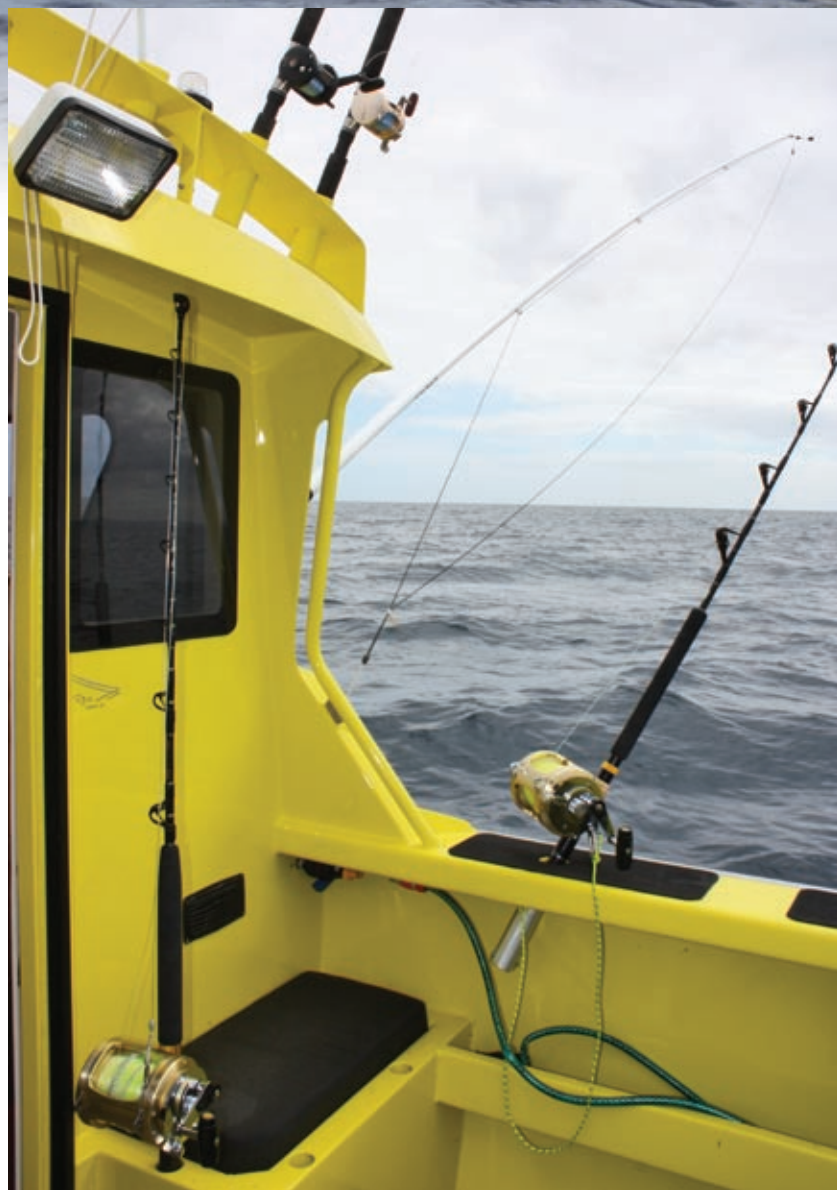


# SETTING UP FOR SPORTFISHING

By Mark Kitteridge



Reel Screamer is one mean looking kitset boat!  
(Photographer: Christopher Hoult – photo@chphotography.co.nz)



The bottom-bouncing rigs have been stored up in the rocket launcher, the outriggers deployed, and the big outfits are out: Reel Screamer doing what she does best.

## Build your own *Reel Screamer!*

Talk about eye-catching! Admittedly anything that's painted bright-yellow provides a good head-start, but in the case of the eight-metre *Reel Screamer*, it's the whole package that makes her such compulsive viewing.

And right now, this attention-grabbing vessel was charging up and down in front of me, just out from Little Huia in the Manukau Harbour.

I'd been offered a trip onboard her, so after seeing me clicking away with the camera from the ramp, owner/co-builder Ken Poulton brought *Reel Screamer* in to pick me up. The closer the boat got, the more impressed I became – no wonder it had caused such a stir at recent boat shows.

But what most amazed me is the fact that *Reel Screamer* is a kitset boat, one of a range of 'build your own' craft put out by DIYNO Kitset Boats, a sister company of Jim Pauling Yacht Design. I don't know about you, but for me 'kitset boats' have always evoked images of rather angular, basic wooden vessels in my mind, rather than the sleek, gleaming sport-fishing 'Ferrari' gliding towards me.

A quick shake of Ken's hand and I clambered aboard, after which we headed out for a bit until designer Jim Pauling arrived. This gave me time to poke around and take a few photos; everywhere I looked there were storage areas and shelves, along with rodholders, tuna tubes, a live-bait well, bait-station and outrigger fittings, with some features incorporating ingenious ideas and tricks. It was obvious this boat was set up with fishing its first priority, and the end result helped me to see what makes these DIYNO Kitset Boats craft so attractive.

After all, those who buy them get professional designs at a fraction of the full design fee, a top-quality boat built at an affordable price, and which can be customised to meet their specific needs and ideas in terms of lay-out, accessories etc. Just as importantly, any customer additions and alterations can be run past DIYNO Boats for professional advice and suggestions if desired, avoiding potential pitfalls and costly mistakes.

When Jim finally arrived and was safely aboard – a victim of 'traffic'

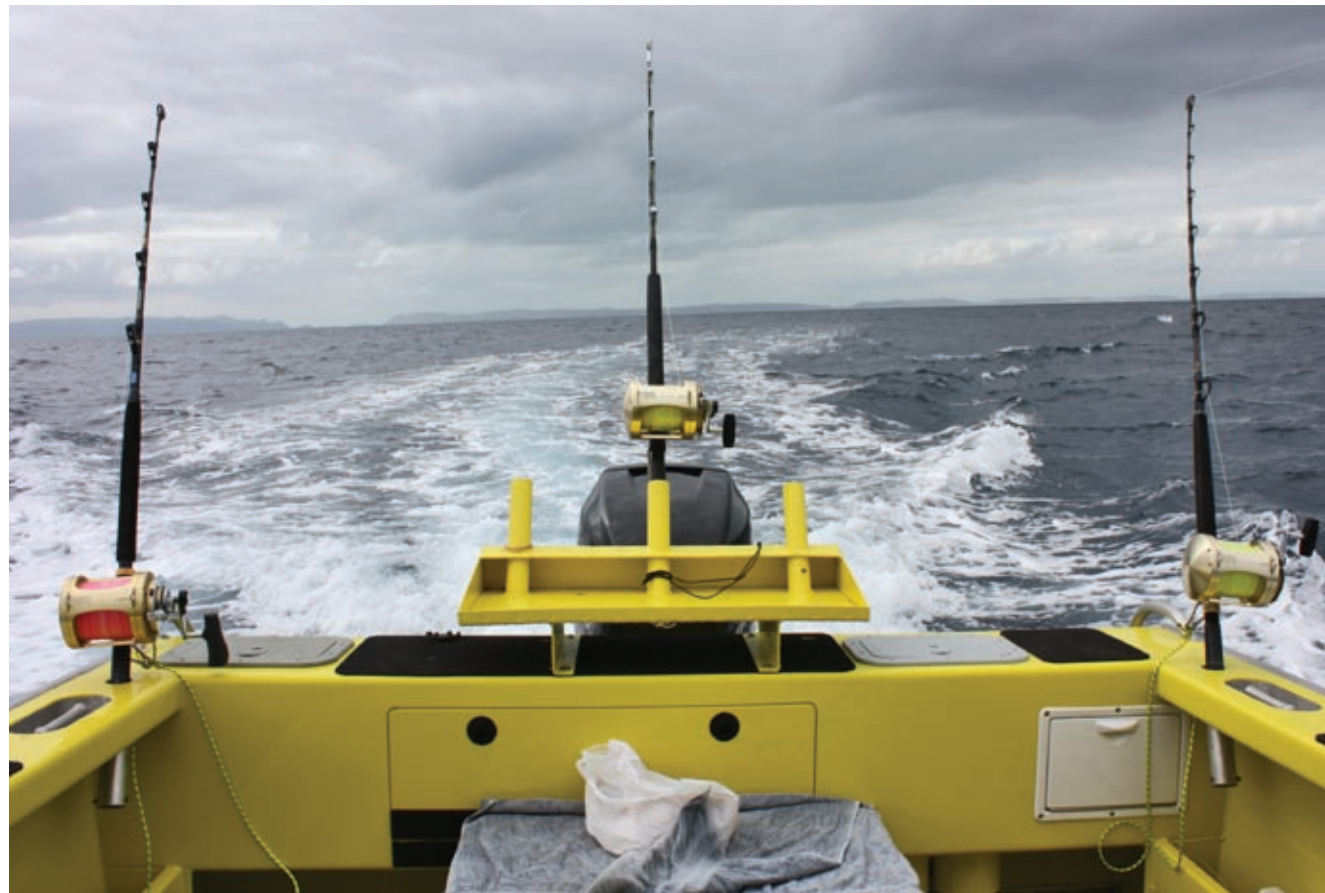
– we were off, with *Reel Screamer* smoothly carving through the gently rippling water, pushed along nicely by the Mercury Verado 250hp four-stroke outboard. (In this case ‘nicely’ means 23 knots at 4000rpm for 36 litres of fuel per hour, while 27.6 knots is achieved at 4500rpm for 42lph. Trolling for gamefish at eight knots, as Ken loves to do [he’d just come back from a week of it up in the Far North], the engine uses a very miserly eight litres per hour. As for top speed, according to Ken’s GPS, it’s 36 knots.)

Unfortunately, we had to flag away any idea of ‘rough water handling trials’, as despite hinting at good sea-keeping capabilities, a very rare, flat-calm Manukau Bar provided no opportunity and the seas all around were strangely empty of other boats and helpful wakes.

But I can say *Reel Screamer* proved a wonderful fishing boat. Upon sighting diving gannets and dolphins, Ken soon had the outriggers fixed in place, five big game outfits deployed, and a pattern of fizzing lures in the wake. It was great to see so many of Ken’s ideas and the overall set-up combining to perform so efficiently and smoothly.

As it turned out, we didn’t get any billfish interest over the following three hours, but there were as many 3-4.5kg skipjack tuna falling victim to the bungy line as we cared to take home and freeze. (Gotta admit I really love tussling with these powerful little speedsters on thick handlines!)

Before heading back inside, we stopped off over some sign on the fish-finder, anchored up ahead, and then dropped some bottom rigs. My own heavily-weighted gear only went a few metres down before abruptly slackening, and seconds later an impressive kahawai came



*Everything is working wonderfully, but the marlin didn’t arrive until the following weekend!*

to the surface frantically shaking its head. The fish are hungry here.

A procession of assorted fish species and sizes quickly followed, including snapper, kahawai, tope, small bronze whaler sharks, gurnard and spiny dogs – all caught within ninety minutes or so. The west coasters certainly have a productive and interesting fishery in this area.

Reluctantly we had to pull the pin. But perhaps we should have waited a little longer, as big tides meant moving Ken’s truck and trailer a few hundred metres along to the concrete boat ramp. Even there, though, he had to back the dual-axle trailer off the ramp near the end in order to reach the slightly deeper water available to one side. Consequently, I was impressed at how efficiently the boat

could be manually retrieved (Ken usually drives the boat onto the trailer, but due to a combination of low tides and a broken electric winch, it had to be wound on by hand.)

As mentioned earlier, *Reel Screamer* is just one of several kitset options designed by Jim Pauling and offered through company, DIYNO Kitset Boats.

Jim is a qualified boat builder with 25 years experience, and the winner of the 1998 Naval Architect Society of NZ Design Competition. He has designed boats built both here and overseas, including hulls up to 23-metres long (75 feet). He also designs hulls for other designers, including some from overseas.

Consequently, Jim can supply a base kitset or ‘the full package’ to

professionals and amateurs alike, as well as boats assembled to any stage via his company’s approved builder. And to keep the cost of the kitsets as low as possible, pricing is continually updated, negating the need for excess margins to cover unforeseen price increases. Better still, any price reductions are passed on to the builders.

No worries with quotes either, which cover everything from the alloy used (aluminium alloy is usual, as it’s easily worked with inexpensive tools, is light, strong and durable, and gives the builder the option of a painted or unpainted finish), to engines and electronics, and even fairing materials, paints and upholstery.

To ensure the materials match the quality of the design, DIYNO Kitset Boats only sources material from reputable New Zealand suppliers; the company is 5083 marine certified.

Each kit generally includes the basic boat shell and building jig, while the fit-out is usually left to the owner. In all cases though, Jim is happy to be consulted throughout the building process, especially about anything that affects the distribution of weight, so he can check that it is positioned in the best place and in the most practical way. This even means those who want advice after hours, as many amateur builders can only work during such times.



*These beautifully made and installed tuna tubes are a worthwhile addition to the large live-bait tank on the other side of the transom.*



*Gaffs, hoses, ropes and other useful items are stored in the generous trays along both cockpit sides.*

**DIYNO** Kitset boats  
Better boats built best by you  
Our business is boat design  
we supply designs and kit sets to  
Professionals & DIY

All hull forms  
All materials  
All uses

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Ph+64092637615 or 021972578

821 Jet Custom Kit Set



801



801



601 Modified



501



601 PLASTIC



361



[www.diynokitsetboats.com](http://www.diynokitsetboats.com)



Outdoor seating can also accommodate fishing rods if necessary – and a large bag of trolling lures!



The compact stove-sink unit is very clever.

### More on *Reel Screamer* and Ken Poulton

Ken Poulton is a car/boat painter and has been fishing the Manukau for 25 years. Consequently, the boat's fit-out is the culmination of all that fishing experience – and the reason behind the deep cockpit and no transom door (he prefers to see breaking waves kept out of his cockpit if at all possible). Due to the nature of west coast fishing, he's also set up *Reel Screamer's* interior predominantly for day fishing rather than overnighting (which is a realistic option for this size boat). Even so, it does have a rather snug three-man berth up for'ard, and the pilothouse is reasonably generous – especially given the size of the huge cockpit – providing good seating and incorporating a very attractive and ingenious stainless steel stove/basin galley unit.

As an aside, Jim says they have a new kit available that has a slightly longer cabin top (which can be shortened to match Ken's if pre-

ferred) to meet the demand from people who want to use the boat for fishing as well as cruising with the wife and kids, providing four berths in the forward cabin and the option for a head aft in the pilothouse.

Of course there are plenty more features in a boat of this size – especially in the extremely well-equipped cockpit area – but spatial constraints mean that the accompanying pictures must show most of them, because, as already mentioned, these are simply options chosen by Ken. However, keep in mind that this ability to set the boat up to meet your particular needs and desires is what makes the DIYNO concept so appealing.

Before providing the specs and signing off, I'd like to include Jim's view that "you would be hard-pressed to find a better-built alloy boat than *Reel Screamer*; it's a real credit to Ken and the builder."

### Specifications

Material:	aluminium
LOA:	8.130m
Beam:	2.480m
Bottom thickness:	6.0mm
Topsides:	4.0mm
Superstructure:	3.0mm
Deadrise:	18 degrees
Recommended HP:	225-250hp
Test engine:	Mercury 225hp
Prop:	15 x 16 three-bladed stainless Mirage
Fuel capacity:	300l
Trailer:	GT Trailers
Boat weight (minus fuel/water):	2130kg
Tow weight:	2800kg (approx)
Base kitset package:	\$28,438

I can only echo these sentiments – *Reel Screamer* certainly manages to graphically showcase some of the endless potential provided by a high-quality, well-designed kitset boat. 🐟

Ken holds up a typical Manukau snapper – one of several that beat the numerous monster kahawai and assorted sharks to the baits.

