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ON THE WAYS

All American finishes first of three for NOAA

Soon, patrolling the Tortugas Ecological Reserve in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary will be a lot more efficient and comfortable, thanks to a new high-speed aluminum catamaran from All American Marine, Bellingham, Wash.

The new boat will work out of Key West, Fla., but the area to be patrolled is a 70-mile run through waters that can get a bit lumpy, especially in the winter. The crew that works this particular mission has been using a 30', outboard-powered patrol boat, which was too small, and before that an 82' former Coast Guard cutter, which was too big.

At 56'x21' and with an enclosed house, the new boat is just right. Pushed by twin MTU 8V2000 M92 engines (each rated at 1,085 hp at 2,450 rpm) and a pair of HamiltonJet 403 waterjets, the 42-knot cruising speed will quickly get them inside the sanctuary. In addition, the Teknicraft-designed cat with hydrofoils provides a smooth ride and good fuel efficiency.

"When you're up on the wing, it really smoothes out the ride," said Joe Scarpa, the boat's operator who traveled to Bellingham for the sea trials. "We were cruising 35 knots up there on two-to-three-foot chop, and it was very, very comfortable."

When on site in Florida, Scarpa and at least two other officers will patrol areas closed to fishing and keep track of all activity within the area. "We frequently



High-speed Teknicraft catamaran will patrol the Florida Keys.

stop vessels and board them to inspect permits, enforce federal and state fishing regulations, check registrations and safety gear, do drug interdictions, the whole gamut," he said.

The boat, to be christened the *Peter Gladding*, has bunks for four and a full galley, which allows the crew to make multiday trips. But with the 42-knot speed, single-day trips are an option, according to Scarpa.

The new patrol boat is owned and maintained by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Sanctuary Program in the Florida Keys. Law enforcement in the sanctuary is a cooperative partnership between NOAA and the state of Florida.

The *Peter Gladding* is also equipped with a Kohler 10EOZD genset putting out 10kw at 1,800 rpm. Tankage includes 190 gals. of fresh water and 1,000 gals. of fuel.

All American is also working on two more boats for NOAA, both of which are also Teknicraft cats. One is a 48' research vessel for the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary off the Massachusetts coast. The other is a 65' research vessel that will operate in marine sanctuaries in the Monterey Bay area off the California coast. The 48-footer was scheduled for a March launch, and the 65-footer will be ready this summer.

— Bruce Buls

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