

# Kirby Naiad for Fisheries WA

By MIKE BROWN



The trend for West Australian government departments to replace their small vessels with RIBs continues, the vast majority of these vessels being Naiads built by Kirby Marine.

Fisheries WA has a range of them in their inventory between 7.3 and 8.5 metres, joined now by a 6.8-metre vessel – whose length was determined partly by the dimensions of the shed in which it will be stored.

'FD 7' will be based at Mandurah, and will mainly patrol local inshore waters plus Peel Inlet and the Murray and Serpentine rivers. Her encounters will largely be with leisure craft, so the softness of the buoyancy tubes – reinforced with wear strakes – is welcome.

The hull features a pair of shallow steps in the bottom. Now well proven, the aeration behind the steps reduces friction at speed and reduces power requirements.

Although smaller than her sisters, 'FD 7's' layout is similar to other recent Fisheries boats: essentially a mid-cab cuddy. There is a well deck area forward of the cabin so officers can reach the forward anchor locker or work off the front of the vessel in full view of the helmsman. Boarding other vessels would normally be done over the bow, reached by a step. Access forward is either around the cabin sides on a walkway or via a watertight door in the forward cabin bulkhead.

The cabin has a generous amount of storage for the operational gear and safety equipment; including a 45-litre Engel fridge. Raised benches have fiddle rails to retain storage bins.

'FD 7' is the first commercial vessel in Western Australia to be fitted with Ullman jockey seats, although they are likely to become standard fittings in most future high-speed craft. Built in Sweden and designed by Doctor Johan Ullman, a man held in awe throughout Europe, they are

regarded worldwide as the best available. For occasions when the Ullmans are actually being sat on a pair of footrests is provided in perfect relationship with the seats.

Other body protection measures – and all of them are basically occupational safety provisions – include a shock mitigating membrane under the entire cabin and rear deck area. This has been a great success in all the Naiads so fitted.

The seating area is protected by a wrap-around acrylic windscreen and cabin side extensions, and a fabric canopy that extends aft over most of the cockpit. It faces a contoured dashboard laid out to suit the vessel's operations. The coxswain faces engine monitors, the mate handles the extensive suite of radios, and on the centreline is the single Raymarine display.

This is the E80 model, combining radar, sounder and GPS-plotter, and also capable of displaying fisheries-specific data relayed from a computer.

'FD 7' points the way to the future by being equipped entirely with LED lights by Hella. This includes the Code 3 light bar carried overhead, and working lights and spotlights. They are fitted not only in the interests of long life but also because of their extremely low current draw. Modern outboards need plenty of cold cranking power so long duty cycle batteries (normally favoured when a boat has continuous electrical demand) are unsuitable.

The motors are a pair of 86kW Yamaha four-strokes, protected from aft by a set of crash bars. The engine splash well incorporates housing for two battery compartments, the combined structure providing support for the vessel's tow post and engine collision protection frame.

All recent Kirby Naiads have featured side-boarding ladders for diving operations – or for boarding whilst on the trailer. Well clear of the propellers, this is a far safer



position. The ladder, when out of use, hinges up and virtually disappears against the Targa structure.

The boat was supplied on a trailer featuring the drive-on drive-off feature that has proved so successful on Kirby's abalone boats. The auto catch and release mechanism not only speeds up the operation, but makes it safer by not needing anyone in the danger spot near the trailer post.

For further information contact:  
Kirby Marine, Western Australia.  
Web: [www.kirbymarine.com](http://www.kirbymarine.com)

## 'FD 7'

### SPECIFICATIONS

Type of vessel:	Fisheries patrol RIB
In survey to:	USL 2C
Home port:	Mandurah, Western Australia
Owner:	Fisheries Department, WA
Designer:	Naiad, New Zealand
Builder:	Kirby Marine, WA
Length overall:	6.8 metres
Beam overall:	2.5 metres
Deadrise:	23 degrees
Hull material:	Aluminium plus inflatable collar
Engines:	2 x 4-stroke Yamaha outboards at 86 kW
Electronics system:	Raymarine E80
Sounder:	Raymarine
GPS:	Raymarine
Plotter:	Raymarine
Radios:	VHF Icom
	UHF Uniden
	27 mHz GME
Paint:	Wattyl