

Hawaiian dive boat from All American Marine

One of the many attractions for visitors to the Kona-Kohala Coast of Hawaii's "Big Island" is scuba diving and snorkeling in the clear, warm waters. Guests at the newly rebuilt Sheraton Hotel on Keauhou Bay now have the option of diving and snorkeling from the decks of the *Hula Kai*, a 53'x21' Teknicraft-designed catamaran built by All American Marine, Bellingham, Wash.

The new foil-supported aluminum cat is powered by twin 490-hp Cummins QSC 8.3M490 engines turning a pair of 30"x35" Osborne 5-bladed props. Cruising speed is about 25 knots, which is more than twice as fast as the boat Fair Wind Cruises has been using for snorkel/diving excursions. The new boat was delivered in October.

"We wanted something that is faster, smoother and that will allow multiple destinations with four-to-five-hour snorkel cruises," said Penn Henderson, Fair Wind's marketing manager.

Seating for 42 is all outside, some forward and some on a raised deck above the stern. A bar and galley are in the shade under the deck. Access to the water is from sets of stairs on both sides of the stern, both of which have extensions that fold down into the water so customers can walk into and out of the water. Each side also has a freshwater shower for rinsing off the saltwater after getting back onboard.

In addition to the diving/snorkeling tours, Henderson said they would use the new boat for whale-watching as well as sunset cocktail cruises.

In late spring, All American delivered an 82'x29' Teknicraft catamaran, the *Valdez Spirit*, to Stan Stephens Cruises, Valdez, Alaska. The new 82-footer is powered by a pair of Lugger 6170s with props. Matt Mullett, All



The *Hula Kai* serves scuba divers on The Big Island.

All American Marine

American's general manager, said that the new boat gets outstanding fuel economy compared to a similar-size catamaran operated the previous season, which was also powered by 6170s. "The *Valdez Spirit* burned about 150 gallons per day less than the other boat with similar load conditions," said Mullett.

Built without foils due to the owner's concerns about ice getting trapped in the tunnel, the *Valdez Spirit* with foils might have saved 200 gals. a day, according to Mullett. "We made sure all the doublers were there so a foil can be easily installed if he changes his mind or the boat is sold or relocated," said Mullett.

All American is currently working on three Teknicraft cats for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Two (a 65-footer and a 48-footer) will be research boats and the third will be a 53' high-speed patrol boat for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The patrol boat will be finished by the end of the

year, and the two research boats will be delivered next spring and early summer.

— Bruce Buls

Rodriguez building liftboat for C&S Liftboats

Rodriguez Boat Builders, Coden, Ala., is constructing a new twin-screw liftboat for Erath, La.-based C&S Liftboats Inc. The 145'x110'x11'8" offshore support vessel is being built at the Rodriguez yard in Bayou La Batre, Ala.

"We did a liftboat for them before, and they're good people to work with," said Joe Rodriguez Jr., the yard's president,

For liftboats, legs are the most important assets. Without the legs, the boat could not lift out of the water. This single-chine, raked-bow vessel is being fitted with 265' legs with 102" diameters.

Twin Caterpillar 3508B diesels, rated at 960 hp at 1,800 rpm, will supply the main propulsion. The Cats will connect