



## Upgrade machine boosts Shelter Island efficiency

Shelter Island Marina & Boatyard in Richmond, BC, Canada, has purchased a new Marine Travelift (MT) 75 BFMII mobile boat hoist. The machine, delivered in September, is designed to handle powerboats, sailboats, tugs, fishing boats and patrol boats of approximately 80ft (24m) in length.

Founded in 1978 on the south arm of the Fraser River, Shelter Island Marina is a full-service facility and one of the largest yards on the Pacific Coast. It operates two of the biggest Marine Travelift mobile boat hoists along the western seaboard and has purchased five MT machines to date. It can lift vessels from 20 to 130 feet (6 to 39.6m), provides long- and short-term storage for hundreds of boats and boasts more than 8,000 linear feet (2,438.4m) of freshwater moorage.

"With more than 20 acres [8.09ha] of boatyard accommodating more than 400 vessels, it's imperative that we have reliable and efficient equipment to keep the yard operating smoothly," said Terry McPhail, Shelter Island's president. "Marine Travelift has always provided the newest technologies. Given the success we've enjoyed with our previous four Marine Travelift hoists, and the great local service from Kendrick Equipment, we were pleased to order another machine."

Shelter Island's new 75 BFMII

features two-speed hoists. These allow operators to increase lifting speed for more efficiency when the machine is in high demand and in the Pacific Northwest's greatly fluctuating tides. It also has MT's signature top beam extension. With this innovative feature, the top beam is moved forward, providing additional clearance while the boat is supported in the slings. This allows the boatyard to lift a much larger number of sailboats without needing to adjust the vessels' rigging. There is no need to dismantle the forestay, which reduces stress on the mast and gives greater ground clearance to the keel during lifting. It also allows the yard to handle recreational and commercial power vessels that have larger, higher superstructures.

"Shelter Island hauls a lot of larger sailboats, including race boats, and the top beam extension makes handling them a lot easier — and quicker," said Dave Marshall, sales manager at Kendrick Equipment.

In addition, the new 75 BFMII

incorporates an extra fuel tank on the lower side beam and has a sound suppression kit which sets the industry standard in noise reduction. Its foam lining, louvres and hospital-grade muffler will help the yard meet local noise-restriction requirements, particularly when operating multiple pieces of equipment.

Marshall said that, in addition to the quiet operation, the extra fuel tank was a big plus: "They won't have to rely on mobile filling as often, and the automatic variable throttle (AVT) was a must to keep

fuel-related operating expenses down. It also makes it easier for operators to communicate over engine noise."

Wireless remote control is also invaluable for increasing operator visibility of the boat, launch piers and surrounding area, improving operational safety and ensuring maximum manoeuvrability in the yard. It also allows the yard to operate the machine with less manpower.

According to McPhail at Shelter Island, the decision to purchase the new BFMII was easy. "After seeing the benefits of the remote operation with our newer 220-ton Marine Travelift, and the fact that we normally replace our machines every 10 to 12 years, the option was clear," he observed.

By trading in their machines approximately every decade and maintaining them well, Shelter Island has been able to apply trade-in allowances to new machines, covering approximately 75% of the purchase price.

"They definitely were pleased with the efficiencies the remote offered on the 220-ton machine, so they insisted on it for the 75-ton, along with the digital load scales with readout on the transmitter," Marshall said.

The partnership between Kendrick Equipment and Shelter Island is an important one. The marina purchased all five of its Marine Travelift machines from the Delta, British Columbia-based dealer, which has already sold three 75 BFMII's this year.

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