

Steel cage launch

Fusion Marine has launched a new range of steel square cage for the Scottish and Irish markets.

Already highly successful in the manufacture of polyethylene (PE) cages, the move by Fusion Marine into the steel cage sector represents a logical step for the company, according to managing director Stephen Divers.

"Our whole ethos is to be a 'one-stop-shop' for the aquaculture industry, providing a huge range of quality equipment. It therefore makes sense for us to move into the manufacture of Fusion Marine steel cages so as to fill-in one of the last gaps in our supply infrastructure from

our west coast base in Oban," he says.

"Many operators use steel square cages within their farm sites and we are now in a position to offer both options."

The square cages come in a range of sizes from 10 to 24m and are ideally suited for inshore salmon farming in Scotland, Ireland and other areas. The design also makes them ideal for cod and halibut farming.

"These cages provide an excellent and stable working platform, and are well suited to deep inshore sites for a variety of species," states Mr Divers.



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Halibut frames

Fusion Marine has developed a halibut frame for the fish to rest on. With the growing popularity of halibut farming, the frame has been produced in line with recent research, which has shown the benefits of resting platforms or shelves for halibut.

The frames are manufactured from PE coated steel pipes and are made to individual customer specification.



Nordic Seahunter

Fusion Marine has been appointed the UK and Irish agent for a versatile new design of plastic boat.

The Nordic Seahunter is a rotationally moulded plastic craft that can be linked together with other vessels to create a powered raft or pontoon. The craft can work as single units, or in groups of four, six or eight.

Nordic Seahunter is a stable working deck, where multiple units can be combined into larger platforms. The platform can be equipped with an outboard motor and different types of ladders and railings. It has several fastening holes in its hull. It is built for tough handling, and can carry up to 3700kg of payload.

According to technical director Alan Macleod, the 5.6m x 2m double-hulled craft has a variety of applications, including use on fish farms as personnel or feed carriers, or in the leisure industry such as in marinas.

The stable catamaran hull results in a low lurch, even during heavy load on its sides.



Norcage link

Fusion Marine has forged a close relationship with Shetland firm Norcage, with a cross-fertilisation of skills from both companies helping in the supply and fabrication of fish farm cages in the Northern Isles and the mainland.

Graham Forrest of Norcage says: "The arrangement works well and allows both companies to serve the fish farming industry in Shetland and the mainland."

Working in tandem with each other, work has successfully been completed for WISCO of the Fjord Group and another substantial installation is currently underway for Marine Harvest.



Plastic versatility

We are all familiar with wooden boardwalks, but there is now a cost effective alternative made from recycled plastic.

Environmentally friendly, and blending in well with the natural environment, Fusion Marine can supply a wide range of bespoke recycled plastic walkways, fences, bridges, waymarking posts and other similar features.

Although initially more expensive than the wooden alternative, the sheer durability and long-life of recycled plastics, means that over the longer term they are much cheaper. Other advantages include the fact that they are easier to clean of graffiti and they have fire resistant properties.

In recent months, Fusion has supplied a walkway in Shetland and waymarking posts for a customer in Aberdeen.

Stingray launch

Fusion Marine is introducing a new range of anchors for the commercial marine and fish farming industries.

Produced in Australia, the Stingray high performance anchor was developed on the premise that good design will outperform deadweight and represents the culmination of a great deal of research and development.

The concept of Stingray revolves around the fact that the best results come from increased penetration and fluke area. This has resulted in an anchor that delivers exceptional performance at a weight previously not thought possible.

"Stingray anchors penetrate much quicker than any conventional anchor and have the largest fluke area of any commercially

available anchor," states Geoff Wolfenden of Stingray.

"The result is an anchor that delivers a performance to cost ratio that other anchors find extremely difficult to match."

Comparison tests by the company have shown that Stingray is superior to other types of anchor. Not only do they offer the best

holding power, but they set much faster

than conventional anchors. The weight saving is a big advantage in terms of handling and installation.

Stingray anchors also operate with uplift angles far

in excess of conventional anchors, which translates to less ground chain. Large savings can be achieved by being able to reduce the amount of chain purchased, and freight costs are therefore reduced.



Fusion supports local teams

As part of its range of initiatives to support the local community, Fusion Marine is sponsoring the Oban Saints under 19 team, as well as Oban High School under 16 team.

Focus on hatcheries



Hatchery options

Supplying a comprehensive pipeline product range to suit all types of hatcheries, Fusion Marine offers a second to none service backed up by expert guidance on the choice of materials for dedicated applications.

The company has been involved in hatchery products for many years, supplying equipment to salmon and trout hatcheries. With the growing interest in cod farming, Fusion Marine has also become more involved with new species – the Nufish cod hatchery project in Shetland being one of its more recent projects.

Fusion Marine supplies a comprehensive pipeline product range for all applications in hatcheries, land based farms and recirculation systems. The product range includes external pipework and jointing equipment suitable for both salt or freshwater usage. Products include effluent pipes and internal distribution systems.

Polyethylene is the ideal material for such

systems. It is UV resistant, flexible and long lasting. PE requires virtually no maintenance and has chemical resistant properties.

Other equipment offered includes oxygenation and degassing towers, tanks, filters and UV systems, pumps and generators. A range of custom-built feed systems is also supplied.

Fusion Marine offers a full turnkey package for hatcheries, including everything from feasibility studies through to design and installation to after sales service and even staff training and project management. The pool of expertise the company can draw upon now covers virtually every fish species currently being spawned artificially worldwide.

Fusion can supply a whole range of hatchery products as well as offering consultancy services for hatchery projects. They will refurbish and upgrade existing facilities, which is particularly important if diversifying into new species.



Degassing towers

A set of degassing towers has been supplied for Holywood Salmon near Dumfries.

The towers were built and installed by Fusion Marine to a design provided by Holywood Salmon.

Tim Harris of Holywood Salmon says: "I'm very pleased with the quality of the towers."

Depuration system

New legislation means that shellfish harvested in the UK has to be depurated to meet strict hygiene guidelines.

Fusion Marine recently installed and fitted a system for Celtic Sea Farms at its mussel farm site at Arduaine, Argyll. From a raft out in the sea loch, seawater is pumped along a floating pipe to the depuration station onshore.

From there, a manifold system controlled by valves leads 18 smaller pipes over the roof of the station and back down into the individual depuration tanks, with the water being UV light sterilised during the process.

Boat boost



FFB personnel carrier for Marine Harvest

Sales of the Polycraft boat are surging ahead for both the fish farming industry and other marine sectors.

Marine Harvest took delivery of an FFB personnel carrier for its Stattic Point site at Little Loch Broom – the first of an order of two.

Site manager John Mackay says: "The boat is working very well and we have full faith in it. There is no comparison compared with some of the other boats we use, as it punches through the waves well and after a five mile trek to the site, the crew are still dry."

Meanwhile, an FRC1 has been delivered to the NE Group for operations around Scatsa airport in Shetland, who have leased it to SERCO, the management company who run Scatsa Aiport.

Bill Long operations manager contracting services North NE Group, says: "I would like to congratulate Fusion for all their efforts in delivering an outstanding FRC to the NE Group. Our client at Scatsta Airport was delighted with the Boat. I would also like to thank Fusion Marine general manager Iain Forbes and his staff for all their help and support on this project."



FRC for NE Group

Dave promoted

Dave North, who has wide experience of fabrication and other technical aspects at Fusion Marine, has been promoted to internal sales co-ordinator.

Dave's new role will be to co-ordinate all aspects of sales and fabrication work, providing an important link between field staff and customers.

Finger pontoons for Strathclyde

The versatility of recycled plastic has been used to good effect at Strathclyde Country Park near Glasgow.

Competitive rowing or skulling is a popular past time on the loch, with many racing events held each year. To ensure that the start of each race in different boat length categories takes place over the correct distance, Fusion Marine has designed and manufactured finger-start pontoons made from recycled plastic.

Floating pontoons are slid out from the start platform to the desired distance, with an elevated platform at the end for the starter to lie on and hold the stern of the boat before each race commences.

Eight pontoons in total have now been made and they have been used in many international skulling and rowing events.

"Recycled plastic is extremely versatile and these pontoons are just one example of the diverse range of products and equipment that that can be tailor-designed to suit customer requirements," states Fusion Marine technical director Alan Macleod.

Fusion has also supplied to Strathclyde Country Park an FRC4 Polycraft for safety duties and for the laying out of race market buoys.



The finger pontoons are working well

Hydro success

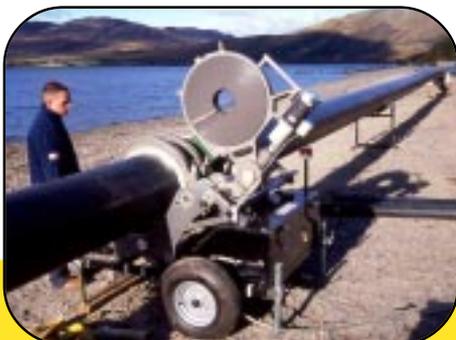
Fusion Marine has installed a network of large diameter piping for a hydroelectric scheme at Braevallich, Loch Awe.

Working under a contract from engineering company RJ Macleod, Fusion installed six 560mm polyethylene pipes. Each of the pipes carries water from collection points on feeder burns to a larger pipe, which then makes the final delivery to drive a hydroelectric turbine.

Weirs were constructed on several of the feeder burns so as to facilitate collection, and in total about 3km of piping was installed.

"Polyethylene is an ideal material for this kind of work, thanks to its durability," says technical director Alan Macleod.

"This is our first venture into this area but we envisage getting more and more involved in this field."



Fusion Marine's Triton 450 offshore sea cage is working well for fish farm operators in Chile and Malta, who say they are impressed by the cage's strength and large holding capacity.

Bluefin tuna operators, for example, have praised Triton for its versatility and handling ability alongside large boats and equipment during harvesting and feeding operations – especially during rough weather.

The success of the design has now resulted in firm enquiries from a number of other operators, including from countries as far afield as Algeria, Libya, France, Mexico, the Philippines and

Australia.

"The Triton 450 cage has been developed to meet the demanding conditions found in open sea tuna farming operations and also for the offshore farming of other species, especially salmon," says Mr Divers.

"As the tuna industry develops it is inevitable that cage systems will be towed over longer distances in even more exposed environments, which makes the size and durability of Triton an attractive feature and lowers the risk during crucial operations involving stock management.

"In addition, the Triton opens up new offshore opportunities for the salmon industry, and we are delighted at the positive feedback we have received."

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