

FB150 CASE STUDY

**“fleet broadband
is a winner”**

SAILOR FB150 is making a major contribution to the efficient operation of a New Zealand research vessel

**IMO
8000898**



"Fleet Broadband is a winner, so far have had no problems with it, sent and received large emails, pdf's etc with no problems and super quick – getting on the Net to download Weather info is really great too"

*Simon Wadsworth
Master
RV Kaharoa*

Fit for research

Wright Satellite Connections Ltd is proud to announce the success of an Inmarsat SAILOR FleetBroadband 150 (SAILOR FB150) trial. The New Zealand Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Vessel *Kaharoa* trialled the SAILOR FB150 on a successful international research operation.

Government and patrol vessels demand optimum reliability levels for their communications. This sector has now reached a point where significant data transfer is a real requirement, and SAILOR FB150 fits the bill absolutely in terms of size and performance.

The SAILOR FB150 offers standard IP data speeds of up to 150kbps and simultaneous voice capability. This service is provided through the Inmarsat Generation-4 Satellites and is available on a global basis.

Perfect candidate

Wright Satellite Connections Ltd is the New Zealand Certified Partner for Thrane & Thrane. With bases in New Zealand's major ports, the company specialises in mobile satellite communications, offering sales, installation, service, support and maintenance to maritime, defence, civil government, and other organisations for their use around the world.

The New Zealand Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) is an existing customer of Wright Satellite Connections Ltd,

So when the company approached NIWA for a trial of the SAILOR FB150, NIWA was very receptive to the idea.

Owned by NIWA Vessel Management Ltd, the *Kaharoa* entered service in the 1980's. The 28m long ship has a high profile within the international research community. It also has a heavy workload, having surveyed most inshore fish species around New Zealand, and crossing the oceans to launch Argo floats and surface drifters.

The *Kaharoa* is essentially an advanced floating research centre with purpose built trawl nets designed to catch various target species. With accommodation for 6 crew and 6 scientists, the ship features an onboard laboratory for hydrology, chemistry, and marine biology.

The wide variety and detailed nature of the research conducted by the *Kaharoa* generates considerable amounts of data, making the vessel a perfect platform to rigorously test all elements of the SAILOR FB150. These include simultaneous voice and data, and IP connections for e-mail and Internet/Intranet access, offering rates of up to 150kbps within the Inmarsat spot beams.

"It's bloody good to use and it's good to have the capacity we have now, and be up with the technology, nice one"

**Simon Wadsworth
Master
RV Kaharoa**



The Inmarsat SAILOR FleetBroadband 150 (shown above) ships complete with one standard IP phone and all necessary cabling.



Deploying the Argo floats

The Kaharoa's voyage has taken her from New Zealand, across the Great Australian Bight and then into the Southern Indian Ocean to Durban in South Africa. The Kaharoa returned to New Zealand on an even more Southerly route. During this voyage the vessel deployed the Argo buoys for Oceanographic Research.

NIWA Vessels Operations Manager, John Hadfield wanted the vessel to be fitted with a Satellite Terminal that would allow communications from the Southern Indian Ocean and also offer higher data rates than the vessels' existing Mini M. For this purpose John was pleased of the offer of a SAILOR FB150 for its compact size and very competitive price.

The SAILOR FB150 also proved to be more economical for data transfer, making considerable savings on the air time bill. It was also able to save on manpower, as the Kaharoa was able to download weather forecasts directly; previously this task was done by the NIWA Vessels office cut and pasting forecasts and then emailing them onto the vessel.

FBB150 and its capabilities

The SAILOR FB150 allowed the crew to enjoy data exchanges of up to 150kbps, which compares very favourably to the 2.4kbps speeds that were achieved using the Kaharoa's Mini M terminal. This higher data speed and the ability of the SAILOR FB150 to access the Internet meant that crew were able to facilitate the administration of operating a vessel on an international voyage.

The crew of the Kaharoa were greatly impressed with the voice quality over the two existing Satellite Terminals that are installed onboard the vessel, "It doesn't have the echo or buzz and there is not so much of a delay when compared to our other terminals," says Kaharoa's Master, Simon Wadsworth.

"Certainly saved me a lot of headaches, getting weather maps from any source anytime was very valuable. The South African weather service had their fax system shut down for repairs so the only way to access maps over there was via the Net. All and all the SAILOR FB150 is the best thing we've got so far."

As the ultimate in product confidence, when the Kaharoa arrived back in Wellington after her three month voyage, John Hadfield, Operations manager purchased the SAILOR FB150 trial unit so it could remain onboard the vessel.

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