

Fisherman/workboat for Rathlin Isle.

GRP fisher for N. Ireland

Rathlin Isle, the first of the new standard 'Skerries 24' fishing boats, moulded and fitted out by Orcantic Ltd, in Orkney, has been delivered to Mr Vincent Cecil, Rathlin Isle, Northern Ireland. She will be used mainly for lobster fishing but with occasional use of trammel nets. The boat will serve additionally as the general workboat for the island, carrying passengers to and from the mainland and will also take oil, freight and local produce — thus the rails around the well deck, which are easily demounted when fishing. The population of Rathlin Isle is 85, so this Orcantic '24' is to become a vital means of local communication and will both raise the standard of safety and increase local income.

A 30 bhp/2,300 rev/min Lister STW3M diesel with wet exhaust system, drives a fixed pitch three-blade propeller via a 3:1 hydraulic gearbox. Control is by Morse single lever. Dual-station Wagner hydraulic steering is fitted and a 1,000 lb.-pull Spencer Carter hydraulic pot hauler is mounted to starboard, aft of the wheelhouse.

The accommodation includes two bunks, forward, under the raised foredeck, with cooker and sink unit. Cargo handling is by a mast-mounted derrick, positioned to serve the fish hold and the whole of the non-skid surfaced deck. The vessel carries Seascan III radar, Multivoice VHF and Seascribe II echosounder.

Dimensions: Length o.a., 24 ft. (7.3 m); beam 9 ft. 3 in. (2.8 m); draught 3 ft. 3 in. (1.0 m); displacement, 4½ t approximately.

ASK No 7054