

Big Hapuka and a Day to Remember

Report from Carl

Epic's new CoroKing has been in the water a few weeks now and with family matters being a priority over the last month or two I hadn't had a chance have a blast on it out wide with Owen. At the last minute on Tuesday I saw a bit of an opening Big smile and called Owen up 7.30pm "bro shall we go for a puka hunt." Owen didn't take much convincing at all, and I put in a call to ex Epic skipper Tony Carpenter who is back in NZ at the mo after his record breaking stint overseas - yep keen as mustard.

We launched from Whiti where the boat is based, and soon had two tanks of slimeys loaded in the awesome two tank system on CoroKing.

Felt good to be back on the briny in good company



BushBilly in his element - got to say this RH690 is an amazing ride, not only is it very thoughtfully put together by Roy who project managed the boat build, together with Senator, Rollos and input from the rest of the team, it is a sweet ride that punches through the sea very nicely and just feels real comfy for what in reality is a slightly smaller boat than Epic almost

feels to have about the same room



We mooched around a bit of deep foul known to hold a few this time of year, Tony and I took turns on the helm so Owen could get amongst the action, skip BushBilly dominated proceedings getting the line share of them, starting with this one, Owen's first ever puka and

the first for CoroKing



JM350 bent as



Boom, yeah Owen! What a fish - 24kg



And another PB - this one 28kg



Big T got some time on the rail too - is that your knuckles getting dusted Tony?



Tony stoked to be back into some Kiwi goodness



It was turning into a hell of a day, awesome conditions, good company and some good kai coming on board to feed a few families



I was plugging away with a CD tournament bent butt and a Boulders old Avet T-RX I bought off him last year. This one was no match



Tony lined up the next drift and the next one had me in some serious trouble! Peeling line off the T-RX on some serious drag, and, with no gimbal - it was hurting somewhat! Fair bit of squealing, and Tony backing down hard on this fish which was heading in whatever direction it wanted - man, anyone who says puka don't fight - these fish I reckon are the ultimate!! Back was starting to ache lifting it up and a doozy popped to the surface!

It hurt!



46.9kg weighed back on land on Tony's IGFA scales



It was 1pm now and with plenty of good eating on board we called it quits with the fish still biting, it was inshore to check on the scallies at Optio, in no time Owen had his fill



What a great day on a mean ride! You can tell Owen is just in his element on this boat, and will go on to do some amazing things. Good luck bro!

An epic fillet session back in Tairua that night and into the next day with Bonze turning up at home to catch up and share some of his exciting new stuff coming up, including the \$250,000 Skins comp. Tempura hapuka, stir fried hapuka, panko hapuka, deep fried hapuka...and a few brews of course. Good times.

Chur!
Carl

PS, a few more pics of the new rig

CoroKing - Senator RH690



Launching - Bluetooth electronic brakes, boarding ladder, spec'd up DMW trailer



Independent pumping systems for the two tanks (big learning from other boats) - one will still feed the other if one pump breaks down



Thigh high railing on the stern platform to feel safe casting as well as other things that need tending too astern



Ample fishing space



Tuna tubes overflow feeds one tank. Middle door gives easy access to fuel filter and pump manifold nice and high - no kneeling required. Grate around bilge to save braid and leader off cuts getting caught in the bilge area



Nice platform to cast from upfront on the nice days



Game rigged for summer



Batteries within easy access of the skip, away from the conditions



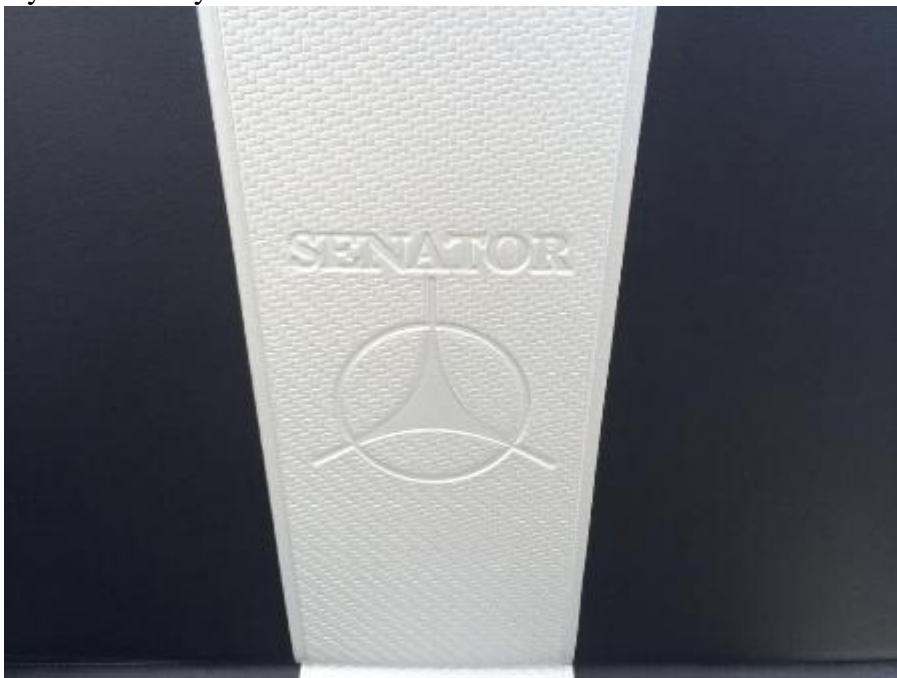
Plenty of nice storage compartments up front for safety gear



Only the best in electronics



Style and comfy trim



The name says it all - Owen will do some amazing things in this rig.



Standard day trips out of Whitianga to Cuvier/Mercs/Aldies via our [booking system](#). Multi day trips taking in the best of east and west coasts. And Coro/Cape trips by arrangement. Anyone ever caught a marlin on a day trip departing Coro? I think that might be in the to do list for this boat.....