



HUMBER & QUINQUARI SMOOTHING THE WATERS FOR COMMERCIAL RHIB OPERATORS

Humber Inflatables have always been recognised as one of the more conservative RHIB builders, producing a no nonsense solid range of well-proven vessels. From time to time though they keep the rest of the industry in check by carefully thought innovation and development.

The increase in use of RHIBs for commercial coded use has been exponential with many operators around the coast changing from traditional to

inflatable vessels. This is market driven in the main but also takes on board the versatility of RHIBs.

Humber Inflatables have been building larger RHIBs for the commercial market since the early eighties whilst building vessels for the diving and pleasure market as the original production builder right back to sixties. Their client list is unmatched by any other builder and includes the MOD and the Antarctic Survey, even producing the first RHIB to

cross the Atlantic back in 1984.

Until 2002 their Coded craft were based on the 8.5m Offshore Category B Hull. Despite being very successful with commercial operators there was a common call for a larger vessel to accommodate passengers with increased comfort and the increasing amount of equipment required on vessels for offshore sailings. Humber took the plunge and extended their range to 9.5m, 10m, 10.5m and 11m.

Research and development was pursued with their largest commercial user, Voyages Of Discovery/Thousand Islands Expeditions in West Wales. The results were impressive. The vessels engaged in strenuous tests;

dropped from 5.5m, heeled to their extents and loaded in excess they passed with honours.

Sea trials proved equally impressive with the deep V hull and perfect sheer making for a very comfortable and efficient hull. The final test was a years commercial operation with Voyages Of Discovery, adding to their already extensive fleet. Testimony was simple – they ordered more!

Humbers' enthusiasm was fairly tempered by their own northern pragmatic acknowledgement of their capacity in producing turnkey coded vessels. With their factory restructured to accommodate

production of up to 500 small and large RHIBs a year the link partnership with Quinquari Marine is dynamic and will put Humber at the forefront of production and bespoke passenger/commercial RHIBs.

As mother company to Voyages Of Discovery and Thousand Islands Expeditions, Quinquari Marine is the largest passenger carrier using RHIBs in Europe. The company handles up to 50 sailings a day peak season with a range of large Humber hulls, 8.5m to 11m.

From its inception in the early nineties the company has purchased Humber Hulls and then undertaken all fitting out in house. This has enabled the perfect deck layout and commercial specification for their own demanding operations off the rugged West Wales Coast.

Their experience not only of vessel operations but also the business and logistical considerations make the company extremely well placed in providing sound advice and products to those interested in the commercial RHIB market. Owner John

