

Drumbeat of Devon Fisheries Patrol Vessel

Built by Pete Dickinson



Based on a modified Stan Patrol 2200 design DRUMBEAT OF DEVON was built in 1991 by Damen of Holland for Devon County Council Fisheries Protection Department. Her duty is to patrol the North and South coast of Devon where the vessel has to be capable of rounding the rugged Cornish coastline. Drumbeat has the endurance to support herself and crew for patrol periods of up to six days and is both fast and comfortable in most sea conditions. Maximum speed: 22 knots and cruising speed: 18 knots.

This model, manufactured as a kit by Model Slipway, has graced my collection for many years having been built very soon after the kit was launched. It has had a long and hard service and following a disastrous collapse of a shelf has spent the last few years in a state of utter disrepair but has now been rebuilt, although sadly not to the original standard.

Several modifications were made to the model including the addition of a working fore-deck mounted water cannon and a radio controlled sound module.

The propulsion is supplied by two standard 'can' motors which tend to give the vessel a rather unrealistic speed if driven hard. Originally she carried two 6volt 4Ah gel cells but these are to be replaced by a single 2 cell 5Ah Li-Po.

The radio control system is a six channel Hi-Tec Optic 6 TX running a 40Mhz synthesised module. The TX has been modified to use a spare channel to control a scratch built eight output switch module to operate the navigation utility and spot lights and control the various loud hailer announcements that the vessel can deliver.

Sadly the kit was withdrawn by Model Slipway some time ago and so no spares were available for the re-build. The major issue was the fact that the superstructure required a repaint after the repair and would therefore require a new set of decals, originally supplied with the kit. However Model Slipway suggested a source for printable waterslide transfer paper and these proved to be perfect for the job.

Many of the white metal castings, used for the railings around the deck, were damaged beyond repair and as there were no spares available had to be replaced with ones fabricated from styrene strip.

The internal repairs are still ongoing so currently the vessel is not functional but I hope to get her ship shape and back on the water soon.