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Berth 267A, Fish Harbor-Terminal Island, CA

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In the spring of 2008, fuel prices in Southern California were rising rapidly and I needed to find ways to reduce my daily fuel consumption of 40 gallons per day or face going out of the commercial fishing business. I was looking into exotic methods such as electrolytic hydrogen generation systems when you approached me with a simpler, less costly option: a mini-refinery in a steel canister called the Fitch Fuel Catalyst. Due to my curious and experimental nature, and in particular because of the positive dynamometer test report you provided me on my exact main engine (Cummins NTA855 14 liter), I agreed to purchase 2 units (one for the main and the other for a smaller Izuzu generator engine). We stayed in close contact as I reported my observations to you.

The first thing I noticed was an immediate drop in the noise level coming from both engines. They both seemed to run a lot quieter and smoother. Also, the air quality around the boat improved dramatically while we baited the hooks with the generator engine running (probably from reduced carbon monoxide which used to make us drowsy). The generator consumes a consistent 1 gph and it's difficult to document much fuel reduction when there is so little used to begin with, but it all adds up! One thing I was able to document was an increase in engine speed and voltage (~4 volts) produced by the generator. This allowed me to recalibrate the governor on the engine to achieve the normally required 117 volts and thereby know that I was saving some fuel.

The main propulsion engine is used about 6 hours at high speed while in transit to and from Catalina Island and another 4-6 hours at slow speed while we are handling our lines. After several trips, I was able to calculate after subtracting out the consumption related to the generator, a reduction of between 8 to 10 gallons per day (~1/2 gph) over my previous burn rate.

I endorse the Fitch Fuel Catalyst fully and have already recommended it to many of my fellow fishermen because I know it will help them survive.

Sincerely,

Capt. Phil Schenck  
Owner/Operator of the f/v "Terri's Gale"