

Isle of Wight County Press

COMPANY GETS LIFT TO CLEAN UP

By Martin Neville

SPIRALLING cleaning costs are forcing many boat owners to put off their annual lift and clean.

But now the dream of a sub-£100 clean has become reality, thanks to SeaLift2 International, an Island-based company behind a cost-effective, safe and environmentally-friendly yacht and boat cleaning system.

SeaLift2 International has pioneered a floating dock system that lifts boats out of the water, pressure hoses them down and returns them cleaned in only 30 to 45 minutes and at a fraction of the cost of a traditional lift and clean.

The company is charging £80, plus VAT, for its basic service and will also be offering anode replacement, propeller changes and anti-foul and general below-water services.

Until now, boat owners have had to haul their craft on to a quayside or beach them to remove marine growth fouling, an expensive, time-consuming and environmentally unfriendly operation.

Donald Scott-Thom, SeaLift2's founder and designer, said: "People can spend thousands of pounds on their boats and keep the decks and cabins pristine but under the waterline it's a different matter.

"Barnacles and weed growth are taking their toll because it is impossible to keep the hull clean without having to go through the hassle of cranes.

"Our high-pressure jets blast off the hull and 45 minutes later the boat can sail away. The system also gives our operators the opportunity to spot any damage that, left unchecked, could spell disaster.

"The waste water from the clean is collected in a sump on the dock and filtered after use to avoid dumping harmful pollutants into the sea.

"Boats up to 65ft and with a beam up to 18ft can use the dock."

Although it has only recently been launched at the UK Sailing Academy at Cowes, SeaLift2 has been operational since the start of the year and has already completed more than ten lifts and cleans.



Picture by:

Donald Scott-Thom, designer of the Sea-Lift2 system to lift and clean boats. Picture by Laura Holme.

Work is also well under way on the second dock, which will start trials in a few weeks' time to be ready for the peak sailing season.

IW Economic Partnership's Inward Investment Team worked with SeaLift2 International for more than a year to help with its move to the Island.

Mike King, managing director of the partnership, said: "This is a classic example of how the Cowes Waterfront initiative will bring new investment and new opportunities to the Island."

SeaLift2 plans to roll out further docks on the south coast and to licence the system abroad.

Mr Scott-Thom said the company had already had interest from overseas.

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