

On the **WATER** BOATING, FISHING**BARRY WISEMAN**

A sound investment

A new book for the lay fisher is practical and clearly written as it explains how echo sounders work

AS a commercial fisherman, John Adams worked in Australia and the North Sea, out of Grimsby in Yorkshire. These days he runs the Fremantle Boat School and is a qualified marine trainer, working through the Australian Maritime Institute at Henderson.

"In the early days we used the old paper drum Koden sounders with an aircraft for back-up and a lookout in the rigging searching for 'prawn boils', where the prawns would congregate," he said. "We would run the echo sounder over the school to determine the likely catch before shooting our nets. Sounders are a passion of mine and I thought there was a need to help people learn how to interpret the screen in front of them."

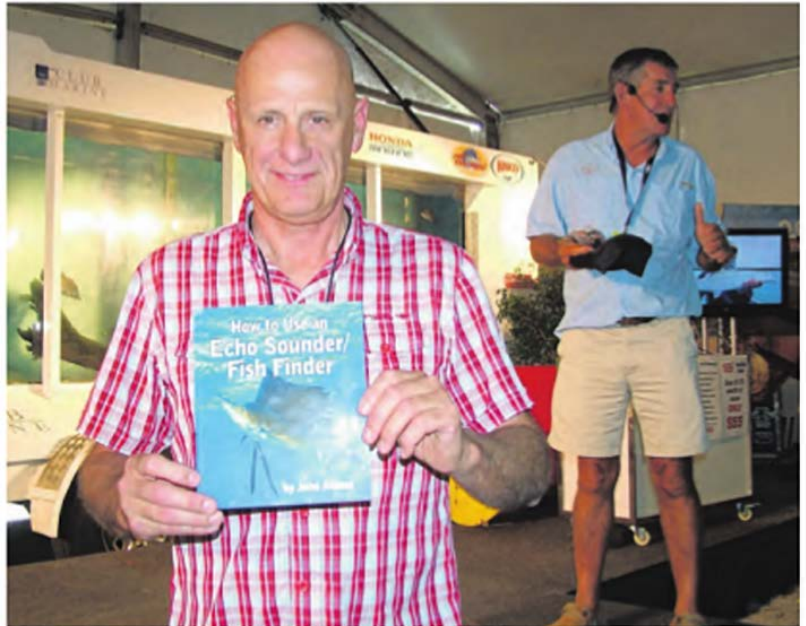
How to Use an Echo Sounder/Fish Finder is printed by Scott Print in Perth and is an easy read. As a boater and keen fisherman, I found it addictive.

It is so informative and simple to understand, I could not put it down. At 100 pages, with many great genuine colour sonar-screen readings recorded by John himself, you can finish the book in days and go back to the beginning to re-process the information.

More than 20 years ago I bought an early black-and-white sounder and never really had success reading the bottom, other than knowing how much water was under the keel.

Ten years ago I upgraded to colour and new technology, which helped me locate coral ledges and caves for the divers. However, I still did not know a lot about what the unit could do.

Earlier this year I was at a Perth Game Fishing Club open day when I came across Mr Adams' publication. Within minutes I was hooked and bought a copy, knowing I was going to upgrade to one of the latest echo sounders on



With *The West's* fishing writer Mike Roennfeldt behind, John Adams spruiks his book, a clearly written explanation about using echo sounders. Picture: Barry Wiseman

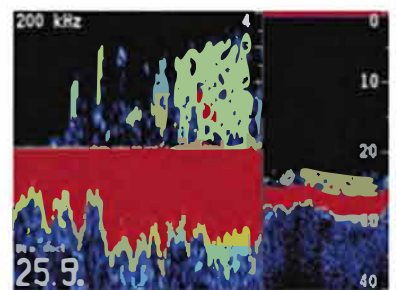
the market. His knowledge gave me more confidence in selecting which sonar unit to buy to meet my fishing requirements.

Mr Adams' aim was to keep it simple and give readers an understanding of how sounders work and the principles for detecting fish.

He's certainly done that. Colour screen examples detail various bottom and water column features and later pages feature readings that give the reader the opportunity to test themselves against the correct interpretations that are listed at the back of the book.

This section is confidence-boosting, helping the reader understand what's beneath the keel. It also explains how to use the zoom and bottom-lock features on your unit, depending on what you are targeting.

I met up with Mr Adams at the recent Mandurah Boat Show,



Screen shots of an echo sounder used for scanning the seabed for school fish.

where he was presenting a segment dealing with sonar equipment.

A copy of his book can now be found in the EK Harry Library at the International Game Fish Association Fishing Hall of Fame, in Florida.

■ How to Use an Echo Sounder/Fish Finder is \$49.95 and is available online at howtouseafishingfinder.com.