

Book Review: written by Dan Kaggelis, feature writer for Fish & Boat North Queensland.

Review- How to Use an Echo Sounder/ Fish Finder

When used to their full potential, an echo sounder/fish finder can be an angler's greatest tool in terms of maximising fishing success. This has been especially the case as sounder technology has increased to include high definition images, colours, and transducer power which have made it all that much easier to find quality fish structures and even the fish themselves. The other bonus is that many of these high quality sounders are now quite affordable to the average angler. However, with all these new advancements comes the increasing problem of being able to set up, utilise and most importantly read what's on the sounder. Being able to distinguish what different colours mean or what different features do is almost like learning a new language for fishermen which is often a very daunting experience. This often sees the sounder left on automatic or rarely used at all which can severely limit your ability to find fish. If you're reading this and thinking yes this sounds like me then this book is one you really need to read.

'How to use and Echo Sounder/ Fish Finder' as its name suggests, is a 100 page beautifully illustrated guide to how to read and use your echo sounder/fish finder like a pro. The contents of the book are broken up into 5 main parts. Part 1 explores the history and background to Echo Sounding/ Fish Finders. Part 2 is all about understanding Echo Sounding and investigates colour scales, signal strengths from targets, , transducer beams angles, recording signals from the bottom and bottom discrimination. Part 3 is all about the detection of fish and explores target strengths, the dead zones, fish swim bladders and the formation of fish arches. Part 4 is all about using your sounder and investigates setting and tuning, the use of different frequencies at different water depths, screen views, depth ranging, bottom locks, bottom zoom, white line functions, sensitivity and gain control and time variable gain. Finally, Part 5 brings it all together by selecting and interpreting the underwater acoustic images recorded on the display screen. All in all it's a very comprehensive guide to getting to know your depth sounder and understanding what's below the water line. Also at the end of each section there is a dedicated page where you can make notes on what you have read for later reference.

Whilst the content is awesome, what you will really love about this book is that it's so easy to read. It's not a million words and the information is concise to the point and in a language that everyone can understand. **This book has been written by a fisherman for fishermen so you don't get all this useless information which will not help you catch fish.** Most importantly all the text is heavily backed up with detailed annotated pictures which explain what the text is talking about. These images include illustrations, photographs and most importantly sounder screen shots. These sounder shots are awesome as they bring the words to life and really make it easy to understand. There are also lots of stunning underwater pictures taken from our very own Queensland waters by underwater photographer Gary Bell from Ocean Wide Images.

The author of 'How to Use and Echo Sounder/ Fish Finder' is John Adams. Coming from a sea faring family, John began his career as a commercial fisherman as a trawler skipper and then later headed to learn and experience trawler fishing in England in the North Sea. He then moved into working within the oil rig industry where he skippered many support vessels and tugs. Along the way his passion for recreational fishing was not forgotten which eventually saw him begin the Fremantle Boat School in Western Australia. It wasn't long before many of his clients began to realise his exceptional talents at reading and using echo sounders and from this came the drive to write this book. It is obvious that his extensive knowledge gained from years at sea reading and using sounders has been transferred into this book and as I wrote before **it has been written by a fisherman for fishermen.**

You may find yourself asking whether this book will provide relevant information for your sounder of choice as there are many different brands of sounders on the market. The answer is a definite **yes**- whilst the brand of sounder may change the functions and information is all relevant to all brands. I was able to transfer the knowledge in this book easily from my Furuno to my Hummingbird with ease, especially when it comes to using and reading the sounder. The content within the book will relate to all sounders and their functions and is not limited to a certain brand or model. It is important to note that this book does not cover side imaging.

Overall 'How to Use an Echo Sounder Fish Finder' by John Adams is a must read for all boating anglers. It's easy to read and understand and will make you a better angler. Don't just take my word for it as it has been recognised internationally for its quality and a copy of the book has been deposited into the E.K. Harry Library & IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum Florida USA, which is no easy feat. Check it out. You will not be disappointed. Copies of the book can be purchased online from www.howtouseafishfinder.com