

WASHING MACHINE

PAT MANLEY'S WESTERLY OCEANQUEST TRIES THE INNOVATIVE BOAT WASH, SEALIFT2 FROM £94

Boat owners will find this 'drive-in' boat wash in Cowes, Isle of Wight, easy to use. There was a strong Spring tide running with a strong crosswind when *Pendragon* docked, but we found no problems entering the washing machine. You simply aim the boat between two fendered posts on the submersible platform, and stop when they're amidships.

The operator then adjusts the posts hydraulically to lightly grip the boat, and fore and aft lines are made fast and tensioned at the bow and stern to stop the boat tilting. Air is then forced into

Sealift2's ballast tank until the boat is supported under the keel, and the lift continues until the boat is high and dry.

Pressure washing can then start, with all runoff being collected within the platform and pumped ashore to a holding tank

for recirculation or disposal. Anodes or propellers can also be changed if required.

Pendragon's lift took less than four minutes and the total operation – including cleaning the prop and changing the prop anode – less than 45 minutes.

Boats up to 20 tonnes can be lifted at a basic cost of £94.

The cost of anode changes is by arrangement – the anodes being supplied either by the boat

owner himself or Sealift2.

In normal circumstances the crew stays on board, but I was able to observe the whole operation from outside and can report excellent results.

More locations are planned and the Sealift2 operation is to be franchised worldwide.

Pat Manley

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ABOVE and RIGHT Once the boat is lifted clear of the water, high pressure washing can begin. As an environmental measure the runoff is collected and pumped ashore to a holding tank

