

business



TEAMWORK: Whakatane boat-builders Extreme Boats collected two prestigious boats awards at the weekend.

Photo Monique Ford B7984-08

Building better boats

KEITH MELVILLE

WHAKATANE boat builders Surtees Boats and Extreme Boats have cemented their reputations as among the best in New Zealand by collecting wins in the prestigious Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show.

Three of the 12 Hutchwilco awards came home to Whakatane from the Auckland showgrounds on Sunday, with Extreme Boats winning two and Surtees one.

Extreme Boats collected the award for the under six metres class for aluminium fishing boats for its Extreme 570 Sportfisher, and

the award for the six to seven metre class for aluminium fishing boats for its Extreme 700 Game King.

Surtees, which has collected awards year after year at the Hutchwilco show, scooped the aluminium fishing boat open class for its 7.3 Sportfisher, a class it has never won before.

The Surtees and Extreme successes mark another highpoint in the Whakatane boat-building industry which now directly employs about 65 people, and exports throughout Australasia and the Pacific.

Extreme Boats has 22 staff on its payroll

and Surtees 43.

Extreme won two Hutchwilco boat show awards last year and owner-manager Glenn Shaw said this year's success cemented their place in the market.

The business produces 120 boats a year, half of which are exported.

Surtees Boats managing director Phil Sheaff said the 7.3 Sportfisher was only released to the market in March, and he had picked up six orders for it at the boat show and was very happy with the result.

Surtees made 285 boats last year.