

Hamilton Jet Model HM571
 Application Review

HM571 Waterjets Boost Candy Fleet Crew Boats



With oil exploration moving further offshore, crew boat charterers require larger vessels with greater speed and cargo carrying capacity. Service company Candy Fleet operates a series of 44-metre crew boats, each of which utilises a single Hamilton Jet HM571 waterjet propulsion system to supplement a quadruple setup of conventional propellers.

Candy Cotton is the fourth vessel in the series, following Candy Stripe, Candy Machine and Candy Basket. All four vessels were built at Swiftship's Morgan City yard, and are now operating in the Gulf of Mexico.

Using waterjet propulsion alongside conventional propellers has brought a number of important benefits for the four vessels. The boost effect of the jet takes the load off the four main engines, increasing efficiency and allowing a light speed of 26 knots (23.5 knots with 60 tonnes of cargo).

Initial trials of the vessels

showed that while the jet is a booster only (it has no steering or astern deflectors fitted), it adds much needed power under load. With 20 tonnes of deck cargo and the waterjet off-line, rail pressure on the four main engines went close to maximum levels.

The HM571 boost jet's engine, a Cummins model KTA38-M1 diesel, is housed in its own engine room and is installed centrally between the propellers. In shallow or debris-laden waters, the waterjet can be employed on its own to push the boat at eight knots.

One of the trips taken by Candy Cotton and its sisterships covers 480 miles with up to 16 stops for rig-crew changes, a trip that can now be completed in a mere 25 hours.

▶ Brief Specifications

NAME: Candy Stripe; Candy Machine; Candy Basket; Candy Cotton	SPEED: 26 knots [light] 20-24 knots [laden]
SERVICE: Oil Rig Crew Boats	WATERJET: Single Hamilton Model HM571 Boost Jet
LENGTH: 44.20 metres [LOA]	BOOST ENGINE: Cummins diesel Model KTA38-M1 745kW (1000hp) @ 2100rpm
BEAM: 8.08 metres	DESIGNER/BUILDER: Swiftships Inc, Morgan City, LA, USA
DRAUGHT: 1.85 metres	OWNER/OPERATOR: Candy Fleet, Morgan City, LA, USA
CONSTRUCTION: Aluminium	Hamilton Jet DISTRIBUTOR: Sewart Supply Inc, Morgan City, LA, USA
DISPLACEMENT: 265.1 tonnes	
PAYLOAD: 58 passengers 142.3 tonnes deck cargo	