

# Spirit uses Dolphins to help Seafish's quality control



Seafish



Not all data capture devices are the same - and many companies have discovered that specialist advice can make a real difference when choosing the best solution. Seafish UK, a supplier of frozen food items, uses barcode scanners as part of its quality control procedures. The company's existing devices were proving to be inadequate, so it commissioned an independent specialist, Spirit Data Capture Limited, to source new units. Spirit recommended Honeywell's Dolphin 6100s, which have been successfully deployed and have met all of Seafish's exacting needs.



Seafish UK is a family-run company based in Hull and is a secondary processor of value-added frozen fish products. These are supplied to all parts of the food industry, including the retail and catering sectors. Seafish has been producing, marketing and exporting frozen seafood items for nearly 100 years, with an emphasis on high quality combined with affordability.

### An emphasis on quality

One aspect of this drive for quality involves the use of handheld barcode scanners throughout the production process. The company recently decided to upgrade its scanners, as the existing ones were bulky, not as robust as expected and there were problems with the battery life. Seafish therefore decided to start looking for better alternatives.

Robert Carter, Seafish UK's Production Systems and Shift Manager, explains: "We were looking for a handheld barcode scanning device that could be connected to our WiFi network and server at all times, irrespective of where the operator was working. It needed to be user-friendly, so that operators can easily input the data required; lightweight but rugged; and to represent great value for money. The other key requirement was a good battery life."



He continues: "Whilst searching for handheld devices on the web some time ago, I had come across an independent consultancy, Spirit Data Capture Limited. Spirit recommended the Honeywell Dolphin 6100 as the best solution for our needs." The 6100 is a compact mobile computer with barcode scanning capabilities, an IP54 rating and a battery life of over eight hours.

"Although this device is small and light," says Robert Carter, "it's robust and has a well-proportioned screen. It's light and robust and allows the operator to use an onscreen keyboard or a multi-functional keypad. In comparison with our previous units, the Dolphins are good value for money. From a programming point of view, they're easy to navigate and interaction with the barcode scanner is already programmed and required only a slight modification to meet our requirements."

### The Dolphins dive into action

The new devices are being used to conduct checks during the daily production process. Seafish uses a programme called Tracesoft to capture all of the required production and quality control aspects. It also captures several engineering tasks, such as the daily readings of electric meters and compressors by the barcode scanners. Tracesoft logs the information on the database so that it's live and readily accessible to all of the management at any time.

Robert adds: "Since the Dolphin 6100s have been fully operational, we've had very few issues with them. They've performed very well and can be in use for up to 16 hours a day, five days a week. We've already used them to collect data from over 700,000 questions, which otherwise would have required a paper-based approach. The units are robust enough to take the knocks and drops of everyday use.

"For our field workers, the Dolphins are compact and easy to use, but the screen is well sized and bright. The extended capacity battery is good enough to see us through a day's production with only the occasional change. The operators like the devices because they're much more user-friendly than our previous units."

Robert concludes: "The service we've received from Spirit has been great. Everyone that I've spoken to at the company has been friendly and their technical knowledge and advice have been very useful to us throughout."



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