

International Hydrofoil Society

Award Citation

Helmut Kock

The International Hydrofoil Society hereby honors Helmut Kock for his many contributions and innovations in the field of hydrofoils.

Over a forty year period, beginning in the 1950s, Helmut Kock has been a leader in the design, construction, operation and modification of commercial passenger hydrofoils in the United States and in South America. With often marginal financial backing, Mr. Kock developed and constructed a series of practical and affordable hydrofoils for commercial passenger operations. These craft were commercially viable in their day and some are still in operation. In terms of numbers of operating passenger hydrofoils in the United States and in South America, Mr. Kock's craft represent a truly exceptional level of commercial hydrofoil operation.

Helmut Kock was born in Chile where boyhood experience building and using small craft inspired a lifelong devotion to boatbuilding. After four years working and studying in Germany he returned to Chile where he developed a lumbering operation in a remote area which required construction of a tug and lumber barges. In 1951 Mr. Kock met a German immigrant who had worked at the Schertel-Sachsenberg yard in Dessau-Rosslau and, as a prisoner of war, in the hydrofoil research program in Leningrad. Mr. Kock, with his German associate, began experiments with hydrofoil models and, in 1955, moved to Florida, where they developed a 16 foot outboard hydrofoil. After his German partner returned to Germany Mr. Kock moved to California, where he designed and built foils for a sightseeing boat.

The success of the sightseeing craft resulted in a contract for the 35 foot "Albatross". A New York firm acquired design rights for the "Albatross" and constructed 20 production craft, 14 of which were used for passenger service between New York City and the 1964 World's Fair in Flushing. Boats from the 20-craft production run eventually operated in Washington, DC, Alaska, Miami, the Virgin Islands, Lebanon and Bolivia. Mr. Kock trained a Bolivian crew on Lake Titicaca for operation and maintenance. Three more Albatrosses were subsequently purchased for the Bolivian operation. Mr. Kock was later contracted for the construction of a larger 50 foot, 40 passenger craft. Materials for the "Bolivia Arrow" were brought together in Pennsylvania and shipped to Bolivia for assembly. This craft entered service in 1977.

In 1981 Mr. Kock redesigned the foils on the three hydrofoils operating at Sea World in San Diego. In 1984 an Albatross was stretched by six feet. Also in 1984 Mr. Kock repowered two Albatrosses in Miami for service in Paraguay.

The International Hydrofoil Society takes great pleasure in presenting this award to Helmut Kock, who has devoted the better part of his life to proving, through many applications and innovations, that hydrofoils are a practical and economical solution for high speed passenger service.

____22 November 1999____

Date

John R. Meyer, President