

## New Spray Gun Reins in Overspray, Speeds Jobs

**T**he painting of an oil spill recovery vessel would not have been completed on time had it not been for the use of new pressure feed spray guns that cause little overspray and reduce the need for masking and containment, says Taylor Pennock of Pacific Fishermen, Inc. The 133-foot-long vessel required surface preparation and repainting of the deck, pipes, and pilot house while at the shipyard.


Pennock was able to complete the project over four days in the autumn of 2005, a compressed schedule that precluded the use of conventional airless spray guns (due to overspray considerations) or rollers and brushes (due to time requirements), he says. Workers first prepared the

surfaces to be coated by hand tool cleaning and sanding, and then degreased the substrate with high pressure water washing. The decks required the application of a two-component epoxy system with a broadcast of non-skid material between coats. A two-component corrosion-resistant epoxy was applied to the piping, he says. In addition, the shipyard crew applied an enamel copper bottom coating to the hull. All the coatings were applied at 8 mils' (200 microns') dry film thickness per coat.

The Seattle, WA, shipyard began using the spray guns when they were first commercialized approximately two years ago, says Pennock. Located on the freshwater side of

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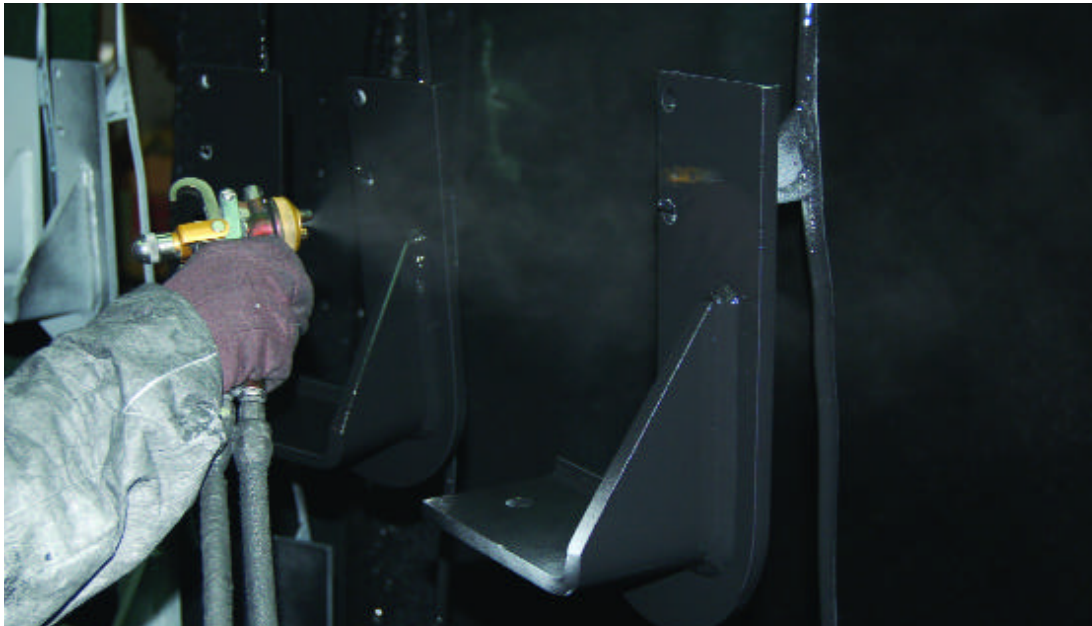


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*Demonstration of new spray gun applying coating to steel. (Pictures of the Pacific Fishermen project not available at press time) Photo courtesy of Dux Area, Inc.*

Ballard's Salmon Bay and without a closed drydock, the facility was looking for application equipment that would reduce concerns for overspray,

both in the water and on nearby yachts and fishing boats.

The advantage of using the new spray guns is that "you can dial down

the pressure to reduce overspray," says Pennock. This feature allows the shipyard to apply coatings to boats while they are in the water. The small, portable guns can also access tight spaces easily, which is a benefit for applicators working around piping and other crowded areas. In addition, the use of the spray guns has resulted in savings for the shipyard, because tarping and masking—labor-intensive operations—are not necessary. The guns "fill the void between high pressure spray guns and rollers and brushes," he says.

According to the manufacturer, its line of spray guns (including the pressure-feed version) has transfer efficiencies between 15 and 40% better than high-volume, low pressure (HVLP) and conventional spray guns. This improved transfer efficiency results in the reduction of airborne paint particles and blowback from the targeted substrate.

Dux Area, Inc. (Seattle, WA) manufactures the spray guns. International Paint Inc. (Seattle, WA) manufactures the two-component epoxy system and enamel copper bottom coating.

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