



Furuno NavNet vx2 Radars

IT'S A WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT IF YOU WANT TO CATCH fish, you need to know how to find them. In order to find the fish, you clearly need to locate the birds — the undisputed masters of fish-finding technology. Less clear is exactly how to go about targeting birds with radar, a tool normally reserved for collision avoidance.

Experienced offshore anglers consider Furuno synonymous with quality bird radar, especially their high-powered NavNet vx2 radars. When contemplating bird-tracking radar, first consider antenna beam width. Remember that the narrower the beam width, the greater target discrimination you have. Furuno's 1954C and 1964C NavNet vx2 radars incorporate open-array antennas with a narrow beam width. They come with either a 4-foot open-array or even a 6-footer if you have the space.

Experience and practice will make you a bird-finding machine. But to get there, you need to start with the basics.

For the novice, it's best to practice these techniques on a clear day with calm seas.

First, visually locate a flock of birds that you want to target. To target the birds, set the radar to a mid or long range. Next, increase the gain control until you see noise on the display. This appears as a blanket of small specks. Leave the gain turned all the way up, thus setting the receiver for maximum sensitivity in order to detect birds. Resist the temptation to turn up the AC/Sea or AC/Rain to erase the noise. Flocks of birds may look like dense, recurring noise rather than a solid target, but you should be able to see them

clearly. This is what you will be looking for when you don't have a visual cue as to where the birds are feeding.

If you're capable of operating your radar in a True Motion mode, do so. That stabilizes the display, allowing you to tell if the flock is traveling in a straight line looking for bait pods or if they have found their target school and are feeding.

When operating in Head Up or True Motion, be sure to turn on your Target Trail function and set it for long trails to help track traveling flocks.

Use these techniques on your NavNet vx2 radar, and soon you'll be scouting your fishing spots just like the pros. •



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