

Boat theft dashes charter dream **stuff.co.nz**

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STOLEN: The Black Pearl charter boat, which was stolen from a Petone storage yard.

A dream realised after 20 years has come crashing down for a Wellington fisherman whose charter boat was stolen overnight.

Soon after setting up Black Pearl Charters in Wellington in January, Matt Dobson said: "This really is a dream come true.

"I've talked about it for so long, it's just nice to finally be able to do it. It's a big leap, a huge amount of money to invest, but I'm sure it'll all pay off and if it doesn't I'll still have the boat."

But sometime yesterday evening or before 3am today, the boat was stolen from a storage yard in Petone, Lower Hutt.

While he had insurance it was not for the true value of the boat, which he estimated was worth \$100,000.

If he did not get the boat back, his charter operation would fold, he said.

He spent more than 20 years out on the water with the aim of one day owning his own boat and running fishing charters.



The company's one boat was a black 8-metre Kiwi-Kraft 780 with twin 150 horsepower engines.

He had been booked today to take a charter out for a fishing magazine, which was doing a story on him and the boat.

Wellington police spokesman Nick Bohm confirmed police had been contacted about the boat theft, which was the second in a few days.

Early on Saturday morning, someone forced their way into Boat City, Paraparaumu, reversed a vehicle in and towed away a 6.2m aluminium boat.

Police would investigate whether the thefts were linked.

For more information go to:

blackpearlcharters.co.nz

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