

Stolen charter boat found



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RETURNED: The stolen Black Pearl charter boat was found at a suburban Lower Hutt address.

A passionate Wellington fisherman has been reunited with his charter boat after it was stolen earlier this week.

Wellington police spokesman Nick Bohm said the Black Pearl Charters fishing vessel was found at a suburban Lower Hutt address on Wednesday night after a member of the public spotted it.

The boat was largely undamaged and returned to its owner, Matt Dobson, after forensic testing.

Dobson said there was some damage. Cables had been cut and the outboard engines had been dragged along the ground.

But insurance should cover that damage and “overall it’s not too bad of a condition”.

Earlier this week he said if he lost the boat it would be the end of his charter business, which had been a dream 20 years in the making.

Earlier this year, shortly after setting up the Wellington region charter operation, he 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.

”Getting the call that it had been found on Wednesday was a huge relief, he said.

He expected to have his boat out on the water within three to four weeks.

Bohm said police were speaking with the resident of the address where the boat was found.

No charges had been laid last night.

Although Dobson had insurance for the black 8-metre Kiwi-Kraft 780 with twin 150 horsepower engines – earlier this week he was concerned it wasn’t to the full value of the boat, which he estimated was worth \$100,000.

The boat was stolen from a storage yard in Petone, Lower Hutt.

For more information go to:

blackpearlcharters.co.nz

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