

# CASE STUDY: VIKING VESSEL REPOWERED WITH CAT® C32B ENGINES ACHIEVES FIRST TOURNAMENT WIN

CUSTOMER	LOCATION	CAT DEALER	PRODUCT	INDUSTRY	SOLUTION
Big Torch	Freeport, TX	Cat® Authorized Marine Dealer - Elite Diesel	Cat C32B	Sportfishing	Repower

## BIG TORCH FISHING TEAM LEAVES THE COMPETITION IN ITS WAKE

Whether you're competing for a big prize or simply enjoying a day at sea, sportfishing vessels are made for adventure while providing modern comforts.

Speed and responsiveness are deciding factors in any fishing tournament — especially Gulf Coast tournaments, given the extremely large stretch of fishing territory. Big Torch, a 62' Viking vessel, competed in 24 fishing tournaments over the past eight years and placed six times under the power of Tier 2 Cat® C32A engines. However, its crew — composed of owner Steve Ferguson's family members — desired a greater edge in tournament competitions and sought a strategic recommendation from a Cat® Authorized Marine Dealer, Elite Diesel, to enhance the boat's performance.

## A REPOWER REVITALIZES BIG TORCH

Having served Big Torch since 2012, Elite Diesel understood the team's requirements and recommended the owner replace the existing engines with twin Tier 3 Cat C32B engines. Compared to the C32A, the 12-cylinder [C32B engine](#) delivers more power and speed.

Built on the proven C32 platform, the C32B has adapted the robust unit injector system to incorporate a multi-shot fuel injection — the same feature used by common rail fuel systems to reduce engine noise but without the common rail system expense. Reduced noise allows for a more pleasurable day on the water, whether that's spent in the cockpit enjoying the mezzanine or relaxing in the boat's salon.

Big Torch is protected by Caterpillar's Platinum Plus Extended Service Coverage (ESC), providing peace of mind against any cost arising from a defect in material or workmanship. Local Cat dealers can provide ESC quotes upon request to address any needs.

Ferguson was excited to equip the boat with the C32B engines to enhance its power and performance on the water. His positive experience with Caterpillar's support and dedication to ensuring his satisfaction with Cat engines, coupled with Elite Diesel's reliable responsiveness, gave him confidence in the selected engine model.

The repower was streamlined and straightforward. "We couldn't be happier with the C32B engines," Ferguson said. "They made a noticeable difference in Big Torch's performance — and in our enjoyment on the water."



## BIG TORCH TAKES FIRST PLACE FOR THE FIRST TIME

The crew noticed that Big Torch really came to life with the C32B engines and demonstrated marked improvement in performance. The boat was extremely nimble and exhibited zero hesitation. Big Torch's cruising speed increased by two knots and its top speed now reached 44.5 knots compared to its previous max of 41.5 knots. Notably, Big Torch was able to achieve these performance improvements without excessive engine load thanks to the impressive increase in torque and 100-horsepower boost.

With twin C32B engines under the hood, Big Torch took first place for the first time in the tuna division of a 2023 fishing tournament. The victory marked a satisfying moment for the entire Ferguson family.

"We're thrilled with the support we've received from Caterpillar and Elite Diesel," commented Ferguson. "Whether we're fishing or taking the boat to the Bahamas, the entire family has experienced the joy of these new engines."

