

The Omni Sonar Buyer's Guide

OMNICSH

Furuno CSH-10 and CSH-8L MK2: what they do, what they cost at published MSRP, what the install requires, and the questions to ask before you sign.

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What omni sonar actually is

A fish finder looks straight down. An omni sonar looks **all the way around the boat at once**: a ring of transducer elements paints a live 360-degree picture of the water column out to the horizon of the sound itself, so you see schools, bait and structure ahead of the boat, beside it and behind it, before you drive over them.

Against the alternatives

Technology	What it shows	The trade
Chirp fish finder	A detailed slice straight below the boat	You only learn about fish after they are under you
Searchlight sonar	One steerable beam, stepped around the circle	A full sweep takes half a minute; fast fish are gone
Omni sonar	The whole circle, refreshed every ping	Price and an 8-inch hull penetration

The speed difference is not subtle: a CSH-8L MK2 paints the full circle in 0.54 seconds at 400 m where a searchlight stepping 6 degrees needs about 32 seconds. That is why tournament boats treat omni as the difference between hunting and hoping.

> **The one-sentence buying truth:** you are not buying range on a brochure, you are buying the ability to find the school, read its edge and direction, and set the spread on it before another boat does.

CSH-10 vs CSH-8L MK2

	CSH-10 (2024)	CSH-8L MK2
Frequency	83.5 kHz, selectable 81.5 to 85.5	85 kHz
Range scales	50 to 2,000 m; rated detection to 900 m	50 to 1,600 m
Stabilization	Motion sensor standard; transmit and receive beams stabilized independently	MS100 motion sensor included in Furuno USA's package
Picture	32 colors, 1280×1024, two HDMI outputs	16 colors, 1024×768 RGB
Target tools	Target lock (fish and fixed modes), fish estimate mark with school size	Automatic target tracking
Hoist speed	7 s (400 mm) / 10 s (600 mm); 20 kn allowance	Slower raise/lower; 18 kn allowance
Integration	Native NavNet TZtouchXL page and chart overlay	Standalone display
Published system MSRP	$91,095 less hoist, shaft and cables	$79,075 less hoist and shaft

The honest summary: the CSH-8L MK2 remains a serious, proven tool, and the CSH-10 improves the three things captains actually complain about — long-range detection (Furuno credits the motion sensor with about 20% more), picture legibility, and integration with the helm.

Both share the same 8-inch hull tubes, which matters if you ever upgrade: a CSH-8L tank is most of a CSH-10 install.

What it costs, at published MSRP

Figures are Furuno USA's published MSRP, checked October 31, 2026. Installed price comes from a dealer quote: the yard time, tank fabrication and glasswork are the variables.

CSH-10

CSH-10 system (processor, control unit, transceiver, transducer, motion sensor, dome, flange, tank guide, oil)	**$91,095**
Hoist CSH-1040 / CSH-1041	$9,265
Retraction shaft 1.2 m / 2.5 m / 3.5 m	$1,970 / $3,735 / $4,750
Transceiver cable 10 / 20 / 30 / 50 m	$300 / $600 / $900 / $1,450
Hull tube, 190 mm ID (steel 1.0 m / FRP 1.0 m)	$1,767 / $2,653
Monitor MU152HD / MU192HD	$5,795 / $6,795

CSH-8L MK2

CSH-8L MK2 system (with MS100 motion sensor)	**$79,075**
Hoist	$5,175

> A dealer round table in InTheBite put typical *installed* omni projects at roughly $110,000 to $120,000 all-in. Use that as a sanity check on quotes, not as a price.

The install decides more than the brochure

Every omni retracts into a tank through an 8-inch hull tube (an 8.5-inch hole). The space you have decides the hoist travel, and the fairing work decides the performance.

The minimums

Travel	Tank goes	Min tank length	Min height above tank
400 mm	On the keel centerline	24 in	30 in
600 mm	Off-center, beside keel or shafts	32 in	36 in

- Leave extra clearance to reach the manual raising fitting — the day you need it, you really need it.
- Brace the tank to the hull; the fairing where the tube exits the hull strongly affects performance.
- Vent trapped air with a manual valve at the top of the tank, ended above the waterline.
- Boats capable of 25 knots or more want a fin ahead of the tank; small FRP hulls can take Furuno's optional fairing.
- Interface GPS speed and heading, then sea-trial the auto-retraction (about 12 knots is a common setting) and confirm the transducer points dead ahead.

Measure before anyone quotes you: the free fit checker at **omnicsh.com/hoist-fit** turns a tape measure into a 400-vs-600 answer in a minute.

Twelve questions to ask a dealer

1. **How many omni tanks has your yard built?** The tank and fairing are the install; the wiring is the easy part.
2. **400 or 600 mm on my boat, and why?** The answer should reference your keel, deadrise and machinery space, not a default.
3. **Where exactly does the tank go?** Ask to see it chalked on the hull.
4. **What does the fairing look like when you're done?** Ask for photos of their last three.
5. **Fin or no fin for my cruise speed?**
6. **How will you vent the tank?**
7. **What's included that Furuno's MSRP leaves out?** Hoist, shaft, cables, tube, monitor, haul-out, glass.
8. **Who does the sea trial, and what gets proven on it?** Auto-retraction, heading alignment, stabilization.
9. **What's the warranty on the install itself, separate from Furuno's on the hardware?**
10. **Who trains the crew, and for how long?** One dockside hour is not training.
11. **What does annual haul-out service cost?** Dome, zincs, shaft packing, tank interior.
12. **Can I talk to the last owner you installed for?**

> A good dealer answers all twelve without flinching. The quote form at **omnicsh.com/get-a-quote** reaches a licensed, insured, certified and Furuno-approved network with pre-negotiated volume rates, and we'll tell you plainly what the right answers look like for your hull.

How the best crews actually run it

From published interviews with tournament captains (InTheBite, February 2024, and Yachting):

- **It is not set-and-forget.** Gain and TX cycle get adjusted through the day as water and speed change (Capt. Ken Blackman).
- **One person watches the screen.** Looking away for three or four seconds can miss a target that only paints for a few pulses (Capt. Steve Lassley).
- **Tilt follows the sea state.** Running 10 to 12 degrees of tilt on a boat rolling 10 to 12 degrees fills the screen with wave clutter; a stabilized boat and as little tilt as possible is the calm-water marlin setting (Lassley, Capt. Rich Barrett).
- **Find the school, not the mark.** Read the school's boundary and direction, then set up ahead of it instead of chasing single echoes (Capt. Brandon Walton).
- **Search at 10 to 15 knots, fish at 2 to 8** with gear out (Matt Wood, Furuno).
- **If a mark disappears, circle.** Thermoclines bend the beam; approaching from a different direction often brings the school back.

The free lessons, the tilt trainer and the Echo ID game at **omnicsh.com/learn** teach exactly this, on real CSH-10 screen captures.

Next steps

- Sixty-second recommendation: **omnicsh.com/which-omni**
- Will it fit: **omnicsh.com/hoist-fit** · Price it part by part: **omnicsh.com/furuno-omni-sonar-price**
- Ask owners and installers: **omnicsh.com/forum** · Get a quote: **omnicsh.com/get-a-quote**

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