

# APPENDIX VI

## The Ships of the NOAA Fleet

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a science-based agency established in 1970 as part of the U.S. Department of Commerce. NOAA's mission is to describe and predict changes in the Earth's environment, and promote global environmental stewardship.

To carry out its mission, NOAA maintains a fleet of ships with various scientific capabilities from which to conduct research and data gathering relating to the oceans and atmosphere. Vessels range from small coastal craft used for research in estuaries and near-shore areas to deep water oceanographic ships able to provide scientists access to the waters of the world.

The NOAA fleet conducts many missions such as hydrographic surveys to support nautical charting requirements, oceanic and atmospheric research to determine both short and long-term global climatic changes, fisheries stock assessments, monitoring of coastal pollution trends, etc. These efforts directly support the work of every component of NOAA.

To accommodate NOAAs varied tasks and program missions, the vessels are equipped with specialized scientific laboratories, deck machinery, small boats and launches, sensors, computers for data collection and analysis, and electronic communications and navigation equipment. The vessels of the NOAA fleet are also flexible; highly specific equipment unique to the project at hand is often brought aboard by scientific parties.

The ships are staffed by civilian crews and officers of the NOAA Corps, one of the nation's seven uniformed services. All officers have degrees in science, engineering, or mathematics; many also possess advanced degrees, and maritime or other professional licenses. NOAA Corps officers and crews are well accustomed to successfully coping with the special problems and difficulties of conducting scientific research at sea, and have a proven record of safe and efficient operation of the fleet in all the world's oceans.

Providing NOAA with safe and reliable research platforms while operating in any ocean environment has been the task of the NOAA fleet and its NOAA Corps officers and crews ... a service to our nation that has been consistently and reliably met.

Additional information can be obtained from:  
Office of NOAA Corps Operations  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

This appendix contains four pages of information and pictures of the NOAA Fleet. [Page 1](#) contains DISCOVERER, MALCOLM BALDRIDGE, RAINIER and MILLER FREMAN. [Page 2](#) is of McARTHUR, WHITING, OREGON II, ALBATROSS IV, and TOWNSEND CROMWELL. The ships listed on [Page 3](#) are DAVID STARR JORDAN, DELAWARE II, CHAPMAN and FERREL. On [Page 4](#) are JOHN N. COBB, RUDE, KA'IMIMOANA, and RESEARCHER.

**DISCOVERER (R102)** is a 303-foot oceanographic research vessel whose home port is Seattle, Wash. The **DISCOVERER** normally operates in the Pacific Ocean but is capable of conducting oceanographic and atmospheric chemistry research even in the harsh environment of very high latitudes. The vessel can carry a party of 30 scientists for 35 continuous days at sea. **DISCOVERER** recently provided support for the Global Ocean Atmosphere Land System program which is designed to improve our understanding of the role of the tropical ocean in modifying the world's climate.



**MALCOLM BALDRIGE (R103)** is a 278-foot research vessel that conducts oceanographic research, primarily in physical and chemical oceanography, air-sea interaction, and marine geology. **MALCOLM BALDRIGE** can carry a scientific party of 28 for periods exceeding 30 days. The vessel typically operates in the Atlantic Ocean but is currently involved in a year-long around-the-world cruise. The **MALCOLM BALDRIGE**'s home port is Charleston, S.C.

**RAINIER (S221)** is a 231-foot vessel designed to conduct hydrographic surveys in support of the nation's nautical charting efforts. **RAINIER** operates primarily off the U.S. Pacific coast and in Alaskan waters. In addition to the ship itself, **RAINIER** can have as many as seven small craft collecting data at one time. **RAINIER** is equipped with Intermediate Depth Swath Survey system, Differential Global Positioning System, and towed side-scan sonars that are used to assist in surveying the ocean bottom. Its home port is Seattle, Wash.



**MILLER FREEMAN (R223)** is a 215-foot stern trawler with space for 13 scientists. The vessel has all the features of a modern research vessel with the added capability of a heavy-duty stern trawler. One unique feature is its retractable centerboard which extends beneath the ship and is below ship generated acoustic interference layers. Remote sensing and oceanographic devices have been placed on the centerboard and have markedly improved the ship's capabilities. **MILLER FREEMAN**'s home port is in Seattle, Wash.

**McARTHUR (S330)** is a 175-foot vessel that conducts oceanographic research, marine mammal population studies, and environmental assessments along the West Coast of the United States and throughout the southwestern Pacific Ocean. McARTHUR's home port is Seattle, Wash. It can carry a scientific party of 12 for up to 30 continuous days.



**WHITING (S329)** is a 163-foot hydrographic survey vessel. The WHITING carries two 28-foot Jensen survey launches and is equipped with the Intermediate Depth Swath Survey system and towed side-scan sonars. All are used to accomplish hydrographic surveys in support of the nation's nautical charting program. This vessel normally operates along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, and in the U.S. Caribbean territorial waters. The ship's home port is Norfolk, Va.

**OREGON II (R332)** is a 170-foot research vessel capable of carrying a scientific complement of 11 for periods of up to 30 days. The vessel conducts fishery and living marine resources research in support of the National Marine Fisheries Service's Mississippi laboratories. This vessel normally operates along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and in the Caribbean Sea. Its home port is Pascagoula, Miss.

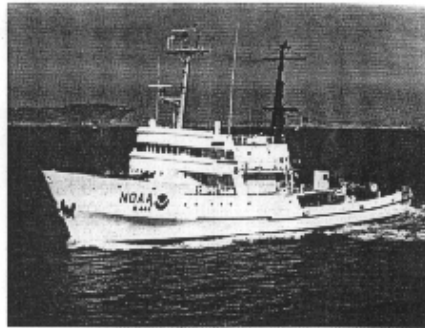


**ALBATROSS IV (R342)** is a 187-foot research vessel. The ALBATROSS IV can carry a scientific complement of 14 for periods of more than two weeks. The vessel conducts fishery and living marine resources research off the Northeast Atlantic Coast. The ALBATROSS IV's home port is Woods Hole, Mass.

**TOWNSEND CROMWELL (R443)** is a 163-foot research vessel that conducts fishery and living marine resource projects from its home port of Honolulu, Hawaii. The vessel can carry nine scientists for periods of up to 30 days. TOWNSEND CROMWELL has just completed a major overhaul that included the installation of a bowthruster for improved stationkeeping while conducting scientific operations. The vessel operates in areas from the Hawaiian Islands throughout the Central Pacific Ocean.



**DAVID STARR JORDAN (R444)** is a 171-foot research vessel that conducts fishery and living marine resource projects. The vessel operates off the Pacific coasts of the United States and Central and South America. The **DAVID STARR JORDAN** can accommodate 15 scientists for periods of up to 30 days at sea. The vessel's home port is San Diego, Calif.



**DELAWARE II (R445)** is a 155-foot research vessel. The **DELAWARE II** can carry up to 10 scientists for periods of up to 24 days. The vessel conducts fishery and living marine resources research and normally operates off the Northeast Atlantic coast. The **DELAWARE II** is currently undergoing repairs that will significantly upgrade the vessel's mission capability. The vessel's home port is Woods Hole, Mass.

**CHAPMAN (R446)** is a 127-foot research vessel. The **CHAPMAN** can accommodate six scientists and conducts fishery and living resources research along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and in the Caribbean Sea. The **CHAPMAN**'s home port is Pascagoula, Miss.



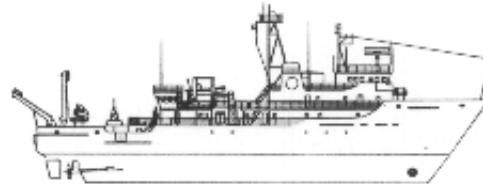
**FERREL (R492)** is a 133-foot coastal research vessel. The **FERREL** can accommodate seven scientists and conducts coastal and estuarine oceanographic surveys. This vessel normally operates along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Its home port is Charleston, S.C.

**JOHN N. COBB (R552)** is a 93-foot fisheries research vessel that conducts fishery, marine mammal, and marine resource population studies in southeast Alaska. The vessel has space for four to five scientists and is also used to transport supplies to remote scientific stations in southeast Alaska. Its home port is Seattle, Wash.



**RUDE (S590)** is a 90-foot survey vessel outfitted for hydrographic surveys. The vessel specializes in wreck and obstruction investigations in support of the nation's nautical charting program. The RUDE is outfitted with a shallow water multi-beam sonar system enabling it to survey large bottom areas in a single pass. This vessel normally operates along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Its home port is Norfolk, Va.

**KA'IMIMOANA** The KA'IMIMOANA was originally designed and built for the U.S. Navy but is now undergoing conversion in Bellingham, Wash. The vessel will carry a scientific party of ten and will directly support the Global Ocean Atmosphere Land System program which is an ongoing research effort designed to improve our understanding of the role of the tropical ocean in modifying the world's climate. KA'IMIMOANA's home port will be Honolulu, Hawaii.



**RESEARCHER** is the first new vessel constructed for NOAA since 1980. Beginning in early 1997, it will provide primary support to NOAA's programs that collect oceanographic and atmospheric data for scientists in their search to understand and predict global climate changes over time. The vessel will be 274 feet long, equipped with the latest oceanographic and scientific equipment and instruments, and able to accommodate 59 people aboard, including officers and crew. The RESEARCHER will provide nearly 4,000 square feet of laboratory space and have an endurance of over 11,000 nautical miles at 12 knots plus 30 days on station. Thus, the RESEARCHER has the speed, endurance, and seakeeping capabilities necessary to meet NOAA's worldwide research and data collection needs.