

NOAA Ship OREGON II



Built in 1967 for the Department of Interior, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, *Oregon II* is a versatile fisheries research vessel patterned after North Atlantic distant-water trawlers, designed for extended cruising range, versatility of operations, habitability, and seaworthiness. The ship was transferred to NOAA in 1970 and is home ported in Pascagoula, Mississippi, at the NMFS Mississippi Laboratories.

Oregon II is outfitted as a double-rigged shrimp trawler, longliner, gillnetter, fish trap hauler and dredger. Recently, the ship added new electronic fish detection equipment, environmental sensors, deck-handling and electronics equipment, and new main engines. The ship's laboratory and living spaces were refurbished, and a bow thruster was added to improve both station-keeping and ship-handling capability.



Various methods are used to collect fishery data

NOAA Ship *Oregon II* supports the programs of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southeast Fisheries Science Center. The ship conducts fisheries and living marine resource surveys primarily in the Gulf of Mexico, along the Southeast Atlantic Coast, and in the Caribbean Sea. Projects include fall and summer groundfish surveys, summer shark longline surveys, ichthyoplankton and mammal surveys, and reef fish surveys. *Oregon II* also provides annual support for the striped bass survey and tagging effort run by NMFS' Beaufort (North Carolina) Laboratory. Information from these cruises helped to document the dramatic recovery of the striped bass along the U.S. East Coast.

In August 1998, *Oregon II* was the first U.S. Government fisheries research vessel permitted to enter the port of Havana, Cuba, since the Castro regime came to power in the late 1950's. The ship was in Cuban waters to conduct a cooperative shark survey with NOAA's Cuban counterparts. This project followed closely on the heels of a similar highly successful shark survey in the coastal waters of Mexico. Sharks were tagged and released to help the biologists determine shark migrational patterns between U.S., Mexican, and Cuban waters. Fisheries managers in these three countries use the data to better manage this threatened species.



Fish caught during trawl operations are sorted, measured and recorded by NMFS scientists

Ship Specifications

Length : 170 ft.
Breadth: 34 ft.
Draft: 14 ft.
Displacement: 952 tons
Cruising Speed: 11 knots
Range: 7,800 nm
Endurance: 33 days
Hull Number: R 332
Call Letters: WTD0
Commissioned Officers: 3
Licensed Deck Officers: 1
Licensed Engineers: 3
Crew: 10
Scientists: 15 (Max)
Designer: Robert H. Macy
Builder: Ingalls Shipbuilding,
Pascagoula, MS
Launched: February 1967
Delivered: August 1967
Commissioned: March 12, 1975



Collecting oceanographic data



Deploying a camera

NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations

Since NOAA's beginning, NOAA ships and aircraft have played a critical role in the collection of its oceanographic, atmospheric, hydrographic, fisheries and coastal data. This fleet of platforms is managed and operated by NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations (NMAO), an office made up of civilians and officers of the NOAA Commissioned Corps, the Nation's seventh service. In addition to research and monitoring activities critical to NOAA's mission, NOAA ships and aircraft provide immediate response capabilities for unpredictable events. Most recently, NOAA aircraft provided support to the World Trade Center and Pentagon recovery and clean-up efforts by mapping the wreckage using remote-sensing technology. NOAA survey ships found the wreckage of EgyptAir Flight 990, TWA Flight 800 and John F. Kennedy Jr.'s aircraft. Our ships, aircraft and personnel have also conducted damage assessments after hurricanes and major oil spills such as the *Exxon Valdez*, Persian Gulf War and *New Carissa*.

NOAA's fleet of research and survey ships is the largest fleet of federal research ships in the Nation. The fleet ranges from large oceanographic research vessels capable of exploring the world's deepest ocean, to smaller ships responsible for charting the shallow bays and inlets of the United States. The fleet supports a wide range of marine activities, including fisheries research, nautical charting and mapping, and ocean and climate studies. Many of NOAA's research vessels are unique in their ability to conduct scientific research.

NOAA's fleet of fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters operate throughout the world, providing a wide range of capabilities, including hurricane prediction research, marine mammal and fisheries assessment, and coastal mapping. NOAA aircraft are modified to carry scientists and specialized instrument packages to conduct research for NOAA's missions.

NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps

The NOAA Corps is one of the seven uniformed services of the United States, composed of commissioned officers who provide NOAA with an important blend of operational, management, and technical skills that support the agency's science and surveying programs at sea, in the air, and ashore. NOAA Corps officers, in addition to managing and operating ships and aircraft, are also scientists and engineers. Corps officers serve in NOAA's research laboratories and program offices throughout the Nation and in remote locations around the world; for example, an officer serves as station chief at the South Pole, Antarctica.

About NOAA

NOAA conducts research and gathers data about the global oceans, atmosphere, space, and sun, and applies this knowledge to science and service that touch the lives of all Americans.

NOAA warns of dangerous weather, charts our seas and skies, guides our use and protection of ocean and coastal resources, and conducts research to improve our understanding and stewardship of the environment which sustains us all.

A Commerce Department agency, NOAA provides these services through five major divisions: the National Weather Service, the National Ocean Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service, and Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research; and numerous special program offices. More information about NOAA can be found at <http://www.noaa.gov>

Visit the ship's web site at www.moc.noaa.gov/ot/
For more information, contact NMAO at 301-713-1045
or visit our web site at www.nmao.noaa.gov

