



NOAA Ship HENRY B. BIGELOW



Recent Cruise Highlights

In addition to the ship's annual spring and fall bottom trawl surveys and other more routine missions in the northwest Atlantic Ocean, the *Henry B. Bigelow* has participated in cruises in more distant locations which utilize its ability to work in both shallow and deeper water depths.

2009: Mid-Atlantic Ridge Ecosystems Project (MAR-ECO)

A 16-nation effort, part of the census of Marine Life, to survey the Mid-Atlantic Ridge halfway between Iceland and the Azores to determine if the underwater mountain chain in the middle of the North Atlantic Ocean has its own distinct animal communities.



John Galbraith of the NOAA Fisheries lab in Woods Hole, MA, holds a very large deep-sea slickhead fish, tentatively identified as *Conocara salmoneum*. The fish was collected by the *Henry B. Bigelow*'s trawl nets during the 2009 Mid-Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem Project (MAR-ECO).

About the ship

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) ship *Henry B. Bigelow* is the second of four new fisheries survey ships to be built by NOAA, representing a significant achievement in NOAA's efforts to modernize its fleet of fisheries, oceanographic, and hydrographic survey ships.

The ship's name was chosen in a NOAA-sponsored naming contest won by a team from Winnacunnet High School in Hampton, N.H. Henry Bryant Bigelow (1879-1967) was a Harvard-educated zoologist whose work helped lay the scholarly foundation for oceanography as a scientific discipline.



Sorting the catch in the ship's fish processing lab.



NOAA Fisheries survey technician Jim Burkitt (top image) adjusts bottles used to capture subsurface water samples at different depths on a CTD (for Conductivity, Temperature, Depth) carousel aboard the *Henry B. Bigelow* near the coast of Louisiana in August, 2010. A larger view of the CTD being deployed is pictured below.

Ship Specifications

Design

- Builder: VT Halter Marine, Inc., Mississippi
- Launched: July 8, 2005
- Length (LOA): 63.8 m (209 ft)
- Breadth: 15.0 m (49.2 ft)
- Depth to Main Deck: 8.65 m (28.4 ft)
- Draft (Centerboard retracted): 6.0 m (19.4 ft) Full load
- Draft (Centerboard extended): 9.05 m (29.7 ft)
- Full Load Displacement: 2,479 metric tons

Berthing Capacity

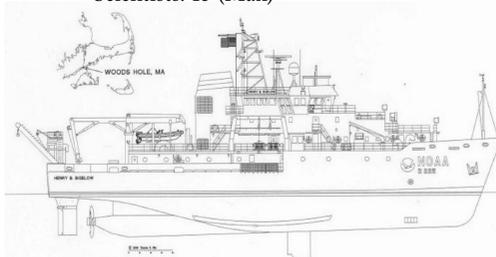
- Single Staterooms: 3
- Double Staterooms: 18
- Total Bunks: 39

Complement

- Commissioned Officers: 5
- Licensed Engineers: 4
- Crew: 15
- Scientists: 15 (Max)

Speed & Endurance

- Cruising Speed: 12 knots (14 knots max)
- Speed, Hydroacoustic Survey: 0 to 11 knots
- Range: 12,000 nmi
- Endurance: 40 days



2010: Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Response

The NOAA Ship *Henry B. Bigelow* monitored the subsurface oil from the Deepwater Horizon MC252 oil spill site using its acoustic and oceanographic sampling capabilities to help determine the subsurface oil's present location and composition.



Labelling bottles of water samples collected at different depths during the oil spill response cruise.

Science Mission

Henry B. Bigelow is designed for a wide range of fisheries research, with capabilities for midwater and bottom trawling (in water depths up to 1,000 fathoms, or 6,000 feet), hydroacoustic surveys, and oceanographic and hydrographic operations. Capabilities are included for handling specialized gear such as MOCNESS frames, floating and moored buoys, towed vehicles, dredges and bottom corers. Marine mammal and bird observation stations are used to track and identify protected species such as North Atlantic right whales, humpback whales and harbor porpoises. As a complete survey platform, *Henry B. Bigelow* carries equipment and systems to conduct fisheries, oceanographic and hydrographic research in most areas of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).