

NOAA SHIP *ALBATROSS II*

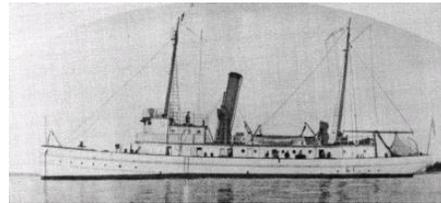


NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

Albatross II: In Service 1926-1932

- Length 150 feet
- Beam 29 feet 6 inches
- Draft 12 feet 3 inches
- Displacement 521 tons

Pioneering plankton research by biologists Henry Bigelow of Harvard University and Mary Sears of Radcliffe College were based, in part, on collections made by the *Albatross II*.



Albatross II

Built in 1909 as a two-masted steamer, the 150-foot sea tug and former World War I minesweeper *Patuxent* was acquired in 1926 from the US Navy and converted to a fishery research vessel. The ship was renamed *Albatross II* and used for six years before repair and operational costs required the vessel be taken out of service in 1932 and returned to the Navy in 1934.

During its six years of service to marine research, *Albatross II* surveyed the New England fishing grounds and conducted pioneering studies of haddock, mackerel, and plankton. Experiments in the size of nets and “savings gear” to allow undersized fish to escape the trawls conducted by the ship laid the foundation for further work which led to the mesh regulations now in place in the Northwest Atlantic fishing grounds.

<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/history/ships/albatross3/albatross3.html>