

NOAA SHIP *ALBATROSS III*



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

Albatross III: In Service 1949-1959

- Length 179 feet
- Beam 24 feet
- Draft 12 feet
- Displacement 525 tons
- Cruising Range 4500 miles
- Cruising Speed 11 knots

Rachel Carson and her literary agent were the first women ever to sail on the *Albatross III* research vessel. Carson wanted to experience the ocean in a different way than she could walking along the shore.



Albatross III

The third ship to bear the name *Albatross* was another conversion, or rather a double conversion, before it became a fisheries research vessel. Originally named the *Harvard* and built in 1926 as a steam trawler, the vessel fished New England waters until 1939, when it was sold by the General Seafoods Corporation to the U.S. Government for \$1.00 to be converted into a fisheries research vessel.

However, World War II erupted and although the conversion for marine research was already underway, the Coast Guard took over the vessel in 1942 for use as a patrol boat. The ship was lengthened from 140 to 179 feet, equipped for military use, and renamed the *Bellefonte*. In 1944 it was returned to civilian use and scheduled for a second conversion to a research vessel, which was completed in 1948 with commissioning at the Boston Fish Pier under the name *Albatross III*.

Albatross III made 128 cruises during its research career and contributed significantly to knowledge of the fisheries and oceanography of the Northwest Atlantic. A chronic shortage of operational funds and increasing maintenance costs for the aging vessel forced the sale of the ship in late 1959 to the Island Steamship Line of Hyannis, Massachusetts.

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