

The diversity of the *Delaware II*'s missions through the years has been one of the ship's great strengths. A sample of some of those cruises:

Acoustics surveys
Benthic habitat sampling
Bottom and midwater gear trials for pollock
Bottom pollock surveys
Ecosystems Monitoring surveys
Groundfish survey vessel calibration
Groundfish bottom trawl sampling
Herring explorations
Hydroacoustic Atlantic Herring Survey
Industrial fish alternative resources survey
Industrial fish gear trials and exploratory fishing
Industrial fish surveys
Lobster exploration
Midwater explorations
North Atlantic Right Whale and other marine mammal surveys
Oceanographic and meteorological buoy maintenance
Ocean quahog and surfclam surveys
Shark, pelagic long line surveys
Satellite validation and calibration
Shellfish resource assessment
Shrimp explorations
Testing fish handling systems

Special Thanks

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Apryl Corey	Lauri Kinney	Joan Palmer
Shelley Dawicki	Joseph Mello	Sarah Pike
Linda Despres		Malcolm Silverman

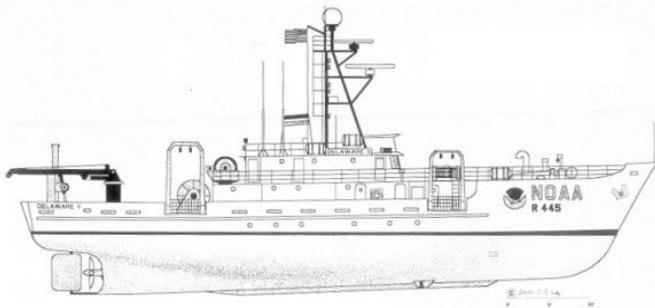
To all those who offered images and video, shared stories and information, and contributed in countless ways

A special thank you to the many officers and crew, fishermen, scientists, students and teachers, and volunteers who sailed aboard the *Delaware II* these past four decades. Your contributions and personal sacrifices have increased understanding of North Atlantic living marine resources for the long-term benefit of the nation and the coastal communities that depend on them.



*44 Years of Service
Celebration*

NOAA Ship *Delaware II* R-445



**June 15, 2012
Woods Hole, MA**

NOAA Ship *Delaware II*

NOAA Ship *Delaware II* is a multidisciplinary platform that conducted living marine resource and oceanographic research in support of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) and the NOAA mission. Her first home port was in Gloucester, MA in 1968 under Master William Murphy (former captain of *M/V Delaware*). In 1971, the ship was transferred to Sandy Hook, N.J (her second home port) before being homed in Woods Hole, MA in 1980. The ship normally operated along the continental shelf and slope waters from Nova Scotia, Canada to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. The vessel also sailed the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. The ship's work supported NEFSC input to the New England and Mid-Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Councils and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which use the information to determine sustainable yield levels for commercial fish stocks and to manage protected species.

- Builder: South Portland Engineering Co., Portland, ME
- Designer: George C. Sharp, Inc., New York
- Launched: 1968
- Hull Number: R 445
- Call Sign: KNBD
- Length (LOA): 155 ft
- Breadth: 30 ft
- Draft (Maximum): 16 ft
- Cruising Speed: 10 knots
- Range: 5,318 nautical miles
- Scientific Laboratory Facilities – wet lab, dry lab, protected work space, scientific freezer
- Complement: Licensed Master/Commanding Officer, Mates/Commissioned Officers (4), Licensed Engineers (3), Crew (10, including Electronics Technician), Scientists (14)



Masters and Commanding Officers

William Murphy 1968-1970
Walter Beatteay 1970-1974
Robert Landsvik, Sr. 1974-1980
Richard Adams 1981-1984
Joseph Miller, Jr. 1984-1987
Gunnar Gudmundsson 1989-1996
Jack McAdams 1996-2004
CDR Stephen Beckwith 2004
CDR Philip Gruccio 2004- 2005
CAPT Richard Wingrove 2005-2008
Stephen Wagner 2008-2011
LCDR Richard Hester, Jr. 2011-2012

Chief Marine Engineers:

Lou Knickel, Steve Leeds, and Brian Murphy

NOAA Ship *Delaware II* Crew June 15, 2011-June 15, 2012

Command

Master, Stephen Wagner
Commanding Officer, LCDR Richard Hester, Jr.
Executive Officer, LCDR Sean Cimilluca
Operations Officer, LT Fionna Matheson
Junior Officer, ENS Shannon Hefferan
Junior Officer, ENS Carl Noblitt
Junior Officer, ENS Junie Cassone

Engineering

Chief Engineer, Brian E. Murphy
First Assistant Engineer, Chris L O'Keefe
Second Assistant Engineer, Grady M. Abney
Wiper, Erin Earley
Electronics Technician, Edward Morse

Deck

Chief Boatswain, Adrian Martyn-Fisher
Lead Fisherman, Todd E. Wilson
Skilled Fisherman, Richard J. Rozen
Skilled Fisherman, Stephen Flavin
Fisherman, James J. Pontz
Fisherman, Richard V. Logan
General Vessel Assistant, Christopher S. Taylor

Steward

Chief Steward, Jonathan W. Rockwell
Second Cook, James White

THE CELEBRATION

SOCIAL

commencing at 1330

REMARKS

commencing at 1400

RDML Michael S. Devany, NOAA
Director, Marine and Aviation Operations Centers

REMARKS

Dr. Russell W. Brown
Deputy Director, Northeast Fisheries Science Center

REMARKS

LCDR Richard E. Hester, Jr., NOAA
Commanding Officer, NOAA Ship *Delaware II*

PRESENTATIONS TO SHIPS COMPLIMENT

LCDR Richard E. Hester, Jr., NOAA

REMARKS and MEDIA PRESENTATION

Mr. Jerome Prezioso
Long-serving Chief Scientist, NOAA Ship *Delaware II*

SHIP TOURS

Available from 1600-1700

Brief History of *Delaware II*



The 155-foot *Delaware II* is named for its predecessor, the *M/V Delaware*, a traditional side-rigged North Atlantic otter or “beam trawler.” The first *Delaware* was built in 1937 for Booth Fisheries Co. of Boston at Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine, for commercial fishing in the North Atlantic. The vessel was drafted into government service under the name USS *Flicker*, the first time for minesweeping and the second for post war international development, or what is now called fisheries management capacity building. The federal fisheries service acquired the vessel in 1950, returned its name to the original *Delaware* and operated the vessel for fishing and research operations in the Northwest Atlantic until 1968, when it was replaced by the new *Delaware II* and sold.

Delaware II was designed and built as a stern ramp trawler for exploratory fishing and gear research, a versatile platform capable of performing a wide variety of fishing and research tasks. Considered a new concept in stern trawling, the ship was equipped with a mechanized trawl handling system. It had a full-length trawl net ramp that enabled the gear to be hauled far forward, almost to the bow, through a tunnel in the main deckhouse, permitting the crew and scientists to inspect the entire haul and net at once. The ship’s design also provided for side trawling, clam and scallop dredging, long-lining, gill netting and purse seining, along with handling experimental fishing gear and systems.

The initial contract was awarded in May 1964 and delivery of the completed vessel was expected in January 1, 1966, but a May 1965 shipyard fire destroyed much of the construction to that date, delaying the final delivery of the completed vessel until October 1968. John

Sibunka, then a college student in Portland who later became a long-serving NOAA scientist, witnessed the shipyard fire and called in the fire alarm. When finally completed, the new vessel replaced the 147-foot *Delaware* at the fisheries service's Exploratory Fishing and Gear Research Base in Gloucester, Mass. A new era had begun.

Delaware II departed in January 1969 on its first research cruise, for northern shrimp exploration, in the Gulf of Maine. Exploratory fishing, gear research, demonstrations of methods and gear, and collecting various oceanographic data relevant to fisheries occupied much of *Delaware II's* early career from its first home port at Gloucester. In October 1971 the ship moved to the NEFSC's Sandy Hook, N.J. laboratory, and when the inshore and offshore ecosystem survey groups were merged in the 1970s, the vessel moved to the Woods Hole Laboratory, where it has been home ported since 1980.

Among the more unique missions the *Delaware II* has undertaken during its career was responding to the impact of the December 1976 *Argo Merchant* oil spill off the coast of Nantucket. Nearly thirty five years later, in 2010, the *Delaware II* responded to another oil spill, the Deepwater Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico.

In more recent years the *Delaware II* has conducted a variety of research cruises, from marine mammal surveys and studies of plankton and larval fish abundance for the long-term Ecosystems Monitoring program, to recovering, redeploying and servicing ocean data buoys in the Gulf of Maine and off the Northeast coast which collect ocean and weather data relied on by mariners and many others.

Delaware II has contributed significantly to knowledge in many areas of living marine resources, fisheries science and oceanographic research, and to the NEFSC's unique data library.

