Advancing NWFSC's Research at Sea

Aboard the West Coast's *FSV Bell M. Shimada*

Vessel Specifications

Length: 208.6 feet
Breadth: 49.2 feet
Draft: Centerboard Retracted: 20 feet
Centerboard Extended: 30.3 feet
Full load displacement: 2479 mt
Lightship displacement: 1840 mt
Speed, Sustained: 14 knots
Speed, Hydro-acoustic survey: 0-11 knots
Endurance: 40 days
Range: 12,000 nm at 12 knots
Builder: VT Halter Marine, Inc.

The *FSV Bell M. Shimada*, the fourth of a series of NOAA's new fisheries survey ships, is ideally designed to conduct both fisheries and oceanographic research and is one of the most technologically-advanced survey vessels in the world.

Shared by the Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers, *FSV Bell M. Shimada* will service the West Coast.

Supports NOAA's Mission to Manage Nation's Fisheries

The *FSV Bell M. Shimada* and its sister ships support NOAA's vital mission to protect, restore, and manage the use of living marine, coastal, and ocean resources through ecosystem-based management.

This newest vessel will give NOAA Fisheries' Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) scientists access to advanced technologies to better understand the state of valuable fisheries along the West Coast, including salmon, groundfish, sardine, and other coastal pelagic fish populations.

Ultimately, an increased awareness of West Coast fisheries can help enhance sustainable use of marine resources by providing jobs to support the local economy, safe seafood for consumers, and high quality recreational opportunities for the public.

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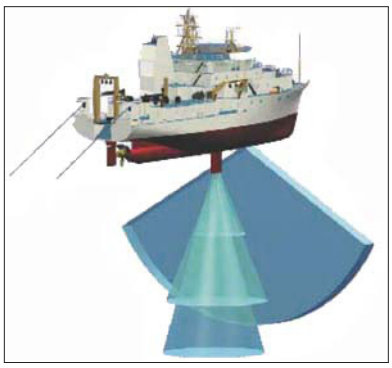
Highly Specialized Features Optimize Fisheries Research

The *FSV Bell M. Shimada* is equipped with a full suite of modern instrumentation systems for advanced navigation and scientific research, and will be custom-designed to meet the NWFSC and SWFSC's specific data collection requirements. The vessel's unique attributes also help provide more efficient and cost-effective data collection.



The vessel's hydroacoustic and trawling capabilities capabilities help scientists conduct fisheries research

Features include:

- **Low acoustic sound signature** enables scientists to monitor fish populations without altering their behavior.
- **Scientific sonar system** provides ability to conduct hydro-acoustic fish surveys that accurately measure fish biomass.
- **Dynamic positioning system** to help ship hover at fixed point in ocean and monitor undersea activity.
- Ability to conduct **trawling operations** to depths of 1,800 meters while simultaneously running physical and biological oceanographic sampling—a combined capability unavailable in private sector.
- **Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler** to measure surface currents.
- **Multi-beam sonar system** provides information on water column and seafloor typography.

Schedule

Construction of *FSV Bell M. Shimada* began with the steel-cutting ceremony in June 2006 and was followed by a keel-laying ceremony in June 2007. The vessel is anticipated to commence operations in 2009.

For More Information

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