



The R/V Musky II – Lake Erie

The USGS Great Lakes Science Center is dedicated to providing scientific information for restoring, enhancing managing and protecting living resources and their habitats in the Great Lakes region.

The Center is headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and has biological stations and research vessels located throughout the Great Lakes Basin.



The R/V Musky II

Based in Sandusky, Ohio, the R/V *Musky II* is used primarily in Lake Erie to assess annual recruitment of major prey and predator fish in western Lake Erie as well as lake trout restoration research in the eastern basin. In addition, the *Musky II* has participated in studies designed to determine the impacts of environment changes and invasive species on the Lake Erie ecosystem. Studies include documenting changes in the food web and fish distribution associated with environmental changes. Investigations conducted aboard the *Musky II* documented the first Great Lakes record of the exotic zooplankter *Bythotrephes longimanus* (spiny water flea), first documentation of round gobies in western Lake Erie, and the invasive spread of zebra and quagga mussels. The *Musky II* is also used to collect fish and environmental samples for a wide spectrum of studies, in cooperation with

state, federal and Canadian fishery and environmental agencies, and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Specifications

Built in 1960 at Toledo, Ohio, the *Musky II* can be at sea for seven days while sleeping four: two crewmembers and two scientific personnel. It has a fully equipped galley and one head.

Length: 45 feet

Draft: 5 feet

Displacement: 24 gross tons



A plankton net tow.

Propulsion: Single Diesel engine, 250 H.P.

Cruising Speed: 11 mph

Range: 600 miles

On-board Equipment

The *Musky II* is fully equipped for fish sampling with bottom and mid-water trawls, including a Kem trawl net reel, gillnets, a 20- inch Crossley gillnet lifter and hydroacoustics gear. It is also well equipped for limnological sampling with a Ponar bottom sediment sampler, bathythermograph, plankton nets, dissolved oxygen and pH meters, and secchi disks. The vessel has a wet laboratory with hot and cold running water, limited counter space, electrical outlets, freezer and refrigerator.

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