



**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE
Southwest
Fisheries
Science Center**

Advancing NOAA's Research at Sea Aboard the New West Coast Fishery Survey Vessel *Bell M. Shimada*

The NOAA Ship *Bell M. Shimada*, the fourth in a series of NOAA's new fisheries survey vessels, is one of the most technologically-advanced fisheries vessels in the world. Shared by the Southwest (SWFSC) and Northwest Fisheries Science Centers (NWFSC), the *Shimada* will serve the U.S. West Coast and adjacent international waters of the eastern Pacific Ocean. Delivery is expected in 2010.

Supports NOAA's Mission to Manage the Nation's Fisheries and to Conserve Protected Species

The *Shimada* and her sister ships support NOAA's mission to protect, restore and manage living marine resources through ecosystem-based management in a changing climate. The *Shimada* is equipped with a full suite of modern instrumentation for fisheries and oceanographic research, advanced navigation systems, and acoustic and sonar technologies. These technologies will significantly improve NOAA's ability to monitor the region's valuable fisheries and protected species, including albacore, sharks, salmon, groundfish, sardine and other coastal pelagic species, marine mammals and marine turtles.

Vessel Specifications

- **Stealth operations** - extremely low sound signature reduces reactions of fish to the presence of the ship and enhances signal-to-noise ratio of acoustic sensors.
- **Multi-frequency scientific sounder** - provides ability to conduct acoustic surveys that can distinguish fish types and estimate their biomass.
- **Multi-beam sonar** - provides information on the shape of fish school, school biomass and sea floor topography.
- **Direct sampling capabilities** - using trawls, longlines, and plankton nets.
- **Dynamic positioning system** - to accurately hold the vessel in a fixed position.
- **Extensive wet and dry labs** - to provide maximum utilization of every hour at sea.



NOAA Ship *Bell M. Shimada*

Length: 208.6 feet
Breadth: 49.2 feet
Draft: Centerboard Retracted: 20 feet
Centerboard Extended: 30.3 feet
Full load displacement: 2,479 mt
Lightship displacement: 1,840 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.

<http://swfsc.noaa.gov>

