



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Fisheries Science Center

Advancing SWFSC's Research at Sea Aboard NOAA Ship *Reuben Lasker*

NOAA Ship *Reuben Lasker* is the fifth in a series of the most technologically advanced fisheries vessels in the world. The *Lasker* will primarily support fish, marine mammals and turtle surveys off the U.S. west coast and in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. Delivery of the *Lasker* to the west coast is expected in 2013. Funding is provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The new vessel is named after the late Dr. Reuben Lasker, who served as the Director of SWFSC's Coastal Fisheries Division and as adjunct professor at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, U.C. San Diego. Dr. Lasker built a renown research group that focused on the recruitment of young fish to the adult population - a topic with implications for fisheries management throughout the world.

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

NOAA Ship *Reuben Lasker* and her sister ships collect the data required for science-based conservation and management of living marine resources. The new *Lasker* will be equipped with a full suite of modern instrumentation for fisheries and oceanographic research, including advanced navigation systems, multi-frequency acoustic sensors, direct sampling gear and extensive laboratories. These technologies will dramatically improve the NMSF's ability to conduct surveys for fish, marine mammals and turtles off the west coast of North America and in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. The ship's capabilities will also allow simultaneous collection of data on ecological factors affecting the status of fish and protected species and provide a context for predicting the likely effects of climate change on living marine resources.

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 schools, school biomass and sea floor topography.
- **Direct sampling capabilities** - using instrumented 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 *Reuben Lasker*

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

<http://swfsc.noaa.gov>

