

The NOAA Ship *David Starr Jordan* was built in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin in 1964 and commissioned in San Diego, CA, in 1966. The ship was designed and built for the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, which later became part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, for the purpose of fisheries research in the tropical Pacific. Since commissioning, the *David Starr Jordan* has logged over a million miles while studying the biological and physical oceanography of the southwestern U.S. coast and the eastern tropical Pacific.



The ship is named after Dr. David Starr Jordan (1851-1931). Dr. Jordan was one of the best known naturalists and educators of his time. He wrote more than 50 books and published over 600 scientific papers on topics ranging from ichthyology (the branch of zoology dealing with fish) to advancing world peace. In 1891, he was selected as the first president of Stanford University, a post he held for 25 years. Dr. Jordan was a member of the California State Fish Commission, and his investigations of the exploitation of the salmon and fur seal populations helped save these species.

NOAA Fisheries' ship-based research in California has a long, important and collaborative history. Since the early 1900s, NOAA Fisheries' and its predecessors have actively monitored the sardines and the sardine fishery of the California Current. This is an infamous story; the fishery has rebounded from a state of overfishing and decline following WWII to a commercially viable fishery today. The sardine legacy highlights how the combination of cutting-edge ocean observation, at-sea research and informed fisheries management can reverse a biological, social and economic catastrophe.

Today the *David Starr Jordan* conducts surveys of the California Current for sardine and many other species of fish under the auspices of the CalCOFI program, a partnership with NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC), Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the California Department of Fish and Game. For the SWFSC, the *David Starr Jordan* conducts surveys of the coastal nursery grounds of pelagic sharks, multi-frequency and multi-beam acoustic surveys for benthic and pelagic species, midwater-trawl surveys for juvenile rockfish, acoustic-Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) surveys for adult rockfish in the Southern California Bight, and deploys autonomous sensor packages (ROVs and AUVs). The *David Starr Jordan* also conducts ecosystem-based surveys of over 70 stocks of marine mammals, their prey, and their essential habitats in the California Current and the eastern tropical Pacific. Data from all of these surveys are used in support of U.S. stock assessments under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act (MSFMCA), Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA).