

Albatross IV carries on the traditional name of major fishery research vessels of the United States. Albatross I was a 234-foot, twin-screw iron steamer, commissioned in 1882, which visited both coasts of the United States, Alaska, South and Central America, the Galapagos Islands, the Hawaiian Islands, Japan, the tropical Pacific Islands, and the Philippine Islands during her 39 years of service that ended in 1921. Her successor, Albatross II, was a 148-foot, former Navy tug that operated from 1926 to 1932, engaging in research and explorations on mackerel and haddock fisheries and preliminary experiments with "savings" gear.

Albatross III was acquired from the General Seafoods Corporation in 1939 for \$1. She was originally the Harvard, a steam-driven trawler built in 1926. While awaiting reconversion to a research vessel, World War II started and she was drafted by the Navy, transferred to the Coast Guard, renamed the C.G.C. Bellefonte, and was rebuilt as an Atlantic patrol vessel. She was returned to the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1944, was reconverted in 1947 to a research vessel along the lines of the Boston otter trawlers, and was commissioned March 19, 1948.

Albatross III represented the first blending of efficient fish and scientific skills, and her career included such accomplishments as an overall census of commercial fishes on the New England banks, experiments on refrigeration of fish at sea, development of "savings" gear, effects of waste-acid disposal off New York, and the location and charting of wrecks and other obstacles destructive to the nets and gear of New England commercial fishermen. She was deactivated in 1959 due to age and high cost of maintenance.

Albatross IV will be carrying on the fishery and oceanographic research vital to the Nation's commercial fisheries and oceanographic programs--to help the domestic fishing industry in the quest for the three billion additional pounds of fish the Nation will be consuming annually 20 years hence; and to conduct various phases of oceanographic research, such as the Bureau's Tropical Atlantic Fishery Investigations program beginning in January 1963. This program has just been adopted as an international program by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO in Paris, France.

New dock facilities at the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Woods Hole, Mass., Biological Research Laboratory will be the home port of Albatross IV.

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