

Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries

Research Vessel *Fulmar*



Paul Chetirkin/MBNMS

Marine Grade Aluminum

LOA 67'; Beam 24'; Draft 7'

2-3 Crew; 10 berths; 27 passengers

Delivered in August 2006

Twin MTU 740HP diesel engines

Cruise Speed 22 kts

Top Speed 27 kts

Range 400+ nm at cruise

Nitrox dive air system

The *R/V Fulmar* is the new sister ship to the highly successful *R/V Shearwater* working at the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary in Southern California. Built by All American Marine of Bellingham, Wash., the 67-foot *R/V Fulmar* is a Teknicraft hydrofoil-assisted, aluminum-hulled catamaran. The vessel will be homeported at the Monterey Harbor in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, but will also serve the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries. The vessel will strengthen, streamline and connect efforts along the almost 400 miles of central California coastline protected by these National Marine Sanctuaries. The resulting on-water capabilities will allow the three sanctuaries to greatly expand and enhance research, education and emergency response programs on a regional level.

The *R/V Fulmar*'s primary function is research and monitoring and she is expected to be heavily utilized for up to 180 key missions including benthic monitoring along the remote Big Sur coastline, marine mammal and sea bird observations, tagging organisms, oceanographic monitoring, archeological/cultural research (primarily shipwrecks) and collecting baseline data for emerging management issues such as invasive species and marine reserves. The data collected during these cruises will help inform management decisions at all three sites and with state and federal partners. The *R/V Fulmar* will also serve as a platform for teacher workshops and other education and outreach initiatives.

The *R/V Fulmar* will be managed and maintained under NOAA's new vessel management data base program for small boats and is designed to enhance the overall safety of vessel operations and effectively manage NOAA's assets. The data base will include state-of-the-art management and scheduling software to track inspections, preventative maintenance, training and operational budgets in a central location.



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