

OCEAN SURVEY VESSEL **BOLD**

As part of the U.S. government's Ocean Action Plan released in 2004, EPA's new Ocean Survey Vessel supports the Federal government by assessing and monitoring the health of our oceans and coastal waters.



WHAT IS THE OSV *BOLD*?

- The OSV *Bold* is EPA's only ocean and coastal monitoring vessel.
- The vessel is a converted U.S. Navy T-AGOS class vessel and is 224 feet long and 43 feet wide.
- The OSV *Bold's* cruising speed is 11 knots and its range is 3000 nm. It displaces 2300 tons and has a maximum draft of 15 feet.

EPA's OSV *Bold*:

Supports surveys assessing the health of our marine resources.

Allows scientists to monitor and assess the effects of human activities.

Collects oceanographic data on oceans and coastal areas in waters of the Atlantic, Pacific, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico.

Provides educational opportunities for the public on ocean and coastal pollution issues and on state-of-the-art oceanographic monitoring techniques.

WHY IS OCEAN AND COASTAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT IMPORTANT?

- Pollution from land- and water-based activities adversely affects marine resources. It can cause outbreaks of harmful algal blooms, hypoxia, beach and shellfish bed closures, and seafood advisories due to toxic chemicals.
- Ocean and coastal monitoring allows scientists to assess physical, chemical and/or biological effects from human activities.
- Policymakers use information gained from ocean and coastal surveys to implement programs to protect our ocean and coastal environments.

WHAT TYPES OF OCEAN AND COASTAL MONITORING DOES THE OSV *BOLD* SUPPORT?

- Projects include monitoring the impacts of regulated disposal such as dredged materials and wastewater discharges.
- Projects also include monitoring the health of coral reefs and the impacts of ecological disturbances such as harmful algal blooms and hypoxia.

HOW DOES THE OSV *BOLD* SUPPORT OCEAN AND COASTAL MONITORING?

- The OSV *Bold* is equipped with state-of-the-art sampling, mapping, and analysis equipment including sidescan sonar, underwater video, water sampling instruments, and sediment sampling devices, which scientists can use in various monitoring activities.
- The OSV *Bold* also has small boats and equipment to support SCUBA diver operations for monitoring surveys.

WHAT OTHER ACTIVITIES DOES THE OSV *BOLD* SUPPORT?

- EPA trains SCUBA divers aboard the OSV *Bold* as part of its Dive Program.
- The OSV *Bold* also serves as a classroom, holding tours and demonstration surveys to educate the public on ocean and coastal pollution issues.

HOW CAN I OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION?

- Visit our website at www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/, or
- contact us at 202-566-1200.



Certified Chief Scientists from EPA regions, program offices, and headquarters, design and conduct monitoring surveys aboard the OSV *Bold*.



Surveys conducted aboard the OSV *Bold* include assessing air deposition, red tides, harmful algal blooms, waste disposal, ocean wastewater outfalls, marine debris, and hazardous material spills to determine potential impacts and appropriate control strategies.

OSV *Bold's* Mission

The OSV *Bold* supports EPA's efforts to monitor and assess impacts on ocean and coastal waters from land- and ocean-based human activities and naturally occurring ecological disturbances.



Under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, EPA is responsible for designating and monitoring sites for dredged material disposal. Scientists aboard the OSV *Bold* collect and analyze organisms and sediment for population diversity and pollutant concentrations at dredged material ocean disposal sites along our nation's coasts.

Working from the OSV *Bold*, the EPA Dive Team monitors impacts to coral reef health.

