



# COASTAL NEWS

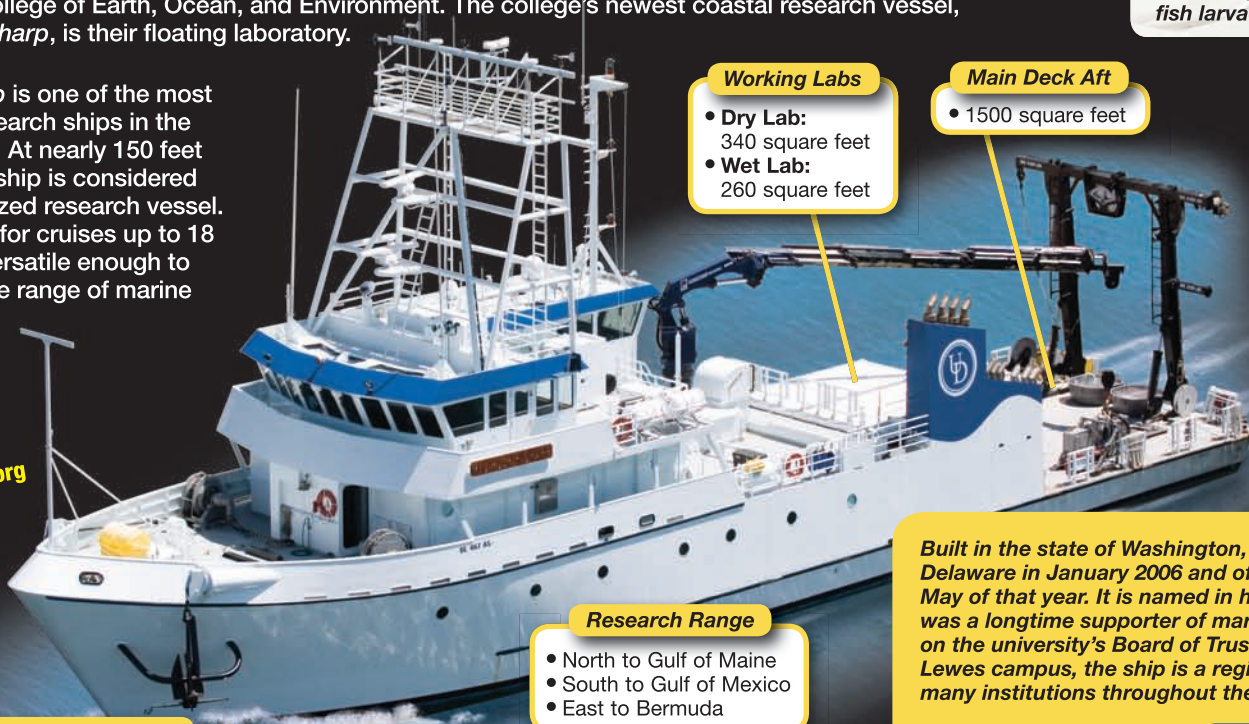
This information is provided by Delaware Sea Grant in cooperation with the *Cape Gazette*.

## Cruising in the Name of Research

Taking to the water is a necessary part of the job for many researchers at the University of Delaware's College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment. The college's newest coastal research vessel, the *Hugh R. Sharp*, is their floating laboratory.

The *R/V Sharp* is one of the most advanced research ships in the United States. At nearly 150 feet in length, the ship is considered to be a mid-sized research vessel. It is designed for cruises up to 18 days and is versatile enough to support a wide range of marine disciplines.

Tour the *R/V Sharp* at Coast Day, October, 4. Visit [www.decoastday.org](http://www.decoastday.org) for information.



### Working Labs

- **Dry Lab:** 340 square feet
- **Wet Lab:** 260 square feet

### Main Deck Aft

- 1500 square feet

### Research Range

- North to Gulf of Maine
- South to Gulf of Mexico
- East to Bermuda

### Facts and Figures

- Overall length: 146 feet
- Beam (width): 32 feet
- Draft: 9.5 feet
- Max. antenna height: 75 feet
- Cruising speed: 10-11 knots
- Science payload: 45 tons

- Number of crew: 6-8
- Number of researchers: 14-16



Delaware Sea Grant researchers ready a net on the deck of the *R/V Sharp* as part of a study on fish larvae in Delaware Bay.

The ship is outfitted with a full range of oceanographic equipment and instrumentation, and includes many state-of-the-art features. It is also notable for its acoustically quiet design. A quiet ship doesn't scare off fish and other underwater wildlife that scientists wish to study. In addition, it enables researchers to study sound occurring naturally in the ocean. This has several benefits, including improved understanding of how animals communicate in the ocean.

Built in the state of Washington, the *R/V Sharp* was delivered to Delaware in January 2006 and officially commissioned into service in May of that year. It is named in honor of the late Hugh R. Sharp Jr., who was a longtime supporter of marine research and served for many years on the university's Board of Trustees. Although docked at the college's Lewes campus, the ship is a regional asset and serves scientists from many institutions throughout the mid-Atlantic seaboard.

For more information, visit: [www.ceoe.udel.edu/marine](http://www.ceoe.udel.edu/marine)

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Sea Grant Delaware

[www.deseagrant.org](http://www.deseagrant.org)