

AGGIE HOTLINE - MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2005  
R/V Gyre Scheduled For Decommission

The Research Vessel Gyre (R/V GYRE), a 182-foot research ship that began operations for the Department of Oceanography at Texas A&M in January of 1974, will be decommissioned in August of 2005. After 32 years of service the research vessel, which has sailed the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, will be withdrawn from active service. "The R/V Gyre has played a vital role in oceanographic research at Texas A&M and has provided our oceanography students with invaluable learning opportunities," says Björn Kjerfve, dean of the College of Geosciences. From its home port in Galveston, the R/V Gyre has supported scientists whose research has ranged from climate and sea level change to the biology and chemistry around deep-sea seeps to ocean currents and circulation to underwater slumps and deep-sea storms that have caused massive erosion of the seafloor. "The research projects conducted aboard the R/V Gyre have had a significant impact on our understanding of processes in the ocean and ways we can better manage marine resources in a sustainable fashion," says Wilford Gardner, head of the Department of Oceanography. The college and the Department of Oceanography are preparing to respond to an expected request for proposal from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for a new regional vessel, and that response will likely include a consortium of universities. A decommissioning ceremony will be held later in the year.

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