

NOAA Report

Below is a brief summary of NOAA underway activities. NOAA is very actively engaged in preparing the FOFC fleet plan and trying to move forward with other fleet modernization efforts such as the SWATH vessel which will replace RUDE, one of the East Coast Hydrographic vessels. Construction funds were received in 05 for the SWATH and will begin construction in 06.

FSVs

NOAA accepted delivery of DYSON on January 5.

On February 19 it began its transit through the Panama Canal and is on its maiden voyage as it transits to the Pacific Northwest for further outfitting and shakedown cruises.

Getting the ship to this point is a significant milestone in the modernization of the NOAA fleet.

After the final work is completed, OSCAR DYSON will sail to its home port in Kodiak, Alaska.

It will be commissioned into the NOAA fleet on May 28. The primary mission of OSCAR DYSON will be to monitor the Bering and Gulf of Alaska ecosystems, particularly Alaska pollock, the nation's largest, multi-billion dollar fishery.

The ship is named after the late Oscar Dyson of Kodiak, who was an industry leader in Alaskan fisheries and helped improve the lives of fishermen working there.

The second FSV will be launched and christened in July, and the third one will begin construction.

This month (Feb) NOAA will be authorizing acquisition of long-lead-time materials (engines, etc.) for the fourth FSV using funds appropriated this year.

CAPABLE

NOAA received \$18M from DOD in 2005 to convert the vessel into an Ocean Exploration vessel. NOAA expects to begin operating the vessel in 2007. Schools nationwide are currently participating in a vessel naming contest for CAPABLE.