

The Research Vessel *Rachel Carson*



MBARI purchased the research vessel *Rachel Carson* in August 2011 to replace two existing research vessels, the *Point Lobos* and the *Zephyr*. Originally an oil-field supply vessel in the Gulf of Mexico named the *Odyssey Team*, the ship was renamed in honor of the scientist and author Rachel Carson, whose books included “Silent spring” and “The Sea Around Us.”

In December 2011, Bollinger shipyard in La Rose, Louisiana completed initial painting and work on the vessel’s propellers, propeller shafts, rudders, and bow thruster. The ship then began its journey to California.

The ship arrived in California on December 22, 2011. For the next five months, additional work was performed at Bay Ship and Yacht in Alameda, California.

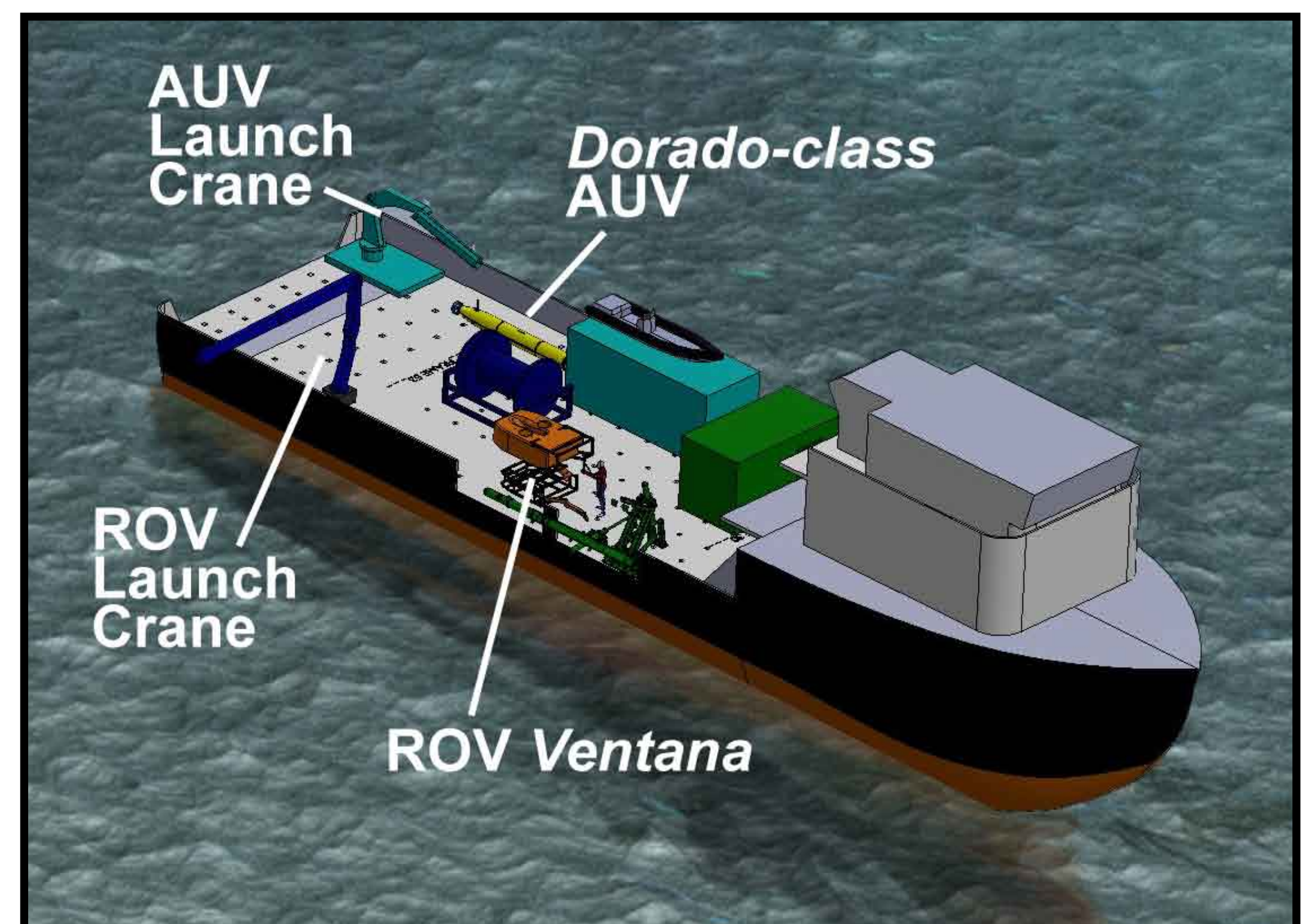


The Rachel Carson passes under the Golden Gate Bridge during its delivery from Louisiana.

As of summer 2012, the *Rachel Carson* is being outfitted to be the primary support ship for MBARI's remotely operated vehicle (ROV) *Ventana* and its *Dorado-class* autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs). This involves installing launch cranes, ROV tether systems, and an ROV control room. When fully outfitted, this hybrid research vessel will replace the R/V *Point Lobos* (which was sold in December 2011), and the R/V *Zephyr* (which is still in operation).

R/V *Rachel Carson* specifications

- ❑ Overall length: 41 meters (135 feet)
- ❑ Beam (width): 10.4 meters (34 feet)
- ❑ Displacement: 498 metric tonnes (490 tons)
- ❑ Horsepower: 1,044 kilowatts (1,400 SHP)
- ❑ Cruising speed: 18.5 kilometers per hour (10 knots)
- ❑ Fuel capacity: 200,630 liters (53,000 gallons)
- ❑ Engines: Twin Caterpillar 3412 main engines; Caterpillar 3406 bow thruster
- ❑ Crew and science party:
 - Day trips 5 crew, 2 ROV pilots, up to 8 scientists
 - Multi-day 12 bunks (6 crew, 3 ROV pilots, 3 scientists)
- ❑ Endurance: 25,370 kilometers (13,700 nautical miles) at 10 knots



Computer rendering of possible deck layout for R/V *Rachel Carson*, including launch equipment for ROV *Ventana* and a *Dorado-class* AUV.