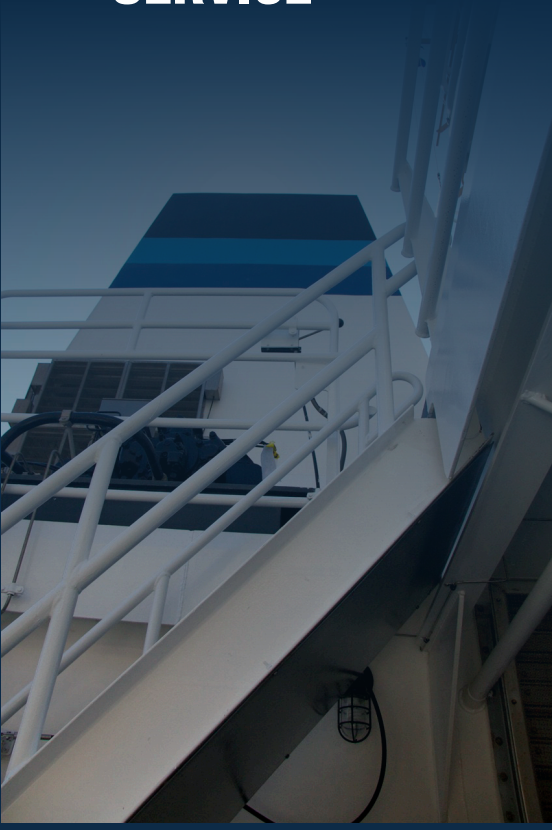
Science, Service, Stewardship

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



RSVP

Rachelle.Barron@noaa.gov

Southwest Fisheries Science Center &
Northwest Fisheries Science Center,
National Marine Fisheries Service and
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations
NOAA

Welcome in a new era of science in support of marine ecosystem management with the arrival of NOAA's most technologically advanced Fisheries Survey Vessel,
NOAA Ship *Bell M. Shimada* R-227

Invitational Open House

October 12, 2010
1pm - 3pm
Navy Pier, 910 N. Harbor Drive, San Diego

The newly commissioned NOAA ship *Bell M. Shimada* is the fourth in a series of the most technologically advanced fisheries vessels in the world. Equipped with a full suite of modern instrumentation for fisheries and oceanographic research, the new technologies will dramatically improve NOAA's ability to monitor to the region's valuable fisheries and protected species and welcome in a new era in ecosystem-based research in support of management for the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem.

Schedule

Event will begin promptly at 1pm, followed by guided tours of the ship, scientific displays and casual interactions with command, crew and scientists.

Directions

Navy Pier , 910 N. Harbor Drive. This is the same pier as the USS Midway Museum and located just south of the intersection of Broadway and N. Harbor Drive.

Parking

Parking is available at the "Midway Ace" parking lot, located on the pier and adjacent to both ships. Parking is $7 for 4 hours. The pier is also easily accessible by train, coaster and trolley.

Attire

Please wear flat, close-toe shoes. Be prepared as it can be breezy/foggy/windy/cold/sunny/warm. Dresses, skirts and high heels are not recommended as there are numerous steep ladders on the ship.

NOAA ship *Bell M. Shimada* R-227

NOAA operates a diverse fleet of hydrographic survey, oceanographic research, and fisheries research vessels. These vessels are operated by NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations. The ship's officers and crew provide mission support and assistance to embarked scientists from various NOAA laboratories as well as the academic community. The newest NOAA Ship, *Bell M. Shimada*, was commissioned on August 25, 2010, in Seattle, Washington. The vessel supports fisheries and oceanographic research conducted by the Southwest and Northwest Fisheries Science Centers as well as a host of other at-sea scientific operations. *Bell M. Shimada* is equipped with a full suite of modern instrumentation including advanced navigation systems, multi-frequency acoustic sensors, multi-beam sonar, direct sampling gear and extensive laboratories for concurrent fisheries and oceanographic operations. Extensive attention has been given to minimize sources of ship-generated noise and reducing noise transmission into the water. While underway, continuous automated environmental observations provide richer and more efficiently collected real time data streams to shore-side laboratories. The 63.6 m (208 ft) *Bell M. Shimada* has a cruising speed of 12 knots, range of 12,000 nautical miles and 40-day mission endurance. The ship's namesake served with the Bureau of Fisheries and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and was known for his contributions to the study of tropical Pacific tuna stocks following World War II. The name was chosen by students at Marina High School in Marina, California.

Learn more about *Bell M. Shimada:* http://www.moc.noaa.gov/sh
Learn more about NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations: http://www.omao.noaa.gov

The Southwest and Northwest Fisheries Science Center

The Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) and Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) are the research arms of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service with laboratories located in California, Oregon and Washington. Center scientists work in several large marine ecosystems: The California Current, the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean and in the Southern Ocean off Antarctica. Scientists conduct cutting-edge research to assist resource managers in making sound decisions that build sustainable fisheries, recover endangered and threatened species, sustain healthy ecosystems, and reduce risks to human health. *Bell M. Shimada* is an integral part of these endeavors. The new technologies will dramatically improve the ability of scientists to conduct ecosystem-based surveys for coastal pelagic species, groundfish, large pelagics, salmon, marine mammals, marine turtles and invertebrates. The ship's acoustically quiet signature reduces reactions of fish to the presence of the ship and enhances signal-to-noise ratio of acoustic sensors while the new acoustic and sonar technologies improve the ability to survey fish schools, school biomass and sea floor topography. The ship's capabilities also allow simultaneous collection of data on ecological and oceanographic factors affecting the status of fish and protected species and provide a context for predicting the likely effects of climate change on living marine resources.

Learn more about the SWFSC: http://swfsc.noaa.gov
Learn more about the NWFSC: http/www.nwfsc.noaa.gov