R/V Pelican

Virginia Institute of Marine Science
College of William & Mary
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Cover photo: R/V Pelican towing seismic equipment mounted on catamaran for shallow water profiling
The Virginia Institute
of Marine Science

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) has a three-part mission to conduct interdisciplinary research in coastal ocean and estuarine science; educate students and citizens; and provide advisory service to policy makers, industry, and the public. The VIMS School of Marine Science (SMS) is the professional graduate school in marine science for the College of William & Mary. Chartered in 1940, VIMS is currently among the largest marine research and education centers in the United States.

Vessel Service Center

VIMS maintains a fleet of 40 vessels. The 74 ft. R/V Pelican is the largest vessel in this fleet to conduct research in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries as well as along the Atlantic coast.

Buoy deployment

Class cruise

R/V Pelican lands in lower Bay.
R/V Pelican

History

VIMS acquired the R/V Pelican through Federal Surplus in 2003. Generous donations from private individuals allowed the vessel to be redesigned and outfitted to support a variety of research activities. This vessel has successfully served as a coring platform vibracoring the surf zone, in seismic surveys along the Atlantic coast, and in numerous buoy deployments and recoveries. The R/V Pelican has served as a floating classroom allowing educators an opportunity to involve large groups of students directly in marine science fieldwork. The vessel's homeport is at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science on the York River, Gloucester Point, Virginia.
General Description

The R/V Pelican is constructed of aluminum with nine watertight compartments for flooding isolation. Special features include a 24' x 17' (7.3m x 5.2m) working deck, a crane with a 9-ton lifting capacity, a hydraulic bow ramp which can be lowered to water level for ease of deploying and retrieving scientific gear, and four hydraulic anchor winches, enabling pinpoint vessel positioning. The deckhouse has three levels: a lab space located on the working-deck level measuring a spacious 18' x 12' (5.5m x 4.9m); An accommodations space on the second level has eight berths, full modern galley, spacious head with sink and shower, and a salon featuring a large table for dining; the uppermost level features the pilothouse and a 360-degree walk-around observation platform affording full view of all working decks. The pilothouse has a large workstation for the chief scientist. Electronic engine and steering systems allow remote control of R/V Pelican's steering and propulsion through a 30' umbilical cord. Wireless remote controls for the crane and four anchor winches allow full operation from anywhere onboard.
**Vessel Specifications**

**Length:** 74' 3" (22.6m)  
**Beam:** 21' (6.4m)  
**Draft:** 4'6" (1.4m)  
**Fuel:** 2,060 gals. (7,795 l)  
**Water:** 840 gals. (3,180 l)  
**Speed:** Cruising 9-10 kts.  
(16.5-18.5 km/hr)  
Max 12 kts. (22 km/hr)  
**Range:** 103 hours cruising  
**Endurance:** 5 days  
**Accommodations:** 8 bunks  
**Propulsion:** (2) 12 V 71N Detroit Diesels  
**Generator:** 8kw 240v single-phase  
45kw 240v three-phase  
**Electronic Navigation Aids**  
**Radar:** Furuno model FR-7112  
(w/ARPA)  
**GPS:** Garmin Chart Plotter 3210  
Garmin Chart Plotter 2010C  
**Sounder:** Furuno depth sounder  
model FCV-600L  
**Autopilot:** Robertson AP35  
**Electronic Charts:** The CAPN  
**AIS:** SeaCas dual band receiver  
**Cellular Phone Antenna Booster**  
**VHF Radio:** Icom IC-M504,  
Icom IC-M402  
**SSB Radio:** Icom IC-M802  
**Intercom System:** Standard model LH5

**Hotel Equipment**  
Heating and air-conditioning/all cabins  
Large chest freezer  
Fully equipped galley  
LCD flat screen monitor with DVD player  
Instantaneous water heater

**Deck Gear**  
**Aft Deck:**  
(2) Davits (manual winch)  
(2) Life rafts  
(2) PFD Deck boxes  
(2) Anchors  
Emergency Anchor  
Saltwater wash down pump  
**Launch:**  
Vessel is equipped with  
16' rigid hull inflatable  
with 25hp outboard engine  
**Fore Deck:**  
(4) Hydraulic winches  
(2) Anchors  
19' x 12' Hydraulic Ramp  
Palfinger Marine Crane PK 32080M  
18,740 lb. (8,490kg)  
lift capacity/  
46’7” (12.2m) reach

*Pilothouse view aft*
Vessel Policy

As a member of the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS), VIMS will strive to comply with UNOLS guidelines for the operation of its vessels. All personnel including faculty, staff, and students, as well as contractors, volunteers, visitors, or governmental agency representatives must adhere to the applicable sections of the Vessel Operation, Training and Safety Policy manual. Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are not permitted aboard Institute-owned vessels.

The Master of the ship has plenary and final responsibility for the safety of the vessel and all personnel on board, both crew and scientific personnel. The chief scientist on board will be responsible for the scientific mission, including conduct of scientific personnel, organization, scope of work, and working with the Master to work out all details of how the work shall be performed. All personnel are expected to participate in maintaining a clean and safe vessel.

All scientific diving conducted from the R/V \textit{Pelican} will comply with the standards of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences and VIMS Guide for Diving Safety. All other diving shall be conducted by outside contractors and in accordance with OSHA guidelines for commercial diving.
Vessel Scheduling

The R/V Pelican is intended to support research throughout the Chesapeake Bay and along the Atlantic Coast between Maine and Florida. Representatives of outside agencies interested in chartering the vessel should speak with a representative of the Vessel Service Center to outline sampling requirements along with vessel availability. If discussion indicates the R/V Pelican's capabilities are appropriate to the research needs of the outside agency, a letter should be addressed to the Marine Superintendent requesting authorization for use of the R/V Pelican. A completed Research Vessel Scheduling Request form, provided at the end of this document, should be submitted along with the letter.

The request form is also available online at:
http://www2.vims.edu/vessels/large/

Contact information:

George Pongonis, Marine Superintendent: (804) 684-7054, pongon@vims.edu
Sharon Miller, Port Captain: (804) 684-7055, smiller@vims.edu
Vessel Service Center Office (804) 684-7056,
R/V Pelican: (804) 815-3224
Vessel Service Center fax (804) 684-7195

Correspondence and inquires may be directed to:

Marine Superintendent
Vessel Service Center
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
P.O. Box 1346
Gloucester Point, VA 23062
Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Research Vessel Scheduling Request

Submitted by: ____________________________ Telephone number: ____________

Research vessel requested: ____________________________________________________

Purpose (project title and brief outline of scientific goals/objectives)

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Location of proposed field work operation: _______________________________________

Attach a page size track chart which portrays your intended field work voyage.

Proposed Schedule of Vessel Activity:

Minimum number of ship days needed: ____________________________
(Do not include load, transit or off-load days)

Optimum inclusive dates for field work: ________________________________

Acceptable alternative dates: ____________________________________________

Give a brief narrative of your proposed work day including: length of day,
positioning requirements, data collection plans, and estimated on station time
requirements.
On Board Equipment requirements:
Crane requirements: ________________________________
Electrical power: ________________________________
Navigation aid requirements: ______________________

Data gathering equipment to be provided by scientific party.

Number of scientific personnel to be on board vessel: ________________

Print name, Principle Investigator Date

Signature, Principle Investigator Date

Contact Information:
Agency: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
Phone: ________________________________
Fax: ________________________________
The Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) has completed its conversion of a former Navy landing craft to a highly capable research platform. The 74' aluminum hulled **PELICAN** offers unique capabilities for coastal research operations and is especially suited to estuarine work.

The **PELICAN** is ideally configured to serve as a coring platform in the surf zone, conduct seismic surveys, and engage in buoy deployments and recoveries. This vessel’s layout and capabilities inspire creativity in planning field operations.

Special features include a 24' x 17' (7.3m x 5.2m) working deck, a crane with a 9-ton lifting capacity, a hydraulic bow ramp which can be lowered to water level for ease of deploying and retrieving scientific gear, and four hydraulic anchor winches, enabling pinpoint vessel positioning.
MAIN DIMENSIONS

Length: 74' 3" (22.6m)
Beam: 21' (6.4m)
Draft: 4'6" (1.4m)
Fuel: 2,060 gals. (7,795 l)
Water: 840 gals. (3180 l)
Range: 103 hours cruising
Speed: Cruising 9-10 kts. (16.5-18.5 km/hr)
Max 12 kts. (22 km/hr)
Endurance: 5 days
Generator: 8kw 240v single-phase
45kw 240v three-phase
Accommodations: 8 scientists

WORKING SPACE

Free Working Deck: 24' x 17' (7.3m x 5.2m)
Dry Lab: 18' x 12' (5.5m x 3.7m)
Hydraulic Bow Ramp:
18’ x 12’ (5.5m x 3.7m)

DECK GEAR

Palfinger Marine Crane PK 32080 M
Lift capacity: 18,740 lb. (8,490kg)
Reach: 46'7" (14.2m)
(4) 12-ton Hydraulic Anchor Winches
Fed through fairleads at all four corners

NAVIGATION/COMMUNICATIONS

Radar: Furuno model FR-7112 (w/ARPA)
GPS: Garmin Chart Plotter 3210
Garmin Chart Plotter 2010C
Sounder: Furuno depth sounder
model FCV-600L
AIS: SeaCas dual band receiver
VHF Radio: Icom IC-M504, Icom IC-M402
SSB Radio: Icom IC-M802

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Owner/Operator:
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Homeport: York River, Gloucester Point, VA

Correspondence and inquiries may be directed to:
Marine Superintendent
Vessel Service Center
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
P.O. Box 1346
Gloucester Point, VA 23062
(804) 684-7054

For Additional Vessel Information:
www.vims.edu/admin/vessels
Click on “PELICAN Operations”