
THANK YOU

Countless people were instrumental to the success of this ship. While the list of gratitude will never be entirely complete, the officers and crew, NOAA Ship Bell M. Shimada gratefully acknowledge the following individuals for their contributions and support:

- Joe Bohr, Joe Hubbard, Jeff Peter, Jamie Hutton and the entire NOAA Platform Acquisition Division
- The dedicated men and women of VT Halter Marine
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- Paul Reed, NOAA Western Region Acquisition Division
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- LT Kate Peet, NOAA
- LTJG Laura Gallant, NOAA
- CDR Michelle Pelkey, USPHS
- CDR Les Cruise, USPHS
- Officers and crew, NOAA Ship *Pisces*
- Officers and crew, NOAA Ship *Miller Freeman*
- Chief Boatswain Gilly McNally
- Kurt Gores, NWFSC
- Allen Shimada, NOAA Fisheries
- Roger Hewitt, SWFCS
- US Navy Band Northwest
- Captain James Puttler, USN
- Captain Gary Bulmer, NOAA (ret.)
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- James Decker, VTHM
- Second Cook Lydell Reed
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- The crew of Rachael's Widow Walk, Moss Point, MS
- AHST Todd Walsh
- Tony, Brent, Kevin, and Aubrey, the KTM Team
- Puth Eang and the entire Pier 66 Operations Staff
- Stanley Crosswhite, Chip Chase, Ted Bradley, and the entire Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division



NOAA SHIP *BELL M. SHIMADA* (R-227) COMMISSIONING CEREMONY



August 25, 2010
Pier 66
Seattle, Washington



U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOAA SHIP *BELL M. SHIMADA*

ORDER OF EVENTS

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME
INTRODUCTION OF OFFICIAL PARTY
PRESENTATION OF COLORS
INVOCATION
Captain James Puttler, USN,
Chaplain, Navy Region Northwest
COMMISSIONING
“TO THE COLORS”
Navy Band Northwest
SETTING THE WATCH
PLANKOWNER RECOGNITION
GUEST SPEAKERS
RECEPTION
TOURS (1330-1530)

For uniformed peronnel this is a covered event

PLANKOWNERS

WARDROOM

Commander Todd A. Bridgeman, NOAA – Commanding Officer
Lieutenant Commander G. Mark Miller, NOAA – Executive Officer
Lieutenant Amanda L. Goeller, NOAA – Operations Officer
Ensign Kyle A. Sanders, NOAA – Navigation Officer
Ensign Tamera J. Reul, NOAA – Junior Officer
Mate Erick O. Long, NOAA – Junior Officer (candidate)

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Frederick Saladin – Chief Engineer
Vincent Palazzolo – First Assistant Engineer
Sean Mooney – Third Assistant Engineer
Nelson Aniog – Engineering Electronics Technician
Drew Barth – Junior Unlicensed Engineer
Zaw Lwin - Junior Unlicensed Engineer
Robert Pittenridge – Oiler

DECK DEPARTMENT

Jose Gomez – Chief Boatswain
Bruce Knoepke – Lead Fisherman
Jose Coito – Skilled Fisherman
Lester Scott – Skilled Fisherman
Eric Danielson - Fisherman
Matthew MacFarland – Fisherman
Clifford Ferguson – General Vessel Assistant

SURVEY DEPARTMENT

Jessica Sheehan – Senior Survey Technician
Emily Loose – Survey Technician

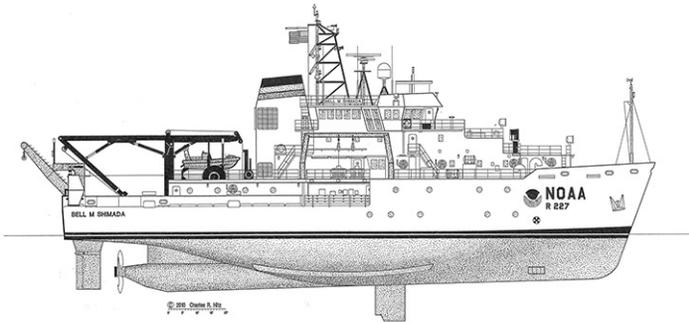
STEWARD DEPARTMENT

Nathan Thomas – Chief Steward
Michael Kruitwagen – Second Cook

ELECTRONICS DEPARTMENT

James Kintzele III – Electronics Technician
Garry Streeter – Electronics Technician





THE PLANKOWNERS

It is said that the term *plankowner* originates from the early days of sailing ships when sailors slept on deck. Because some planks were softer than others, the sailors would select these softer planks to sleep upon, and in time would regard them as their own. In many cases, when the ship was dismantled, the sailors would lay claim to the planks as mementos of their seagoing days.

Regardless of its origins, the term now symbolizes the hard work and deep sense of ownership felt by a ship's commissioning crew.



GUEST SPEAKERS

MONICA MEDINA

Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere

REAR ADMIRAL JONATHAN BAILEY, NOAA
Director, NOAA Corps and
Director, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

JOHN OLIVER

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NOAA Fisheries

SUSAN LAUTENBACHER
Ship's Sponsor

JULIE SHIMADA
Daughter of Bell M. Shimada

*“Build me straight, O worthy Master!
Stanch and strong, a goodly vessel,
That shall laugh at all disaster,
And with wave and whirlwind wrestle!”*

-Longfellow



THE CEREMONY

Today marks a milestone for the Nation, Department of Commerce, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with the commissioning of NOAA's newest fisheries survey vessel. Steeped in tradition and maritime history, the commissioning ceremony is the third and most significant event in the early life of a Government ship. The other two events are the keel-laying and the launching.

"Commissioning" is unique to Navy, Coast Guard, and NOAA vessels. Once accepted from the builder, commissioning marks the moment at which a ship is placed into the active service of the Government. In observing commissioning customs "To the Colors," a traditional military song which commands all the same courtesies as the National Anthem, is played while the ensign (U.S. flag), commissioning pennant, and union jack are simultaneously raised. Prior to its commissioning, a ship does not fly a commissioning pennant or union jack.

The teamwork and support of Congress, VT Halter Marine, Inc., the Department of Commerce and NOAA have made this commissioning possible.

Thank you for coming.



NOAA SHIP *BELL M. SHIMADA* R-227

Bell M. Shimada, a state-of-the-art fisheries survey vessel, is delivered with multiple science mission capabilities. Foremost is the extensive attention to minimize sources of ship-generated noise and reducing noise transmission into the water. The ship is outfitted with a full suite of modern instrumentation including advanced navigation systems and multi-beam, multi-frequency acoustic technologies for concurrent fisheries and oceanographic operations. While underway, continuous automated environmental observations provide richer and more efficiently collected real time data streams to shore-side laboratories.

The ship's normal complement is 9 officers and 15 crew, with berthing for up to 15 scientists. With a cruising speed of 12 knots and range of 12,000 nautical miles, the 40-day mission endurance is constrained only by provision storage space and fuel capacity.

Bell M. Shimada supports NOAA's stewardship mission to protect, restore, and manage West Coast and Pacific living marine resources in a changing climate. Research cruises will provide valuable insights into the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem, stretching from British Columbia to Baja California, and where extensive offshore upwelling support important groundfish and coastal pelagic fisheries. Highly migratory tunas, billfish and sharks, dolphin stocks, marine turtles, and sea birds are the focus of surveys into the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, extending from San Diego west to Hawaii and south to Peru, and one of the most productive tropical oceans in the world.

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. A veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team/Military Intelligence Service, Bell Shimada resumed his B.Sc. studies at the University of Washington School of Fisheries in 1947, completing his Ph.D. in 1956. A young isolated seamount – Shimada Seamount – 560 nautical miles southwest of the Baja Peninsula, is named in his memory.

