

by Sherman
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Fisheries Research Vessel Deactivation

*One Fish
man.*

Steadily increasing operating costs have made it necessary for the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries to deactivate the research vessel Albatross III, which has been stationed at Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

In announcing this action Regional Director Joseph F. Pennochar said the biological research activities carried out with the Albatross III will be continued by consolidating operations with that of the Bureau's exploratory fishing vessel Delaware stationed at Boston.

The age and resulting high cost of maintaining the Albatross was the determining factor in the decision to combine the operations of the two vessels instead of trying to operate the Albatross inefficiently because of limited funds.

The Albatross was built in 1926 and was acquired by the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1939 from the General Seafoods Corporation. The purchase price was \$1. She is 179 feet long and built along the lines of the large Boston otter trawlers.

At the time the Government took her over she was steam-driven. She was rebuilt by the Coast Guard during the war as a patrol vessel. In 1947 she was converted for biological research. The present crew numbers 17 officers and men.

The Albatross has been operated by the Bureau as a biological and oceanographic research ship ~~on Georges Bank and in the Gulf of Maine~~

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~~and adjacent waters~~] for the purpose of gaining knowledge which will insure conservation and continued good production of trawl fishes. The principal species under investigation have been haddock, ocean perch, cod and flounders.