

## SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY

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### **SCRIPPS/UCSD PURCHASES NEW RESEARCH VESSEL**

UCSD's Scripps Institution of Oceanography has purchased a 125-foot research vessel it was announced today, Friday, July 27, by Scripps Director William A. Nierenberg. It will replace the 95-foot R/V Ellen B. Scripps, which has served the institution since 1965.

The new ship, formerly named Midnight Alaskan, was purchased from Midnight Boats, a Louisiana chartering firm. The ship is a slightly-modified Gulf-Coast workboat design, originally built in 1981 for high-resolution geophysical surveys.

The ship will be named R/V Robert Gordon Sproul, in honor of the man who was the president of the University of California from 1930 to 1958, a period of tremendous growth within the university.

The vessel has been used in American and Latin American waters by such firms as Arco Oil & Gas, Exxon, Pennzoil, and Racal-Decca.

The ship will undergo a number of modifications for scientific outfitting, including additions of laboratories, winches and booms, and a variety of electronic and research instruments.

R/V Robert Gordon Sproul will be utilized primarily along the California coast and in the Gulf of California for biological investigations, physical oceanography, and scientific equipment testing.

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## SCRIPPS/NEW RESEARCH SHIP

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Owner of the ship will be the University of California. Its home port will be at Nimitz Marine Facility on Point Loma in San Diego Bay, headquarters for Scripps's fleet of four ships and two research platforms.

R/V Robert Gordon Sproul will leave Louisiana in early August with a research team headed by Dr. Burney J. Le Boeuf, a biologist from UC Santa Cruz, that will study seals near Yucatan, Mexico. After transit through the Panama Canal, the ship will be engaged in operations along the west coast of Mexico. It will arrive in San Diego by late October.

R/V Ellen B. Scripps, built in 1964-65 by Halter Marine Services, is being offered for sale by Scripps Institution. Proceeds from the sale will be applied to the purchase of the new ship, which was funded from university resources.

Scripps Institution is the oceanographic branch of the University of California, San Diego.

R/V Robert Gordon Sproul and all ships in the Scripps fleet are a part of the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS), established in 1971 as an association of academic ocean science research institutions that operate major research vessels. The National Science Foundation provides approximately 70 percent of the funding for the ships of the UNOLS fleet. Additional significant funding comes from the Office of Naval Research, with some operations funded by the State of California.

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