

New vessel added to UC SIO research fleet

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A new vessel of twice the tonnage of any of the other seven ships has been added to the research fleet of The University of California's Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

A 2,000-ton, 213-foot, former Navy auxiliary rescue and salvage ship, she has been christened Argo. The vessel was leased to The University by the Navy's Bureau of Ships and her conversion to an oceanographic research ship was supported by the Navy's Office of Naval Research.

Argo will sail from San Diego on her first long voyage late in August. This will be Monsoon Expedition, to the Indian Ocean and southwest Pacific. More than 20 ships from several countries, including the U.S.S.R., are engaged in a cooperative international program lasting several years to explore this least known of the oceans.

The new ship carries a scientific party of 24 and a crew of 31. She is the first vessel operated by The University which is capable of conducting research in very rough weather. Among her special features are a six-ton crane, step-tapered cables which can reach the bottoms of the deepest trenches on the globe, and an air-conditioned and soundproofed laboratory for delicate electronic instruments. She carries the first scanning type search sonar ever to be used on a research vessel.