

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)



The Research Vessel Patricia Lynn arrived at DEEP Marine Headquarters seventeen years ago from its birthplace in Rowley, Mass. Working with DEEP Marine Fisheries staff, Dave Simpson and Mark Blake, the RV Patricia Lynn was designed by Jack Winninghoff of Winninghoff Boats, Inc. Built with a 27 foot aluminum hull and powered by a Mercruiser engine, this vessel has served the needs of fisheries and water quality monitoring for the agency and academic researchers since 1995.

The primary purpose of this vessel is to conduct American lobster monitoring programs in Long Island Sound. These efforts included research diving, research pot hauls and surface plankton tows. The R/V Patricia Lynn has also been instrumental in research involving trawling and conducting sediment and water sampling throughout Long Island Sound.

Today the RV Patricia Lynn continues to be used to conduct the DEEP's American lobster monitoring program's larval survey in addition to assisting with monthly water quality sampling cruises.

Deck machinery added to the ship's basic construction includes a side station A-frame boom and a pair of trawl winches for trawl nets and water quality monitoring equipment. With the advancements in electronics, the Patricia Lynn has also been outfitted with a global positioning system (GPS), Radar, Sonar and a VHF radio to ensure safe navigation. This equipment is also helpful during sampling on Long Island Sound and displays the vessel's position, course and speed.

Recently, the Patricia Lynn was repowered during the winter of 2008. The original engine was replaced along with the installation of a larger fuel tank. The new engine is more efficient and has increased the Patricia Lynn's range and cut down on fuel consumption and related costs. During the summer of 2010 through spring 2011 the Patricia Lynn provided much needed backup support while the RV Dempsey was in dry dock for engine repairs. The RV Patricia Lynn has added to its experiences over 2,600 hrs on the waters of the Sound, conducted 4,039 plankton tows since 1995, and over 20 water quality monitoring cruises.