

RESEARCH VESSEL WEATHERBIRD II – SCIENTIFIC LAB

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[MUSIC PLAYING] We've now moved into the main science lab here on the vessel. This lab space is provided as a general service laboratory. So we have a variety of different scientists that come on board the vessel, so this area can be customized. All the desktops are modular. We can add different equipment in here as needed by the science parties.

Right now, we are between cruises, so the lab space is empty. Once we get our cruise plan from our chief scientist, we will begin to fill this space up. If we're doing something such as side scan sonar, we would have electronics equipment stacked from the deck all the way to the overhead.

So, when we were out on deck, we spoke a little bit about the carousel and the water sampling system. So if we were taking water samples and we had some groups on board that needed to look at those water samples, this would be the next stop. So our groups would bring the water samples into the lab here. If we've got some researchers on board that are interested in plankton species and plankton compositions in that particular part of the ocean, they would potentially look at the water samples under a microscope. If we have some chemists on board that need to do chemical analyses of the seawater, we have a full-service chemistry lab that can be put into the vessel.

If you look behind you, you see the two monitors that are on the aft bulkhead. The one is a secondary navigation system that we have onboard the vessel that our science parties can make use of. The monitor on the left-hand side is an echo sounder that can be used to monitor what the sediment looks like underneath the vessel or the topography of the ocean floor.

So again, this is a general purpose lab. It's used by all our science parties onboard, and this is the main lab space onboard Weatherbird II.