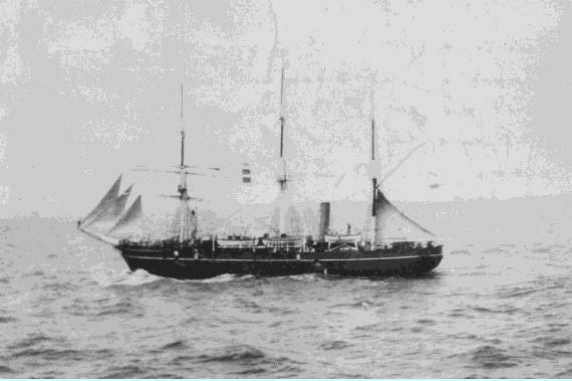













	Significant dates	Designer Builder	Dimensions	Officers/ Crew/ Scientists	Call sign	Comments and information sources
	<p><b>Launch</b> 21/03/1901</p> <p><b>RRS</b> 1923-1937</p>	<p>W.E.Smith Chief Designer Admiralty</p> <p>Dundee Shipbuilders Co., Dundee, Scotland</p>	<p>LOA 52.54m Beam 10.37m Draught 4.88m GRT 736</p>	<p>11 Officers 36 Crew/science</p>		<p><b>1901-04</b> British National Antarctic Exp. <b>1905</b> Hudson Bay Company <b>1916</b> Shackleton rescue – called but not needed <b>1917</b> Cargo vessel for HBC to N Russia <b>1920-3</b> Stepney SeaScout HQ <b>1923-27</b> Discovery Investigations <b>1927-31</b> BANZARE two voyages <b>1931-7</b> Laid up <b>1937</b> Boy Scouts' Association <b>1956</b> The Admiralty, London <b>Current</b> Dundee Heritage Trust</p>
<b>DISCOVERY (1923-1937)</b>						
	<p><b>Launch</b> 31/12/1925</p> <p><b>RRS</b> 1926-38 1946-54</p> <p><b>Scrapped</b> 1954</p>	<p>Not known</p> <p>Cook, Welton &amp; Gemmell, Beverley, Yorkshire</p>	<p>LWL 38.1m Beam 4.16m Draught 4.16m Disp. 360</p>	<p>Not known</p>		<p><b>1926-38</b> Discovery Investigations <b>1939-44</b> Minesweeper <b>1944</b> Operation Tabarin <b>1946-54</b> Discovery Investigations <b>1954</b> Sold for scrap</p>
<b>WILLIAM SCORESBY (1926-38, 1946-54)</b>						
	<p><b>Launch</b> 2/11/1928</p> <p><b>RRS</b> 1929-39 1948-62</p> <p><b>Scrapped</b> 1963</p>	<p>Not known</p> <p>Ferguson Bros (Port Glasgow) Ltd, Scotland</p>	<p>LBP 67.1m Beam 10.98m Draught 5.18m GRT 1036</p>	<p>Total berths 52</p>		<p><b>1929 -39</b> Discovery Investigations <b>1939 -48</b> Armed Boarding Vessel Trinity House Irish Lights <b>1948-50</b> Discovery Investigations <b>1950</b> Assigned to National Inst. Of Oceanography</p>
<b>DISCOVERY II (1929 -1939, 1948-62)</b>						

 <p>www.alamy.com - G4GB8G</p>	<p><b>Launch</b> 23/5/1944 <i>As Satinwood</i> (YN-89)</p> <p><b>RRS</b> 1953-56</p> <p><b>Sank</b> 11/11/1982</p>	<p>Not known</p> <p>American Car and Foundry, Co. Wilmington, Delaware, USA</p>	<p>Length 59.28m Beam 11.0m Draught 4.88m Disp 1200</p>	<p>Complement 56</p>		<p><b>1944-45</b> Lend-lease as <i>HMS Pretext</i> <b>1945-6</b> To US Maritime Commission <b>1947-56</b> To Falkland Island Development Survey <b>1956-62</b> <i>HMNZS Endeavour</i> <b>1962-82</b> <i>Arctic Endeavour</i> (Canada)</p>
<b>JOHN BISCOE (1953-56)</b>						
	<p><b>Launch</b> 11/6/1956</p> <p><b>RRS</b> 1956-1991</p> <p><b>Scrapped</b> 2004</p>	<p>Graham and Woolnough, Liverpool.</p> <p>Fleming &amp; Ferguson, Paisley, Scotland</p>	<p>Length 67.0m Beam 12.0m Draught 5.62m GRT 1554</p>	<p>33 Off and Crew</p> <p>34 Scientists</p>	<p>YKGM</p>	<p><b>1956</b> Sold to become <i>Fayza Express</i> <b>2004</b> Scrapped</p>
<b>JOHN BISCOE (1956-1991)</b>						
	<p><b>Launch</b> 3/7/1962</p> <p><b>Major refit and lengthen</b> 1990-1992 (See below)</p>	<p>Hall Russell with input from Dr Henry Herdman</p> <p>Hall Russell, Aberdeen, Scotland</p>	<p>Length 90m Beam 14m Draught 5.52 Disp 2800</p>	<p>45 Off and crew</p> <p>28 Scientists</p>	<p>GLNE</p>	<p><b>1964</b> Hull repainted black after IIOE <b>1969</b> Fitted with IBM1800 and SatNav <b>1976</b> Serious engineroom fire <b>1990</b> Starts major refit and lengthening</p>
<b>DISCOVERY (1962 - 1990)</b>						

	<p><b>Launch</b> 31/10/1962</p> <p><b>RRS</b> 1967-1981</p> <p><b>Continues in service</b></p>	<p>Not known</p> <p>T. Mitchison Ltd Gateshead</p>	<p>LOA 40.69m Beam 7.85m Draught 4.3m GRT 441</p>	<p>19 Off and Crew</p> <p>8 Scientists</p>	<p>?</p>	<p><b>1962</b> Launched as Trawler <i>Noblesse</i> <b>1965</b> May Purchased by NERC <b>1965-7</b> Converted by Willoughby's Plymouth <b>1967</b> March Becomes RRS <b>1981</b> Sold, renamed <i>Alkaid</i> <b>2003</b> Sold renamed <i>Surveyor I</i> <b>2009</b> Sold Renamed <i>Fugro Odyssey</i></p>
<p><b>John Murray (1967-1981)</b></p>						
	<p><b>Launched as</b> Arendal 11/11/1954</p> <p><b>RRS</b> 1968-1983</p> <p><b>Scrapped</b> 2010?</p>	<p>Not known</p> <p>Solvesborgs Varvet and Rederi A/B at Sölvesborg, Sweden</p>	<p>LOA 65.8m Beam 11.1m Draught 4.66m Displ 1658</p>	<p>18 Off and crew</p> <p>14 Scientists</p>	<p>ZDLS1</p>	<p><b>1955</b> Converted to FIDS research/supply vessel James Lamont Greenock <b>1968</b> NERC Research vessel <b>1970/71</b> Conversion James Lamont, Greenock <b>1983</b> Sold renamed <i>Geotek Beta</i> <b>1984</b> renamed <i>Profiler</i> <b>1992</b> renamed <i>Sea Profiler</i> <b>2011</b> Scrapped</p>
<p><b>Shackleton (1955-1983)</b></p>						
	<p><b>Launched</b> 4/9/1970</p> <p><b>RRS</b> 1970-99</p> <p><b>Scrapped</b> 2000</p>	<p>Graham &amp; Woolnaugh of Liverpool</p> <p>Robb Caledon Shipbuilders Ltd, Leith, Scotland</p>	<p>Length 90.2m Beam 18.4m Draught 6.7m GRT 4816</p>	<p>13 Officers</p> <p>24 Crew</p> <p>58 Expeditioners</p>	<p>ZDLG</p>	<p><b>1977</b> Represented NERC at Jubilee Spithead Review <b>1994</b> Engineroom fire <b>1999</b> Sold to Rieber Shipping A/S as part of finance deal for Ernest Shackleton. Renamed <i>Ingepearl</i> <b>2000</b> Scrapped Mumbai, India</p>
<p><b>Bransfield (1970-99)</b></p>						



	<p><b>Launched</b> 7/1/1971</p> <p><b>RRS</b> 1972-99</p>	<p>Burness Corlett Partners ?</p> <p>(Propulsion Yarrow Admiralty R&amp; D, Glasgow)</p> <p>James Lamont &amp; Co. Ltd., Port Glasgow</p>	<p>Length 54.3m Beam 11.3m Draught 4.3m GRT 1050</p>	<p>8 Officers</p> <p>11Crew</p> <p>19 Scientists</p>	<p>GPIU</p>	<p><b>1977</b> Refit replace steam turbine engines, extend accommodation, relocate bridge. (Photo is of vessel as launched)</p>
<p><b>Challenger (1972-1977?)</b></p>						
	<p><b>Major refit</b> 1977</p> <p><b>Scrapped</b> 2006</p>		<p>Length 54.3m Beam 11.3m Draught 4.3m GRT 1050</p>		<p>GPIU</p>	<p><b>ca 1986.</b> Refit to extend fwd accommodation <b>2000</b> Sold to Danepath Ltd to retrieve artefacts from Titanic (Renamed SV Explorer).  (Photo is of vessel after extension of fwd accommodation).</p>
<p><b>Challenger (1977-1999)</b></p>						
	<p><b>Launched as</b> Gravignez 1974</p> <p><b>RRS</b> 1981-87</p> <p><b>Fate</b> <b>unknown</b></p>	<p>Not known</p> <p>S.I.C.C. Na. - Saint-Malo, France</p>	<p>Length 43.5m Beam 9.4m Draught 4.6m GRT 546</p>	<p>7 Officers</p> <p>7 Crew</p> <p>7 Scientists</p>	<p>GYAR</p>	<p><b>1981</b> Purchased by NERC for MBA Plymouth <b>1988</b> Sold to Northern Ireland Fisheries (DANI / DARD) Renamed <i>Lough Foyle</i>, <b>2005</b> sold becomes <i>Kommandor Iona</i> <b>2008</b> sold becomes <i>Marviva Med</i> <b>2009?</b></p>
<p><b>Frederick Russell (1981-1987)</b></p>						

	<p><b>Launched</b> 22/2/1984</p> <p><b>RRS</b> 1984-2006</p> <p><b>Remains in service</b></p>	<p>Burness Corlett Partners</p> <p>Appledore Shipbuilders, North Devon</p>	<p>LOA 69.4 Beam 14.4 Draught 4.8 Disp 2370</p>	<p>21 Off and crew</p> <p>18 scientists</p>	<p>GDLS</p>	<p><b>2006</b> Sold to Gardline Shipping. Becomes <i>Gardline Ocean Researcher</i></p>
<p><b>Charles Darwin (1984-2006)</b></p>						
	<p><b>Launch</b> 1/12/1990</p> <p><b>RRS</b> 1990 - continues</p>	<p>Burness Corlett Partners</p> <p>Swan Hunter, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear,</p>	<p>LOA 99.04 Beam 18.85 Draught 6.40 Displ 5732</p>	<p>11 Officers</p> <p>15 Crew</p> <p>Up to 50 expeditioners /scientists</p>	<p>ZDLP</p>	
<p><b>James Clark Ross (1990- )</b></p>						
	<p><b>Out of service</b> Oct 1990 (Cruise 195)</p> <p><b>Returns</b> Sept 1992 (Cruise 196)</p> <p><b>Broken up</b> 2013/14</p>	<p>Robin A. Williams &amp; Co</p> <p>Refit and lengthen ENVC Shipyard Viana do Castelo, Portugal</p>	<p>LOA 99.7 Beam 18.0 Draught 6.6 Displ 6260</p>	<p>24 Officers and crew</p> <p>28 scientists</p>	<p>GLNE</p>	<p><b>2013/14</b> Broken up Ghent, Belgium</p>
<p><b>Discovery (1992-2012)</b></p>						

	<p><b>Launch</b> 1995 as <i>MV Polar Queen</i> for Rieber Shipping Bergen, Norway</p>	<p>Kværner Kleven Leirvik A/S, Leirvik, Sogn og Fjordane, Norway</p>	<p>LOA 80.0m Beam 17.0m Draught 6.15m Displ 5455</p>	<p>28 Officers and crew  Up to 50 expeditioners</p>	<p>ZDLS1</p>	<p><b>1999 -2019</b> Bareboat charter to NERC</p>
<p><b>Ernest Shackleton (1999 - 2019)</b></p>						
	<p><b>Launched</b> 4/11/2005  <b>Named</b> February 2007</p>	<p>Skipsteknisk AS of Norway  Flekkefjord Slipp &amp; Maskinfabrikk AS, Norway. Hull built in Gdansk, Poland</p>	<p>LOA 88.5m Beam 18.6m Draught 5.6m Displ 5800</p>	<p>Officers 9  Crew 13  Scientists 32</p>	<p>MLRM6</p>	
<p><b>James Cook (2006 - )</b></p>						
	<p><b>Launched</b> 06/04/2012  <b>Becomes RRS</b> 2013</p>	<p>Skipsteknisk AS of Norway  C.N.P. Freire, S.A, Vigo, Spain</p>	<p>LOA 99.7m Beam 18.0m Draught 6.5m Displ 5952</p>	<p>Officers and Crew 24  Scientists 28</p>	<p>2FGX5</p>	
<p><b>Discovery (2013- )</b></p>						



**Entered service with BAS 2020**

Rolls Royce Holdings  
Cammell Laird, Birkenhead

LOA 128m  
Beam 24m  
Disp ca 15000

Officers and Crew 28  
Scientists 60

**Sir David Attenborough**

### Information sources

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- 1967 Great Waters:** Sir Alister Hardy - Collins,
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#### Web resources

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