About The R/V Questuary

The R/V Questuary is a 38’ aluminum-hulled, shallow draft vessel designed by Sparkman and Stephens in 1975 and acquired in 1991 by the San Francisco State University Foundation and operated by the Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies. The R/V Questuary has been converted for oceanographic research by the addition of an A-frame, electrical conducting hydraulic winch and windlass, onboard instruments and computers. Drawing only 3’9” of water, the R/V Questuary is well suited for work in the San Francisco Bay, Delta and nearshore coastal ocean. The welded aluminum hull has a skid plate running the length of the keel, which protects the shafts, propeller and rudder. The vessel is powered by twin Cummins 250 horse power turbo diesel engines and cruises at 16 knots, with a maximum speed of 20 knots.

Future upgrades to the R/V Questuary include an underway data acquisition system for collecting surface water chemistry and a wireless connection to the Internet.
Scientific Research

The R/V Questuary is an optimum platform for world class marine science on San Francisco Bay and has been serving the scientific community for 15 years. Part of the University–National Oceanographic Laboratory System, the R/V Questuary provides scientists manageable access to the Bay environment in any weather.

The R/V Questuary is available to scientists that need to gather data about the San Francisco Bay and its tributaries. The R/V Questuary is equipped with a 3,000 pound hydraulic A-frame, 600 foot hydraulic cable windlass and power block.

For accurate positioning on station, the R/V Questuary is equipped with a differential global positioning system and a Furuno 48 mile radar system. On board, scientists have access to an updated Windows XP computer system with a local area network.

Functional oceanographic equipment includes a SeaBird Instruments SBE32 carousel water sampler with six Niskin water bottles and an RD Instruments 600 KHz Workhorse Monitor acoustic doppler current profiler.

Scientific Charters

The R/V Questuary is available for private charter by environmental scientists, non-profit organizations and businesses conducting research on San Francisco Bay.

The shallow draft and flexible exterior and interior workspace of the R/V Questuary makes her a perfect solution for multidisciplinary studies involving a wide assortment of oceanographic sampling equipment and personnel.

The R/V Questuary is staffed by knowledgeable professionals whom provide a level of expertise that ensures scientific charters exceed expectations and produce reliable results.

Typical scientific charters include assisting diver operations throughout the San Francisco Bay and Delta, deployment and testing of hydro–acoustic sampling equipment for petroleum exploration, core sampling for marine sediments using vibracore and Ponar grabs, beam and otter trawl collection of benthic and mid–water macrofauna for population studies and water column sampling for pollution control studies.

Charter Rates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charter Description</th>
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<td>Half Day (includes fuel)</td>
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<td>SeaBird SBE19 Carousel or RD Instruments ADCP</td>
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<td>Marine Technician</td>
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For more information please contact David Bell at Romberg Tiburon Center Marine Operations, 415–435–7123.