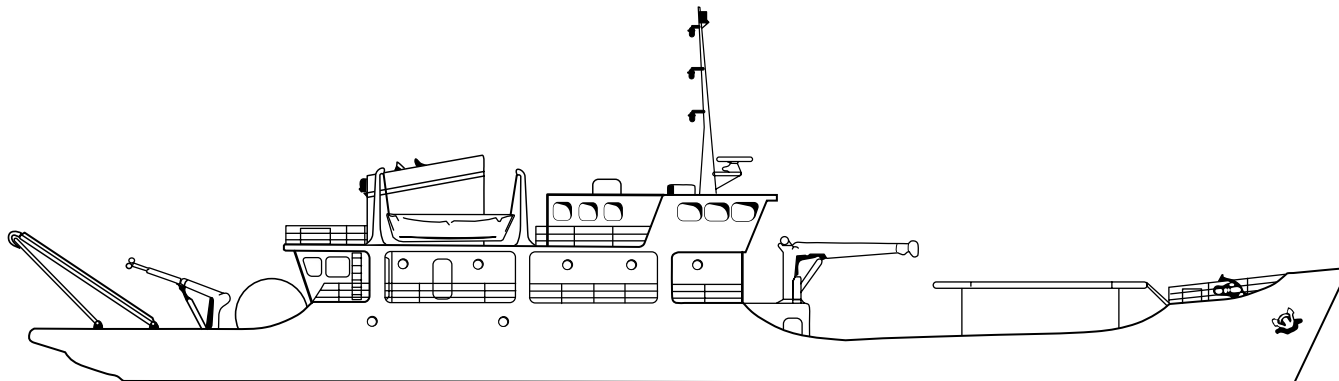


SHIP IN SIGHT AHEAD

One of the most difficult aspects of putting together an expedition to the Pacific is finding a ship which will do the job. Niku III requires a ship which can stay at sea, unsupported, for five weeks, carrying all fuel, food, water or water-making capacity, accommodations for crew and team, and is available at a reasonable cost. After many false starts, and much frustration, we have found the right ship for the job. Meet the M/V *Salmon Seeker*:



Built in the early 1970's as a seismic research vessel for the Canadian government, she is now working as a sport fishing platform out of Vancouver, B.C. One hundred eighty feet long, and with passenger accommodations for twenty-eight, she has the capacity for extended operations in the Pacific, including sonar survey, which the project requires. We have been working with her owners, Oak Bay Marine Group, for some time, discussing necessary refits and changes to outfit the ship for the hi-tech search technology we'll be using on and around Nikumaroro. We hope to sign final contracts early this spring.

With the single biggest decision of the project made, we can now forge ahead with more detailed preparations for the expedition. The Niku III island search team held its second planning session in San Francisco in November, and we're in the process of selecting a contractor for the all-important underwater search. Taking everything into account, it now looks like the culminating expedition of the Earhart Project will sail in the spring of 1995.

Special thanks to Michael Serafin, TIGHAR #1306CE, for his help in finding and evaluating ships for Niku III.