Blyth Marine Station and RV Princess Royal
School of Marine Science and Technology

The School of Marine Science and Technology at Newcastle University is one of the largest and broadest-based marine school of its kind in Europe, covering the fields of marine engineering, marine biology, naval architecture, offshore engineering, coastal management and small craft technology, and enjoys a substantial international reputation.

Teaching in the School is informed by internationally recognised and industrially relevant research. This is backed by extensive specialist facilities on the main campus, complemented by the Dove Marine Laboratory located nearby on the coast at Cullercoats, and further enhanced by our new Blyth Marine Station and the School’s own sea-going Research Vessel The Princess Royal.

All our research groups are actively involved in industrial partnerships, which often take advantage of the interdisciplinary expertise available in the School. These can take the form of consultancy projects, sponsored student and research projects, access to the facilities, or combinations of these tailored to individual requirements.

Blyth Marine Station

This exciting new development at Port of Blyth houses our “Blyth Marine Station”. Funding from the European Fisheries Fund and the Coastal Communities Fund, with generous additional support from Northumberland County Council, has enabled us to support the operation of our Research Vessel, The Princess Royal, and further more build upon our educational and local engagement with schools and colleges.

The new facility will also enhance the educational experience of our Undergraduates and Postgraduates and support our PhD students and research projects, access to the facilities, or combinations of these tailored to individual requirements.

RV Princess Royal

Newcastle University’s new research vessel, The Princess Royal, was designed in-house by staff and students in the School of Marine Science and Technology.

The catamaran has established itself as the ideal platform for small research vessels due to its stability, large deck area and manoeuvrability. Our unique marriage of the catamaran and the deep vee hull form gives enhanced seakeeping, efficiency and speed potential whilst maintaining its other inherent virtues.

Normal Area of Operation

The coastal waters, rivers and estuaries of North East England.

Operating Conditions

Classification: MCA category 2
Sea state: 4-5
Range: 400 nautical miles
# Equipment and Features

## Integral equipment
- 3 tonne hydraulic A-frame
- 2 x 2 tonne trawl winches
- 2 tonne auxiliary winch
- Hydrographic conducting winch
- 6.5 tonne-m knuckle boom crane
- Pot hauler
- Static drift-net hauler
- 1.5m x 1.5m moon pool for ROV deployment
- Wave radar
- Motion sensor
- Speed log (EM type flush STW)
- Propeller shaft thrust and torque gauges
- 4 x 150mm propeller observation windows (2 per demi-hull)
- Borescope apertures at both demi-hulls
- Hydrophones at bow

## Marine science equipment
- 6 x 5 l Rosette water sampler with integral CTD unit
- Coupled, or independent, fast repetition-rate fluorometers and C-DOM sensors
- Scientific Meteorological package
- Day grab and Van Veen grab
- Range of static and towed fishing gears
- Underwater stills and video cameras
- In-line thermosalinograph
- Towed Side-scan sonar
- Movement compensating Marine balance
- Laboratory PCs
- Onboard microscope & camera

---

### Contact Details

#### Research Vessel Manager
Dr Ben Wigham  
Dove Marine Laboratory  
School of Marine Science and Technology  
Newcastle University  
Cullercoats  
North Shields  
NE30 4PZ

Phone: +44 (0) 191 208 3054  
Email: ben.wigham@ncl.ac.uk

#### Research Vessel Skipper
Mr Neil Armstrong  
Blyth Marine Station  
School of Marine Science and Technology  
Newcastle University  
Quay Road  
Blyth  
NE24 3PA

Phone: +44 (0) 1670 353793  
(Blyth Shore Station)  
+44 (0) 7730 979754  
(Vessel Mobile)  
Email: neil.armstrong@ncl.ac.uk

[www.ncl.ac.uk/marine/facilities](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/marine/facilities)