

# Alvin Lighting Contractor

## Alvin lighting contractor

The Alvin is a small ship with a big mission. It has been in service since 1983 and remains a Woods Hole landmark.

The name Alvin is a tribute to Allyn Vine, the visionary who designed and built it, and to the famous chipmunk that inspired him.

## Overseas missions:

Alvin's first overseas mission was to the Caribbean, where it made history by becoming the world's first deep sea submersible to carry a woman observer (Ruth Turner). She was able to conduct her science experiments on a new deep (12,000 feet) bottom station south of Cape Cod.

During her time in the Caribbean she also carried out a number of notable achievements including the first ever survey of a radioactive waste dump site off New Jersey, a record number of geology dives and a high-profile marine mammal encounter. She completed a record number of research activities in total and received the honor of having her name credited with the discovery of a rare fossil.

On a more routine basis, the Alvin underwent a triennial major overhaul with the main task being replacing the through-hull electrical penetrators that have been part of the sub's heritage since its launch. Other upgrades include improved safety release devices, payload capability, personnel sphere internal arrangement and data logging/display system.

Best of all, the Alvin has a new home. She will soon be replaced by a state-of-the-art rig that is the flagship of the next generation of deep sea submersibles.

The Alvin has been a real asset to Woods Hole and to the scientific community, and her crew is looking forward to many more adventures in her new guise.