



Photo: Saildrone

Saildrone

Saildrone: Unmanned Surface Vessel (USV)

Alameda, CA

Scientists and researchers have traditionally relied upon large research vessels for oceanographic data collection and monitoring activities. The data these vessels provide improves the scientific understanding of physical and biological aspects of the ocean. It also contributes to scientific disciplines whose work intersects with ocean processes, such as meteorology and climatology. The data has an array of practical applications, such as improving weather forecasts and aiding in species management.

However, these vessels can be costly and have other drawbacks as well. For example, they require time for scheduling and planning voyages, and can cause research restrictions due to their size and maneuverability. Despite these drawbacks, the information these vessels provide is imperative, so the search for a better method ensued.

The California-based company, Saildrone, sought collaboration with NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) to maximize the scientific applications of the wind-powered, unmanned surface vessel (USV) they developed.

Web

<http://www.saildrone.com>

