

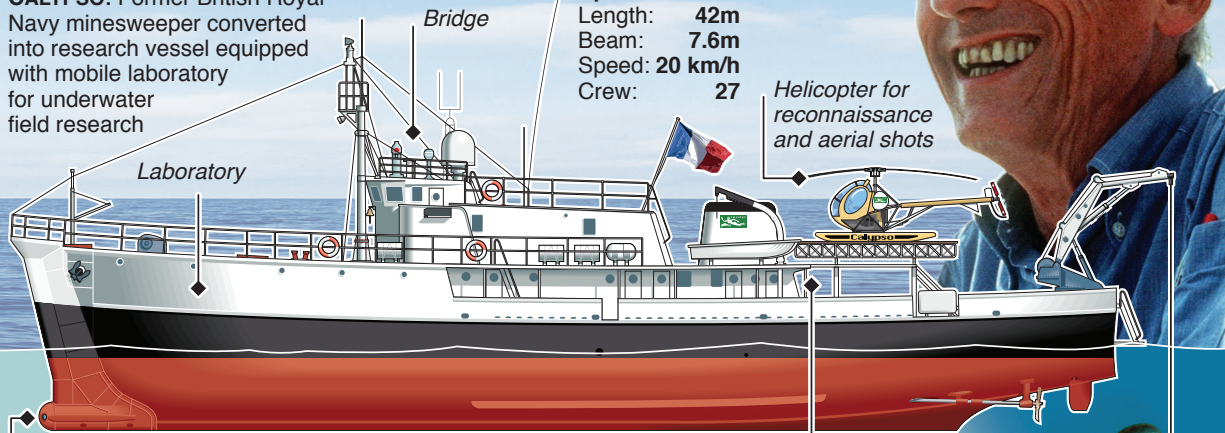
# Centenary of Captain Cousteau

Born on June 11, 1910, filmmaker, ecologist and ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau gave millions their first glimpse of the undersea world. Co-inventor of the aqualung, the precursor of modern scuba diving equipment, Cousteau's books, films and TV programmes drew attention to the riches of the "fragile symphony" under the sea. He died in 1997, aged 87

**CALYPSO:** Former British Royal Navy minesweeper converted into research vessel equipped with mobile laboratory for underwater field research

**Specifications**  
Length: 42m  
Beam: 7.6m  
Speed: 20 km/h  
Crew: 27

Helicopter for reconnaissance and aerial shots



Underwater observation chamber

**AQUALUNG:** Invented by Cousteau and engineer **Emile Gagnan** in 1943. Consists of self-contained pressurised air cylinder connected to regulator – developed from modified car engine – which automatically delivers correct amount of air as diver draws breath

**Regulator:** Controls flow of air so that pressure within diver's lungs equals pressure of water as diver descends

Diving locker

Cousteau predicted echo-location abilities of dolphins and porpoises before these were discovered

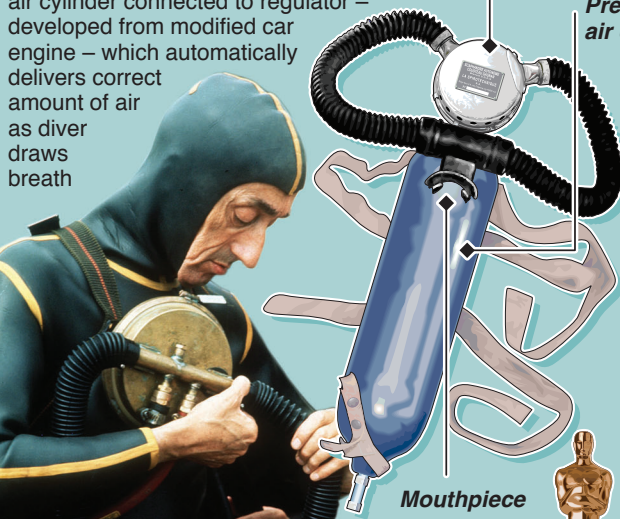
**Pressurised air cylinder**

**"DIVING SAUCER":** Developed in 1959 by Cousteau and engineer **Jean Mollard**, SP-350 minisubmarine was first underwater vehicle designed expressly for scientific exploration. First vehicle – **Denise** – able to operate at depth of 350m for 4-5 hours

Diameter: 2.85m  
Weight: 3.5 tons  
Crew: 2

Later versions able to descend to 500m

**"CONSELF" STATIONS:** Cousteau developed first underwater living environments where divers could live and work for weeks at a time



Mouthpiece

**EDUCATING THROUGH ENTERTAINMENT:** Cousteau's successful documentaries included *The Silent World*, co-directed by **Louis Malle**, which won first of his three Oscars and Palme d'Or at Cannes in 1956

