

MV *Blue Marlin*

Blue Marlin and her sister ship *MV Black Marlin* comprise the *Marlin* class of semisubmersible heavy-lift ships operated by Dockwise Shipping of the Netherlands. Designed to transport very large, semisubmersible drilling rigs above the transport ship's deck, it is equipped with 38 cabins to accommodate 60 people, a workout room, sauna and swimming facilities, and a secure citadel for protection against pirate attacks.

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History

Blue Marlin and her sister ship were owned by Offshore Heavy Transport of Oslo, Norway, from their construction, in April 2000 and November 1999, respectively, until 6 July 2001, when they were purchased by Dockwise. The U.S. Navy hired *Blue Marlin* from Offshore Heavy Transport to move the destroyer USS Cole back to the United States after the warship was damaged by Al-Qaeda^{[2][3]} suicide bombers while anchored in the port of Aden, Yemen. During the latter part of 2003, work done on *Blue Marlin* boosted her capacity and added two retractable propulsors to improve maneuverability. The ship re-entered service in January 2004. Following these improvements, *Blue Marlin* delivered the oil platform *Thunder Horse PDQ*, weighing 60,000 tons, to Corpus Christi, Texas, for completion.



Blue Marlin carrying USS Cole

History	
Name	<i>Blue Marlin</i>
Owner	<u>Dockwise Limited</u>
Operator	Dockwise Limited
Port of registry	2000–2003 Panama <p>2003–2017 Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles</p> 2017–present Malta
Builder	<u>CSBC Corporation</u> , <u>Kaohsiung</u> , <u>Taiwan</u>
Laid down	8 April 1999
Launched	23 December 1999
Completed	25 April 2000
Identification	<u>ABS class no.</u> : <p><u>Call sign</u>: 9HA4605</p> <u>DNV ID</u> : 20651
	<u>IMO number</u> : <u>9186338</u> (<u>https://www.marinetraffic.com/ais/details/ships/imo:9186338</u>)
	<u>MMSI no.</u> : 248314000
Status	Operational
Notes	^[1]
General characteristics	

In July 2005 *Blue Marlin* moved the gas refinery Snøhvit from its construction site in Cádiz to Hammerfest, an 11-day trip.^[4] This transport was filmed for the TV show *Extreme Engineering* on the Discovery Channel, and also the TV show *Mega Movers* on the History Channel.

In November 2005, *Blue Marlin* left Corpus Christi to move the massive Sea-based X-band Radar to Adak, Alaska, via the southern tip of South America and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. It arrived at Pearl Harbor on 9 January 2006, having travelled 15,000 miles. In January 2007, the *Blue Marlin* was employed to move two jack-up rigs, the Rowan Gorilla VI and the GlobalSantaFe Galaxy II, from Halifax Harbour to the North Sea.

On 16 June 2012, the ship arrived in Ferrol Harbour in preparation for transporting the incomplete amphibious warship HMAS Canberra to Melbourne.^[5] The Australian ship was lifted onto *Blue Marlin* on 4 August 2012 and was scheduled to sail on 12 August, bound for Australia BAE Systems shipyard in Williamstown.^{[6][7]} The ship passed the Port Phillip Heads and arrived at Melbourne on 17 October 2012.^[8]

In May 2019, *Blue Marlin* was briefly hijacked off the coast of Equatorial Guinea. The crew took shelter in the ship's citadel, while pirates shot up the bridge in frustration and fled before the arrival of the Equatorial Guinean and Spanish navies.^[9]

Specifications

Class and type	A1 General Cargo Carrier E0 DK(+) PWDK TMON
Tonnage	51,821 <u>GT</u> 15,547 <u>NT</u> 76,061 <u>DWT</u>
Length	224.8 m (737 ft 6 in)
Beam	63.1 m (207 ft 0 in)
Draught	13.3 m (43 ft 8 in)
Notes	^[1]



Blue Marlin preparing to offload Ocean Monarch



Blue Marlin transporting the U.S. Navy minesweepers USS Raven and USS Cardinal.

Specification	Initial
Length overall	217 m (712 ft)
Length PP	206.5 m (677 ft)
Breadth moulded	42 m (138 ft)
Depth moulded	13.3 m (44 ft)
Summer draft	10 m (33 ft)
Deadweight	56,000 t (55,000 long tons; 62,000 short tons)
Submerged depth above deck	10 m (33 ft)
Free deck length	178.2 or 157.2 m (585 or 516 ft)
Free deck area	> 7,215 m ² (77,660 sq ft)
Main engine output	12,640 kW (16,950 hp)
Bow thruster	2,000 kW (2,700 hp)
Cruise speed	14.5 knots (26.9 km/h; 16.7 mph)
Cruise range	25,000 nautical miles (46,000 km; 29,000 mi)
Accommodation	55 people
Building yard	CSBC, <u>Kaohsiung</u>



Sea-Based X-Band Radar enters Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on 9 January 2006 on its way to Adak Island, Alaska, transported by MV Blue Marlin



HMAS *Canberra* at Ferrol

Post-2004

- Depth: 13.3 m (44 ft)
- Max sailing draft: 10 m (33 ft)
- Max draft submerged: 29.3 m (96 ft)
- Water above deck submerged
 - aft 16 m (52 ft)
 - forward 12 m (39 ft)
- Deck space: 63 m × 178.2 m (207 ft × 585 ft)
- Deck area: 11,227 m² (120,850 sq ft)
- Propulsor output: 4,500 kW (6,035 hp) each
- Conversion yard: Hyundai Mipo Dockyard, Ulsan, South Korea

See also

- *BOKA Vanguard*
- *Mighty Servant 1*
- *Mighty Servant 2*
- *Mighty Servant 3*
- Semi-submersible

References

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3. Brian Whitaker (15 October 2001). "Piecing together the terrorist jigsaw" (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2001/oct/15/worlddispatch.brianwhitaker>). *The Guardian*. Retrieved 9 September 2012.
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8. "Orange giant Blue Marlin floats into Port Phillip Bay" (<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/orange-giant-blue-marlin-floats-into-port-philip-bay/story-e6frf7kx-1226497752504>). 17 October 2012. Retrieved 17 October 2012.
9. "Crew of heavy-lift ship freed after hijacking" (<http://www.professionalmariner.com/Web-Bulletin-2019/Crew-of-heavy-lift-ship-freed-after-hijacking/>). *professionalmariner.com*. Professional Mariner. 7 May 2019.

External links

- Professional photographs (http://www.shipspotting.com/gallery/search.php?search_imo=9186338&page_limit=300) from shipspotting.com
- RIGZONE article about towing the *Thunder Horse PDQ* oil platform (http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=16673)

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