



# **THE SHIP THAT CARRIES THE NEXT DECADE OF OUR WORK**

**A Vessel for Global Research,  
Education & Environmental Justice  
2026–2036**



# Who We Are



Expedition Audacity Research Foundation (EAR) is a field-based research and operations platform working at the intersection of science, Indigenous partnership, and environmental accountability.

Our teams deploy in regions where consistent access and reliable data are limited. From these environments, we document conditions, support local collaboration, and return verified information to researchers, communities, and decision-makers.

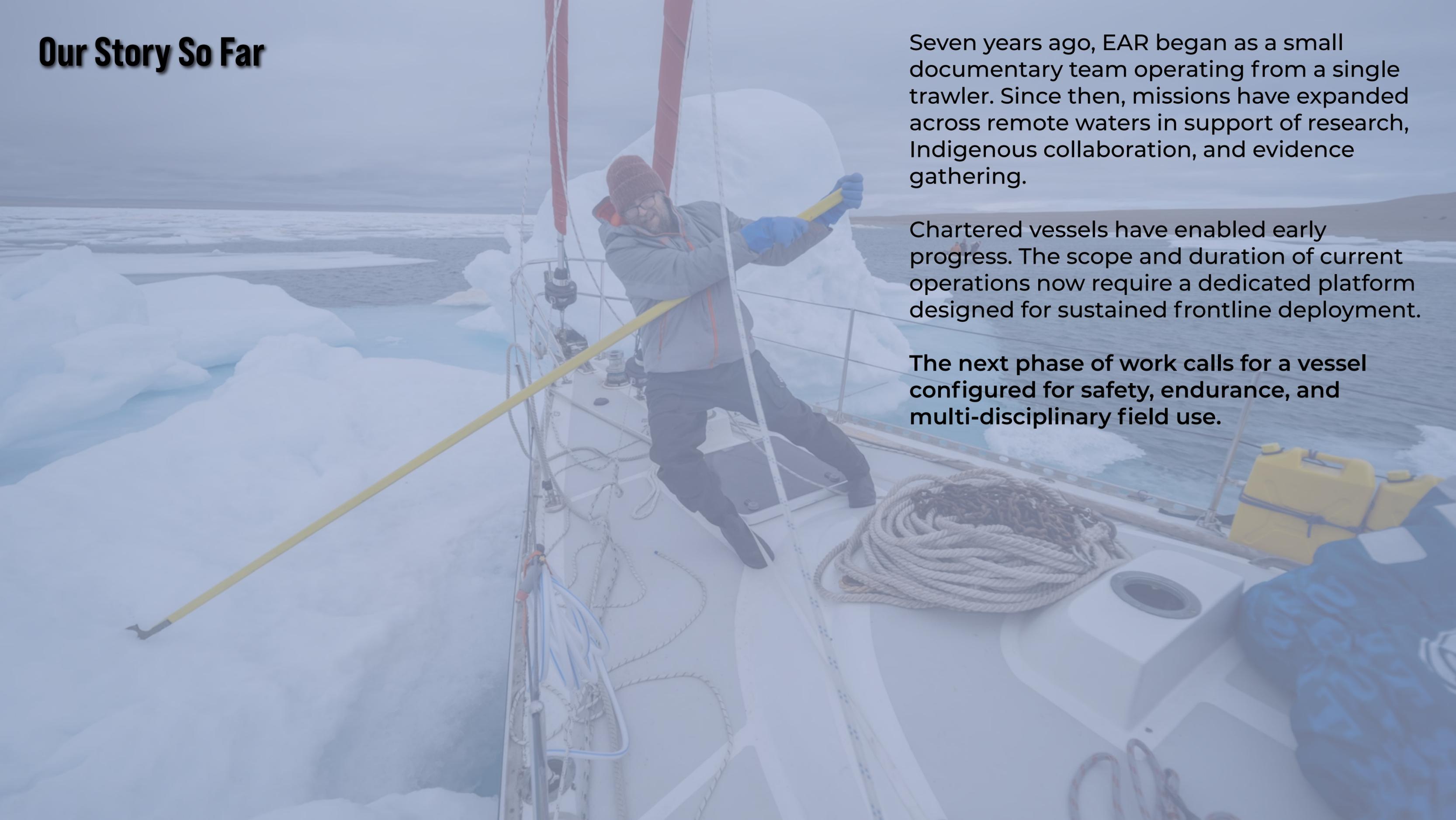
The work is practical, disciplined, and built around long-range field capability.

## **Our Story So Far**

Seven years ago, EAR began as a small documentary team operating from a single trawler. Since then, missions have expanded across remote waters in support of research, Indigenous collaboration, and evidence gathering.

Chartered vessels have enabled early progress. The scope and duration of current operations now require a dedicated platform designed for sustained frontline deployment.

**The next phase of work calls for a vessel configured for safety, endurance, and multi-disciplinary field use.**



# Operational Lessons



## Why Vessel Readiness Matters

Recent field operations highlighted the limits of charter platforms in complex environments. Equipment loss, crew risk, and operational disruption reinforced the need for a vessel designed specifically for this work.

## Future deployments require:

- stronger onboard resilience
- protected systems and data
- extended range and autonomy
- infrastructure suited to multi-programme missions

**The next flagship must prioritise crew safety, mission continuity, and reliable evidence preservation.**

# What The Next Vessel Must Achieve

To support the next decade of operations, the selected platform must meet six core requirements:

## Global Range

4,000–5,000 nautical miles between ports to enable remote and transoceanic missions.

## Space to Teach and Collaborate

Dedicated areas for research teams, education programmes, and media work.

## Sustainability by Design

Efficient propulsion and renewable support systems for lower-impact operations.

## Access to Shallow and Sensitive Waters

Capability to reach coastal communities, river deltas, and reef systems.

## Safety and Redundancy

Steel construction, protected helm, and robust engineering systems.

## Room to Grow

A platform able to evolve alongside EAR's expanding programme footprint.

**These criteria guide the short-listing process.**

INBOARD  
PROFILE

Scale:  $\frac{3}{32}'' = 1' - 0''$

0 5 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200 210 220 230 240 250 260 270 280 290 300 310 320 330 340

# Meet the Candidates

Three steel expedition vessels.

Three distinct capabilities.

Each one able to carry E.A.R.'s mission into its next decade — but in a different way.



Thackwray



Abeking & Rasmussen



Valdettaro

The decision focuses on mission alignment, long-term sustainability, and deployment flexibility.

# Thackwray: “The Ocean Library”



## Thackwray — Long-Range Expedition Platform

A 94-foot steel ketch originally designed for remote island and archipelago operations.

### Key characteristics include:

- enclosed pilothouse
- shallow-draft capability
- long-range mechanical propulsion
- adaptable interior spaces

Thackwray offers a balanced platform for research, education, and extended field deployment.

# Thackwray: Capabilities



## Operational Profile

Strengths include flexible accommodation, shallow-water access, and strong range relative to vessel size.

Initial survey and refit planning will be required prior to full deployment.

- Length: 94 ft (28.6m)
- Hull: Steel, 1/4" plating
- Draft: ~5'11 (1.8m) shallow mode / ~10'10 (3.3m) keel down
- Range: ~5,000 nm at ~7 knots
- Engine: **Gardner 8L3B** (mechanical, efficient, globally serviceable)
- Berths: 8–10 in comfort; up to ~14 for missions



# Abeking & Rasmussen: “The Global Flagship”



## Abeking & Rasmussen — Large-Scale Mission Platform

A 167-foot steel expedition vessel originally engineered for government and oceanographic use.

### The platform provides:

- substantial interior volume
- extended endurance
- large working deck areas
- multi-team operational capacity

This vessel supports simultaneous research, media, and investigative deployments at global scale.

# Abeking & Rasmussen: Capabilities



## Specifications

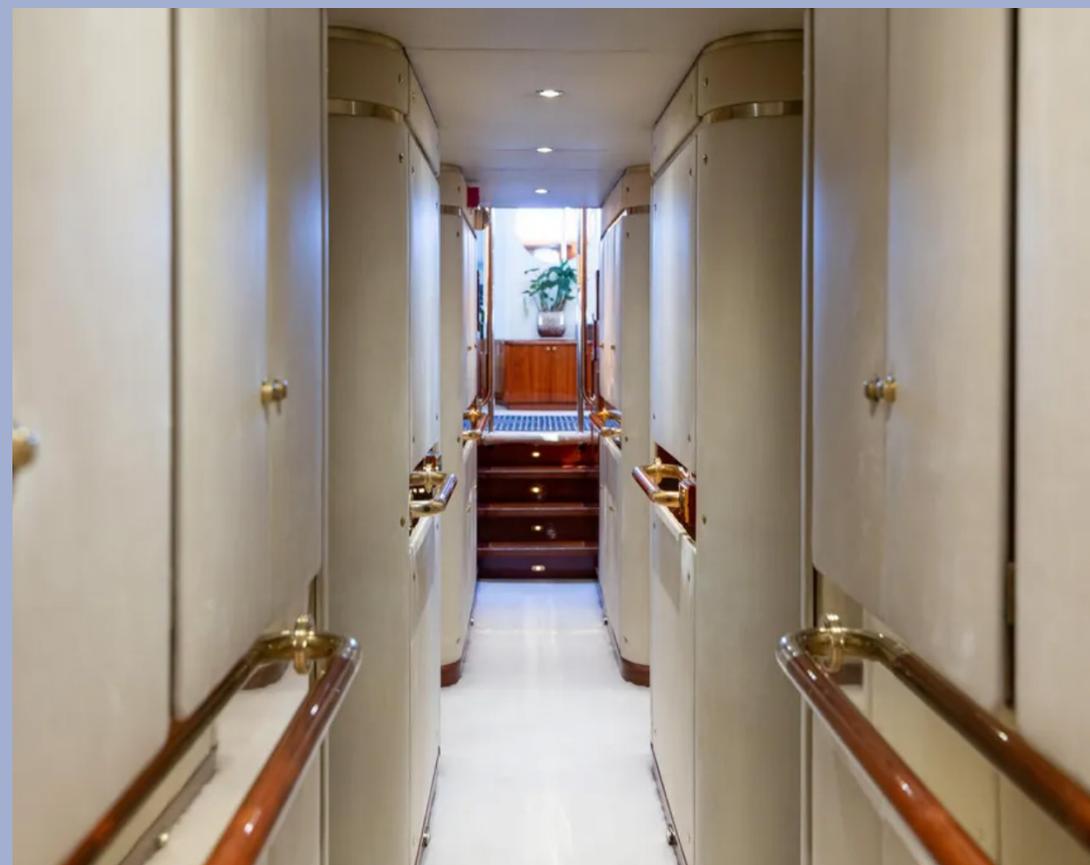
- Length: 167 ft (51 m)
- Hull: Steel
- Draft: ~4 m
- Range: 4,000–6,000 nm
- Berths: 14–24
- Cruise: ~10–11 knots

## Operational Profile

Provides the highest onboard capacity and mission scale, with corresponding increases in crew, logistics, and operating requirements.



# Valdettaro 112: “The Wind-Powered Global Classroom”



## Valdettaro 112 — Wind-Powered Expedition Platform

A 112-foot steel sailing vessel designed for long-range, low-impact global operations.

Key characteristics include:

- sail-first propulsion profile
- efficient operating envelope
- expanded accommodation
- dedicated working spaces

Valdettaro supports education, documentation, and focused research deployments.

# Valdettaro 112 – Capabilities



## Specifications

- Length: 112 ft (34 m)
- Hull: Steel
- Draft: ~2.75 m
- Range: 2,500–3,500 nm
- Berths: 8–12
- Cruise: 9–18 knots

## Operational Profile

Offers efficient global mobility with moderate technical capacity. Systems modernisation would be completed during refit planning.

# Side-by-Side Overview



## Thackwray

- balanced expedition capability
- strong shallow-water access
- flexible mission profile



## Abeking & Rasmussen

- highest onboard capacity
- supports large multi-disciplinary teams
- suited to full-scale global deployments



## Valdettaro

- efficient wind-assisted operations
- well suited to education and documentation missions
- moderate technical footprint

Each platform supports the mission through a different operational model.

# Side-by-Side Matrix

**Thackwray** Score: **110**

**Abeking & Ras** Score: **87**

**Valdettaro** Score: **95**

Length	94ft (28.6m)	-	168ft (51m)	-	112ft (34m)	-
Hull/ Ice Rating***	Steel/1B	15	Steel/1B	15	Steel/1C	12
Draft**	5'11-10'10 (1.8-3.3 m)	15	13'2 (4m)	3	9' (2.75m)	12
Mission Capability***	Adequate	9	Excellent	15	Adequate	9
Safety & Survivability***	Strong	12	Excellent	15	Adequate	9
Donor Experience**	Excellent	10	Excellent	10	Strong	8
Education Value**	Strong	8	Excellent	10	Adequate	6
Operational Sustainability**	Excellent	10	Limited	4	Strong	8
Growth Capacity	Strong	4	Excellent	5	Strong	4
Financial Accessibility	Excellent	5	Limited	2	Strong	4
Environmental Footprint	Strong	4	Limited	2	Excellent	5
Cost per Mission Day**	2,000	10	6,000	2	2,500	8
Annual cost per researcher**	67,000	8	123,000	4	61,000	10
Purchase Price Est.	500,000	-	1,100,000	-	1,000,000	-
Projected Refit Est.	300,000	-	2,000,000	-	900,000	-

\*All funds USD

\*\* & \*\*\* Represent scores that are weighted due to importance.

# Decision Framing

## Why We Believe in Beginning with the Thackwray

### Phased Fleet Development

Current modelling indicates that beginning with a capable mid-size platform supports earlier deployment, broader geographic reach, and more frequent missions.

### A phased approach allows EAR to:

- establish continuous field presence
- expand programme delivery
- build toward future fleet growth

**Larger flagship acquisition remains a future option aligned with demonstrated operational demand.**



# The Invitation



## Supporting the Next Phase

EAR is engaging partners interested in strengthening long-range field capacity for science, education, and environmental accountability.

We welcome conversation with organisations and individuals aligned with this next stage of deployment.

## Contact:

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## Scan to Donate



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