

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 is a global front-line research foundation documenting climate change, supporting Indigenous communities, and exposing environmental crime.

Our team goes into places most people will never see — and brings back evidence, solutions, and real stories that move the world.

We're small, fast, and fearless.
And we deliver impact far beyond our size.

Our Story So Far

Seven years ago we started as a small documentary team on a single trawler. Since then, we've crossed some of the hardest waters on Earth collecting evidence, supporting Indigenous partners, and telling the stories the world needs to hear.

But charter vessels have taken us as far as they can.

Our missions are now more complex and more dangerous — and require a vessel built for frontline impact.

To continue this work safely and responsibly, we need a ship designed for the realities we face and the science we carry.



What Happened: The Pirate Attack

Earlier this year in the Galápagos EEZ, our crew was boarded by armed men while documenting an illegal fishing fleet.

What should have been a routine night turned into a fight for survival.

With only a speargun, two machetes, and a fire extinguisher, the crew held the attackers off long enough to cut free and vanish into the dark. Minutes later, the pirates returned with backup. They rammed us, fired on our engines, and made it brutally clear that our charter boat was never meant for this kind of work.

In the end, survival meant surrendering every camera, computer, hard drive, and memory card full of evidence — in exchange for a tow, after which the vessel was deliberately run aground on a barren archipelago. That decision kept the crew alive.

That night clarified a truth we can no longer ignore:

If we're going to keep defending vulnerable ecosystems, we must protect the people doing that work.

Our next flagship needs to be built for safety, resilience, and the realities of the frontline.

We owe our crew — and the oceans they fight for — nothing less.

What Our Next Vessel Must Achieve

To continue this work safely, responsibly, and at the scale the world now requires, our next vessel must meet six non-negotiable needs:

- Global Range — 4,000–5,000 nautical miles between ports, allowing us to cross oceans, reach remote regions, and support long-duration missions.
- Space to Teach and Collaborate — dedicated areas for classrooms, partner work, media production, and visiting researchers.
- Sustainability by Design — a sail-first mindset supported by efficient systems and renewable power for cleaner, lower-impact operations.
- Access to Shallow and Sensitive Waters — the ability to reach Indigenous communities, river deltas, reef systems, and coastal regions where large vessels cannot safely operate.
- Safety and Redundancy — a steel hull, protected helm, and robust engineering to withstand hostile conditions and the realities of frontline fieldwork.
- Room to Grow — a platform that can evolve with E.A.R.'s programmes, partnerships, and expanding global mission over the next decade.

These requirements guide our shortlisting process — and determine which vessel can truly carry this mission forward.

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

Thackwray: “The Ocean Library”



A 94-foot steel ketch built for deep expeditions and long stories.

Born in New Zealand, she was designed to roam remote islands and shallow archipelagos with confidence and grace.

Her rare Vesi hardwood interior, enclosed pilothouse, and exceptional range make her both a refuge and a workhorse — a vessel where crews can think clearly, work safely, and travel far.

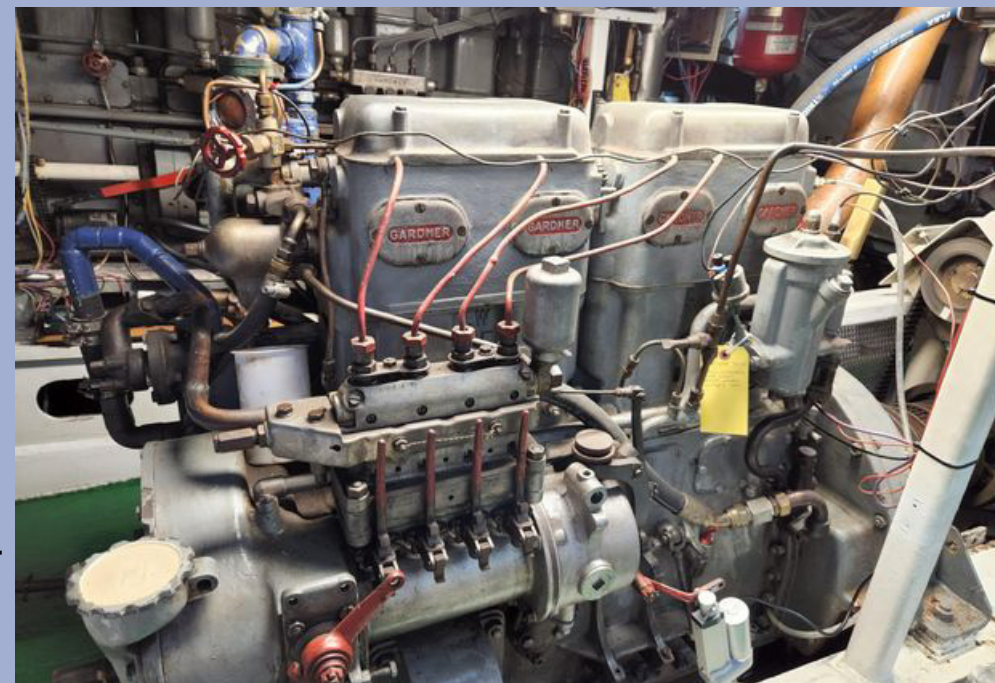


Thackwray blends the warmth of a classic expedition yacht with the capability of a modern research platform. For science, education, and storytelling, she offers something rare: comfort without compromise, and range without restraint.

Thackwray: Capabilities & Real-World Performance



- 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



Strengths

- The strongest all-round flagship for education, research, and storytelling relative to cost
- Shallow-draft capability uncommon for a vessel of this size — reaches communities larger ships cannot
- Enclosed pilothouse for all-weather operations and added security
- Comfortable, flexible accommodation for donors, students, and partners
- Built-in redundancy and long-range expedition systems
- Scalable — a vessel E.A.R. will not outgrow as programmes expand

Considerations

- Requires a significant initial survey and refit
- More complex systems = higher long-term management demands
- Price is negotiable, but represents the highest upfront investment

Abeking & Rasmussen: “The Global Flagship”



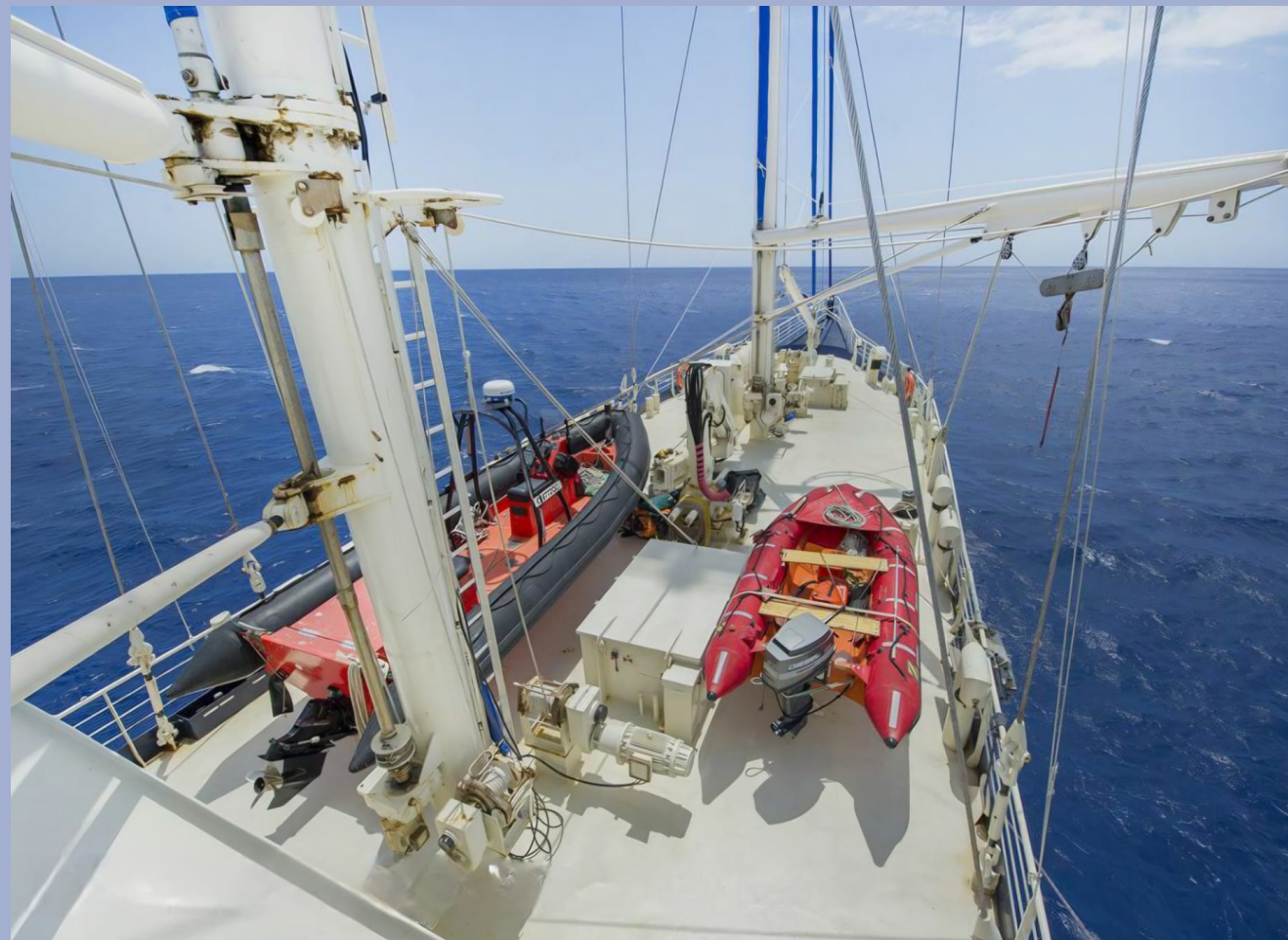
A 167-foot steel expedition yacht built by Abeking & Rasmussen, one of the world's most respected shipyards. Originally designed for government and oceanographic missions, she was engineered for long-range operations, exceptional stability, and mission endurance.

Her naval-grade construction and immense interior volume place her in a different class altogether — capable of supporting full science teams, filmmakers, Indigenous partners, and donors in comfort and security, anywhere on the globe.

Multiple salons, briefing rooms, private cabins, and dedicated workspaces allow research, media production, education, and RQS investigations to operate simultaneously. Large deck areas support drones, diving systems, enforcement equipment, and deep-sea technology beyond the reach of mid-size vessels.

This is not simply a ship, but a mobile research station and global operations platform — built for planetary-scale work and major philanthropic impact.

Abeking & Rasmussen: Capabilities & Performance



- Length: 167 ft (51m)
- Hull: Steel
- Draft: 13'2 (4m)
- Range: 4,000–6,000 nm
- Engines: Single w/generators
- Berths: 14–24
- Cruise Speed: ~10–11 knots

Strengths

- True Global Capability: Designed for long-range government and research missions
- Exceptional Safety & Stability: Naval-grade steel construction
- Serious Operational Scale: Extensive interior volume for large, multi-disciplinary teams
- Professional Infrastructure: Commercial galley, technical spaces, and long-deployment storage
- Heavy Mission Support: Large decks for drones, diving, and deep-sea systems
- All-Season Operations: Suited to high latitudes and extended deployments

Considerations

- Highest Operating Costs: Larger crew and systems complexity
- Significant Capital Commitment: Purchase and refit exceed mid-size platforms
- Port & Logistics Needs: Requires deeper berths and larger provisioning
- Operational Demands: Best suited to a mature organisation with dedicated support structures

Valdettaro 112: “The Wind-Powered Global Classroom”



A 112-foot (34m) steel sailing expedition vessel designed for long-range, low-impact global operations. Valdettaro combines true blue-water capability with the efficiency and quiet of sail, making her particularly well suited to education, storytelling, and focused research missions.

Her size allows for expanded accommodation, dedicated operational spaces, and sustained deployments, while remaining far more economical to operate than large motor vessels. She offers the capacity to host scientists, educators, partners, and donors together — without the financial and logistical weight of a flagship platform.

Valdettaro is best understood as a high-end, wind-powered expedition platform: capable, efficient, and globally mobile, while staying closely aligned with E.A.R.'s sustainability ethos.

Valdettaro 112 – Capabilities & Specifications



Length: 112 ft (34 m)
Hull: Steel
Draft: 9' (2.75m)
Range: 2,500–3,500 nm
Berths: 8–12
Engines: Single w/generators
Cruise Speed: 9–18 knots



Strengths

- Ocean-Proven: Built for global sailing expeditions
- Efficient & Quiet: Sail-first propulsion with reduced emissions
- Practical Interior Volume: Comfortable cabins, large saloon, and working deck space
- Cost-Efficient Operations: Lower fuel, crew, and systems costs
- Versatile Platform: Ideal for education programmes, donor engagement, and focused research

Considerations

- Weather-Dependent Scheduling: Wind and routing affect timelines
- Light-Tech Capacity: Supports drones and small ROVs, not deep-sea systems
- Refit Required: Systems modernisation needed for 2025+ expedition and safety standards

Side-by-Side Overview



Thackwray — The Versatile Long-Range Expedition Vessel

- Cost-efficient, flexible expedition vessel
- Strong balance of capability and sustainability
- Lifting Keel Advantage: Offshore stability with rare access to shallow and protected waters, increasing operational reach and safety.



Abeking & Rasmussen — The Flagship Mission Platform

- Unmatched range, safety, and capacity for global research and enforcement
- Supports full teams, deep-sea technology, and large-scale programmes
- Highest cost — suited to major philanthropic investment



Valdettaro — The Wind-Powered Global Classroom

- Low-impact, long-range sailing platform
- Optimised for education, storytelling, and moderate research
- Limited heavy-tech capability

Side-by-Side Matrix

	<u>Thackwray</u> Score: 110		<u>Abeking & Ras</u> Score: 87		<u>Valdettaro</u> 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 Thackwray or Valdettaro

While the Abeking & Rasmussen is an extraordinary vessel, our modelling shows that **starting with Thackwray or the Valdettaro delivers far greater impact per donor dollar.** Both offer the range, comfort, and access we need — at a fraction of the operational cost — allowing us to run more missions, more often, in more places.

This path also keeps E.A.R. nimble.

As our programmes grow, a **two-vessel model** provides far more scientific reach and geographic flexibility than a single large ship.

If, in the future, our work requires deep-ocean assets (such as submersibles or \$5M-class ROV systems), then upgrading to an Abeking-scale platform becomes a strategic option. That decision should be driven by demonstrated operational need, not speculation.

For now, the strongest, most sustainable approach is simple:

Begin with a capable mid-size vessel.

Grow into a second.

Build a fleet that maximises impact and minimises cost.

The Invitation



As we expand globally, we're seeking partners who want to help shape the next decade of E.A.R.'s work.

Each shortlisted vessel represents a different path forward — and each one can carry the next chapter of our mission.

Now the question becomes simple:
Which ship will carry this story across the world?

We welcome your insight, partnership, and vision.

Contact:

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