

# MESOSCAPHE PX-15 BEN FRANKLIN

## General dimensions

Overall length: 14.75 m

Overall width: 6.15 m

Overall height: 6.40 m

Draught: 4.25 m

Displacement surfaced: 130 t

Displacement submerged: 148.5 t

Payload: 7 t

External diameter: 3.15 m

Hull thickness: 38 mm, sheet metal

Construction: Giovanola Frères SA, Monthey (CH) in 1967

## Cabin

Internal length: 11.6 m

Internal diameter: 3.08 m

Places on board: 6 (2 pilots at all times during the Gulf Stream mission)

Portholes: 29

Endurance submerged: 6 weeks

Batteries: 750 kWh

Propulsion: 4 \* 25 HP

Descent speed: 4 kts

## Completed dives

Baptism: 21 August 1968 at West Palm Beach, Florida

On 14 July 1969, two days prior to lift-off of the Apollo rocket, the Ben Franklin dived in the Gulf Stream, from Palm Beach in Florida, to a depth of 1,000 feet. It resurfaced 1,400 miles away, off the coast of Maine, at Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, 30 days later.

Numerous deep exploration and research dives, including the one by Dr Robert Ballard (future discoverer of the wreck of the Titanic), who appreciated the comfort of the berths, remarking that they were the "best sleep in the deep".

**Actual location:** laid up in 1971 after hitting a reef, the submarine was transported to Canada and eventually donated in 1999 by an industrialist to the Vancouver Maritime Museum, which restored it completely with a view to putting it on show.