

# Basic Detail Report

---



00008891

**Title**  
Ship model of FLYING FISH

**Date**  
1990

**Primary Maker**  
Michael D Condon

**Medium**  
Basswood, acetate, mahogany, maple, brass, linen,

boxwood

**Dimensions**  
Overall: 595 x 740 x 140 mm, 3.2 kg

**Name**  
Model

**History**  
The 96 tonne USS FLYING FISH, a former New York Pilot boat, accompanied the US Exploring Expedition to the Southern Oceans from 1838 to 1841. Commanded by Lieutenant William M. Walker, the FLYING FISH accompanied the exploring squadron to Australia, and spent December 1839 in Sydney, where five of its seven crew absconded and were not seen again. The schooner sailed to the Antarctic but was driven back because the crew was weakened by sickness and the boat was breaking up. FLYING FISH was eventually sold in Honolulu in February 1841. The US Exploring Expedition was the first government funded scientific hydrographic survey undertaken by the United States. It marked an important attempt by America to enter the international scientific community as a major promoter of exploration.