



# ***POINT ROBERTS, 1962***

## **WPB 82332**

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Builder: Coast Guard Yard, Curtis Bay, MD

Commissioned: 6 June 1962

Decommissioned: February 1992

Disposition: Transferred to EPA as the research vessel *Lake Explorer*

Length: 82'10" oa, 78' bp

Navigation Draft: 5'11" max (1960)

Beam: 17'7" max

Displacement: 69 fl; 60 light (1960)

Main Engines: 2 Cummins diesel (see class history)

BHP: 1,600

Performance, Maximum Sustained: 18.0 kts, 542-mi radius (1,600 hp, 1963)

Performance, Economic: 9.4 kts, 1,500-mi radius (1,600 hp, 1963)

Maximum Speed: 22.9 kts (1963)

Fuel Capacity: 1,840 gal

Complement: 8 men (1960), 2 officers, 8 men (1965)

Electronics:

Radar: SPN-11, CR-103 (1960), or SPS-64

Armament: 1 x 20mm (1960), 5 x .50 cal mg, 1 x 81 mm mortar (Vietnam service)

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**Class history**—The 82-foot patrol boats have mild steel hulls and aluminum superstructures. Longitudinally framed construction was used to save weight.

These boats were completed with a variety of power plants. 82301 through 82313, 82315 through 82317, and 82319 through 82331 were powered by two Cummins 600-hp diesels. Boats 82318 and 82332 through 82379 received two Cummins 800-hp diesels. The 82314 was fitted with two 1,000-hp gas turbines and controllable-pitch propellers. The purpose of this installation was to permit the service to evaluate the propulsion equipment. All units were eventually fitted with the 800-hp diesels. Units remaining in 1990 were re-equipped with Caterpillar diesels.

WPB 82301 through 82344 were commissioned without names; at that time the Coast Guard did not name patrol craft shorter than 100 feet. In January 1964 they were assigned names.

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### **Ship's history:**

The *Point Roberts* was stationed at Mayport, FL, from 1962 on. She was used for law enforcement and search and rescue operations. On 26 February 1965, she towed the disabled F/V *Cherry Lee* 25 miles southeast of St. Augustine, FL, to Mayport during rough weather. On 15 May 1966, she rescued a skin diver off Jacksonville, FL. On 12 May 1968, she rescued three from F/V *Kingfisher* 5 miles east of St. Johns River mouth. On 21 July 1968, she medevaced injured seamen from the tanker *Transhudson*. On 12 January 1969, she escorted the distressed F/V *Eagle* 25 miles northwest of Key West, FL, to that port. On 4 August 1970, she medevaced a crewman from the Japanese Navy training ship *Katori* off Jacksonville, FL. On 28 November 1982, she helped seize M/V *Lago Izabel* and F/V *Gigi* 120 miles east of Georgia carrying 25 tons of marijuana. She fired 50 rounds of 50-cal mg at *Lago Izabel*. In January and February 1986, she recovered debris from space shuttle Challenger off Cape Canaveral, FL. In August 1988, she escorted the Honduran M/V *Unicorn Express* into Mayport, where over 1,000lbs of cocaine were found in a secret compartment.

She was decommissioned in 1992 and was transferred to the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA converted her in to the research vessel *Lake Explorer*. She is homeported in Duluth, MN.

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### **Sources:**

Cutter History File. USCG Historian's Office, USCG HQ, Washington, D.C.

"The 82-Foot Class Patrol Boat." *U.S. Coast Guard Engineer's Digest* No. 133 (Mar-Apr 1962), pp. 2-5.

Robert Scheina. *U.S. Coast Guard Cutters & Craft, 1946-1990*. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1990

