

**PRESENTATION: LE FLOREAL**



The *FNS Floréal* is the first vessel of a series of six surveillance frigates of the same class. She was built by the *Chantiers de l'Atlantique* in Saint-Nazaire and then commissioned in 1992.

With an overall length of 93.5 meters and breadth of 14 meters, the frigate *Floréal* displaces 2800 tons. She is armed with one 100mm and two 20mm multipurpose guns and four 12,7mm browning guns. The *Floréal* is also fitted with a Eurocopter Panther helicopter. She is propelled by four 2200 hp diesel engines and fed with three diesel generators. The crew is usually composed of 103 sailors: 14 officers, 68 petty officers and 21 seamen.

<b>Main features</b>	
Overall length:	93.5m (308 ft)
Beam:	14m (46 ft)
Water draught:	4.50m (15 ft)
Displacement max:	2 800 T
Maximum speed:	20 Kts (37 km/h)

*Missions*

The French surveillance frigates fulfil a specified range of operational needs, patrolling overseas maritime areas under French sovereignty and in the deep sea to protect France's interests. Equipped with quality equipment including an onboard Panther helicopter, the *Floréal* has an optimal capacity of detection and an armament allowing her to consolidate the French presence overseas.

This way the *Floréal* carries out several different tasks such as anti-piracy missions, the surveillance of maritime area with ability for recognition and localization of illegal vessels in various weather conditions, the navigation and fishing police in Austral and Antarctic French economic areas as well as public service operations and the enforcement of France's international defence agreements.

*Previous vessels of the French Navy to be named Floréal*

The first *Floréal* to be so called was one of the ten gun boats armed in 1795 during the French Revolution in Toulon. It was fitted with three 24-pounder guns and was given coastal surveillance missions.

The second one was a steam submarine commissioned in 1908, the fourth of the *Pluviose* class. As soon as the war began, she was due to operate in the Channel, most of the time coming from Cherbourg. She went through Brest in March 1916 and was then sent in Aegean Sea to participate in the blockade of the Turkish Straits.