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TRACKING NO.	SLS-201
PROGRAM	STURGEON
CATEGORY	Subsea Vehicles (UUV)
FISCAL YEAR	FY2026
CONTRACT AWARD	(WITHHELD)

CAPABILITY BRIEF

# MAELSTROM

(SLS-RESTRICTED)

## Restricted — Extra-Large Autonomous Undersea Vehicle (XLUUV) & Mothership

Maelstrom is the restricted flagship of the DEEPWATER portfolio — Salish's most advanced platform, and the program the gaps in the public tracking sequence (SLS-201/202) were always hiding. STURGEON is an extra-large autonomous undersea vehicle (XLUUV) and mothership: it deploys for months at a time, carries and recovers a small ROCKFISH swarm, and navigates and decides on its own under supervision. It is funded separately and not acknowledged externally, which is why it appears in no public catalog, brief, or budget line.

### KEY CAPABILITIES

- Extra-large UUV (15.5 m, ~24 t) rated to 2,500 m and engineered for 90-day patrols.
- AIP fuel-cell + lithium energy system with surfaced solar trickle; ~4,500 nm range, no refuel.
- Level 4+ supervised autonomy (CEDAR-derived); human-on-the-loop for any effect.
- Mothership bay deploys and recovers up to six ROCKFISH (SLS-207) UUVs.
- GNSS-independent INS + DVL + gravimetric map-matching; blue-green laser, acoustic, and burst SATCOM comms.

### PLATFORM AT A GLANCE

**2,500 m**

MAX DEPTH

**90 days**

ENDURANCE

**4,500 nm**

RANGE

**Level 4+**

AUTONOMY



### NOTIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

Very low acoustic signature (anechoic coating); modular EW / non-kinetic payload.

LENGTH OVERALL	15.5 m	PROPULSION	AIP fuel-cell + Li-ion, pump-jet
DISPLACEMENT (SUBMERGED)	24 t	CRUISE / SPRINT SPEED	12 / 18 kt
MAX OPERATING DEPTH	2,500 m	ENDURANCE	90 days (target)
RANGE	4,500 nm	AUTONOMY	Level 4+ (CEDAR-derived), supervised
NAVIGATION	INS + DVL + gravimetric, GNSS-independent	COMMUNICATIONS	Blue-green laser, acoustic, burst SATCOM
ACOUSTIC SIGNATURE	Very low (anechoic coating)	PAYLOAD BAY	Modular, ~6 m
DEPLOYABLE SWARM	Up to 6x ROCKFISH UUV	EFFECTORS	Modular EW / non-kinetic
LAUNCH & RECOVERY	Pier or well-deck; self-docking	CREW	0 (supervised autonomous)

### CONCEPT OF EMPLOYMENT

STURGEON deploys for months at a time to patrol chokepoints and deep approaches, fusing and tasking a small distributed Salish fleet through ALDER (SLS-305) while holding a very low signature. It is held within the DEEPWATER special-access program and funded separately, so it never appears in the public catalog, briefs, or budget.