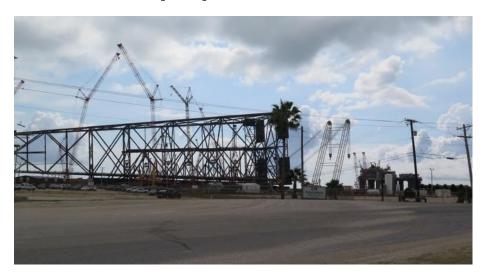


## **Gulf Island preps Coelacanth sail-away**



Sail away: Mammoth Coelacanth jacket to head out to sea

By Kathrine Schmidt in Ingleside, Texas 13 October 2015 23:27 GMT

## Gulf Marine Fabricators is gearing up for the Wednesday sailway of a massive jacket for Walter Oil's Coelacanth project.

The 30,000-tonne structure -- named after the prehistoric fish -- is itself a kind of throwback.

Such mammoth jackets are seldom seen today, and saw the height of their popularity in the early days of deep-water before majors ditched the increasingly heavy steel towers for the floating production facilities now used extensively.

It will have a vertical height of 1250 feet, as tall as the Empire State Building, according to Gulf Island Fabrication, the parent company of the Texas yard.

The stats put Coelacanth among the ranks of the Gulf of Mexico's largest fixed platforms such as Shell's groundbreaking Cognac, installed in 1978.

The newcomer will still be shorter than the record-setting Bullwinkle platform, installed in 1988, which was fabricated on the same site decades ago.

The structure, already loaded on the Heerema H-851 barge, is set to turn heads among locals on Wednesday as it makes its way past Corpus Christi to open water.

The facility will be installed in Ewing Bank 834 in 1186 feet of water.

The comparatively petite topsides -- weighing in at some 4200 tonnes -- will load out later in October, with integration to follow shortly thereafter.

Saipem's heavy-lift vessel Thialf will install the jacket, while Heerema's Balder will handle the topsides.

First oil is planned next year.