



RESEARCH VESSEL **SIKULIAQ**

ABOUT

The research vessel **Sikuliaq**—pronounced See-KOO-lee-auk and translated from Inupiaq as “young sea ice”— is a 261-foot Global Class ice-capable research vessel designed to operate in harsh oceanographic conditions to advance polar and subpolar scientific research. Owned by the National Science Foundation and operated by the University of Alaska Fairbanks College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (CFOS), *Sikuliaq* is the only ice-capable vessel in the US Academic Research fleet.

SHIP SPECIFICATIONS

Sikuliaq allows researchers to collect oceanographic samples directly from the water column and seafloor, host remotely operated vehicles, use a flexible suite of winches to raise and lower scientific equipment, and conduct surveys throughout the water column and sea bottom using a variety of sampling systems.

Characteristics	
Overall length	261 feet
Draft	18.9 feet
Beam	52 feet
Performance	
Cruising speed	10 knots
Endurance	45 days
Ice-breaking	2.5 feet at 2 knots
Capacities	
Scientist berths	24
Crew berths	20 plus 2 marine technicians
Science labs	2100 square feet
Lab or storage vans	4 vans
Deck working area	4360 square feet
Freshwater storage	13,190 gallons
Water-making capacity	6000 gallons/day
Fuel capacity	170,000 gallons
Disability accommodations	Yes: labs, galley, staterooms

Photo by John Guillote. UA is an AA/EEO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination.



**COLLEGE OF FISHERIES
AND OCEAN SCIENCES**


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ARCTIC RESEARCH ICEBREAKER CONSORTIUM

Sikuliaq and CFOS have joined 13 other partners from Europe and Canada in the international Arctic Research Icebreaker Consortium (ARICE). The collaboration supports transnational planning and implementation of Arctic research cruises. As the US representative in ARICE, *Sikuliaq* is well positioned to serve an increasingly international audience and to foster greater collaboration between US Arctic ship users and international scientific partners.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Sikuliaq strives to work closely with Alaska coastal communities to ensure our activities do not interfere with Native hunting or cultural events. *Sikuliaq* is the first university-operated vessel to adopt standard operating procedures outlining when and how our Arctic researchers are expected to work with coastal communities.

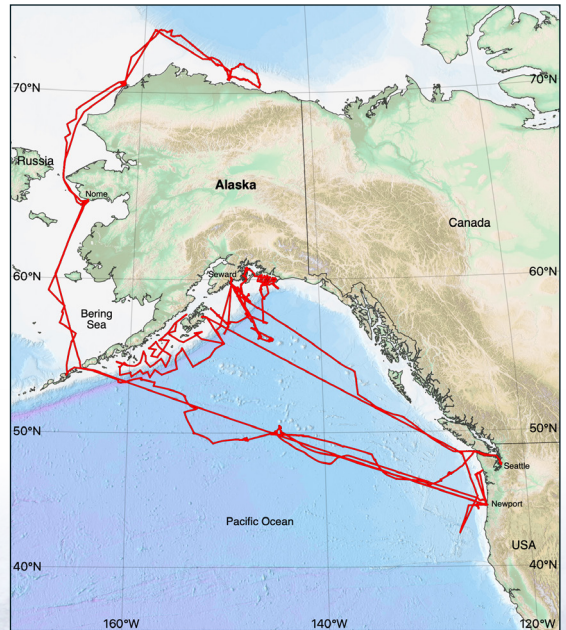
2021 RESEARCH CRUISES

In its fifth year of operation, *Sikuliaq* supported 11 science cruises led by researchers from UAF and other institutions, sailing more than 28,192 nautical miles throughout the Pacific and Arctic Oceans. The ship traveled farther north than ever before—almost 500 miles north of Point Barrow—on a UAF-led cruise to map the Chukchi Sea Borderlands.

Science included two CFOS-led cruises in the Northern Gulf of Alaska Long-term Ecological Research area, an Aleutian Islands fisheries study, and investigating how changing sea ice conditions impact mercury levels in the Arctic food web.



Photo by Ana Aguilar-Islas.



2021 Cruise Track. Photo below by Ethan Roth.



FY2021 STATISTICS

28,192 nm traveled • **212** paid ship days • **171** days of science (not including mob/demob days) • **59** UAF/CFOS PI days
82 days in the Arctic (as defined by the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984) • **20** days in the ice • **5** ice station days
471 CTD casts • **1** XBT casts • **16** moorings deployed • **18** moorings recovered • **4** ROV dives • **10** gliders deployed
14 gliders recovered • **16** corings collected • **10** buoys/floats deployed • **4** buoys/floats recovered
79 Iron Fish/Acrobat tows • **274** net tows