



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/E/O employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination.



**COLLEGE OF FISHERIES
AND OCEAN SCIENCES**

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Contact Us

Doug Baird, Marine Superintendent | ddbaird2@alaska.edu
 Jeff Richardson, *Sikuliaq* Science Liaison | jarichardson6@alaska.edu

UAF College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

2150 Koyukuk Drive, 245 O'Neill Building
 PO Box 757220, Fairbanks, AK 99775-7220
 (907) 474-7210 | www.uaf.edu/cfos

 @rvsikuliaq
 @rvsikuliaq
 @sikuliaq



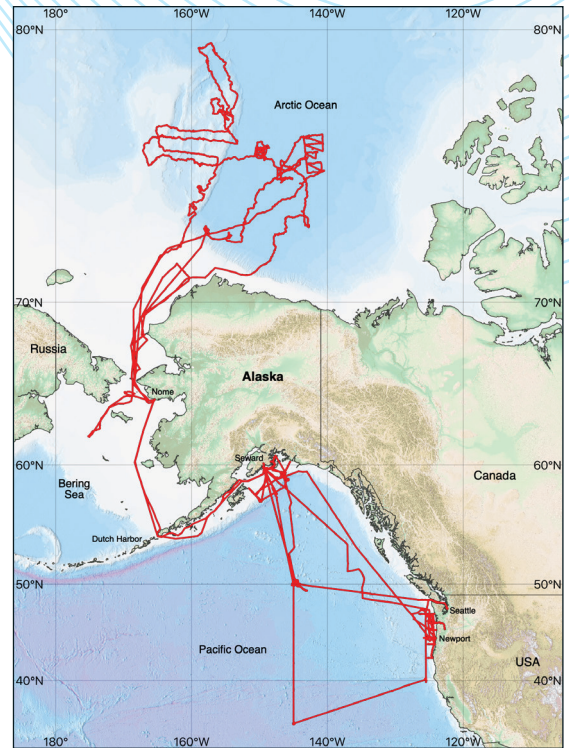
2023 RESEARCH CRUISES

In its seventh year of operation, the research vessel *Sikuliaq* supported 11 science cruises led by researchers from UAF and other institutions, sailing nearly 29,000 nautical miles throughout the Pacific and Arctic Oceans.

Sikuliaq and its crew started fiscal year 2023 conducting the North Gulf of Alaska Long-Term Ecological Research project and ended the year hosting a cruise to look for algae in the Chukchi Sea. In between, *Sikuliaq* projects included coring in the Bering Sea; deploying experimental gear and servicing long-term observational moorings in the Beaufort Sea, Gulf of Alaska, and North Pacific Ocean; collecting plankton off the West Coast; conducting a second NGA LTER cruise; and hosting a group of aspiring, early-career Arctic chief scientists. From the ice in the northern Beaufort Sea all the way south to the mid-latitudes in the North Pacific Ocean, *Sikuliaq* provided a comfortable and effective platform for researchers to carry out a variety of research missions throughout the North Pacific Ocean and the Arctic.

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.



R/V Sikuliaq ship track from July 2021 through June 2022.

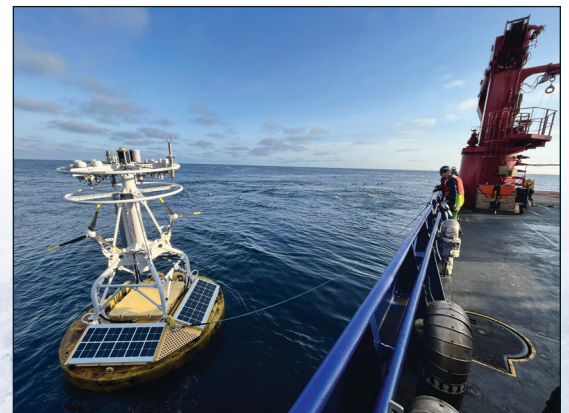


Photo by Kim Kenny/CEOAS, OSU.



FY 2023 STATISTICS

28,871 nautical miles traveled • **272** paid ship days • **247** days at sea • **230** days of science (not including mob/demob days) • **124** days in the Arctic • **51** days in the ice • **11** ice stations • **457** conductivity/temperature/depth casts • **31** trace metal CTD casts • **1** expendable bathythermograph cast • **3** remotely operated vehicle dives • **900** net tows • **32** moorings deployed • **28** moorings recovered • **11** gliders deployed • **7** gliders recovered • **162** corings collected • **9** towed cameras • **8** ocean-bottom seismometers recovered • **7** buoys/floats recovered • **4** bottom samples collected • **6** sediment traps deployed • **6** sediment traps recovered