



# 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



COLLEGE OF FISHERIES  
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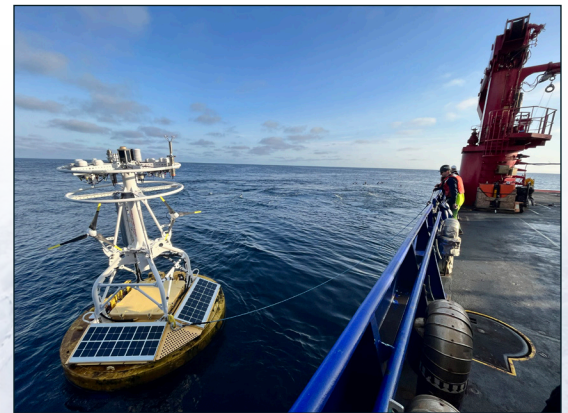
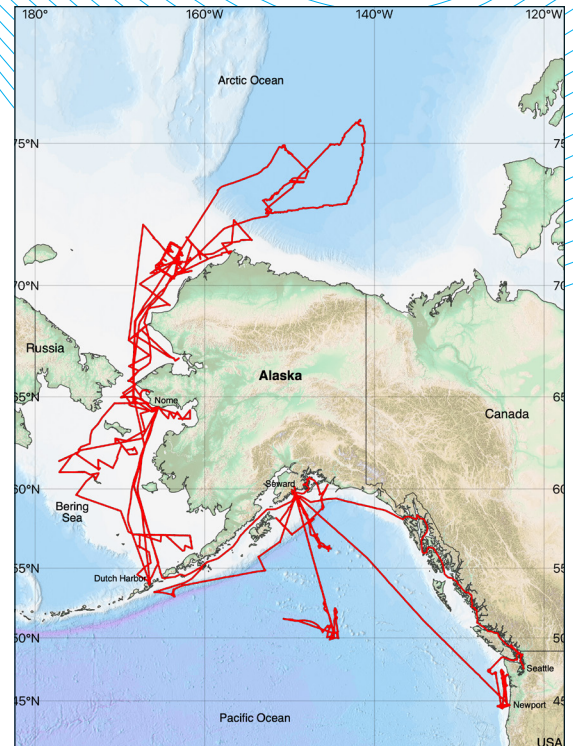
## 2024 Research Cruises

In its eighth year of operation, the research vessel *Sikuliaq* supported 10 science cruises led by researchers from UAF and other institutions, sailing more than 27,000 nautical miles throughout the Pacific and Arctic Oceans. UAF faculty, staff and students were involved in 53% of *Sikuliaq* science days at sea.

*Sikuliaq* and its crew started 2024 by supporting a project to study how sea ice affects the food web in the Chukchi Sea, and concluded the year surveying areas of the Aleutian seafloor thought to be responsible for large tsunamis. In between, the ship traveled from the Pacific Northwest to the far reaches of the Beaufort Sea, providing a safe and effective platform for a variety of research projects in the North Pacific and the Arctic Ocean.

## 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.



## FY 2024 STATISTICS

**27,000** nautical miles traveled • **250** paid ship days • **227** days at sea • **215** days of science (not including mob/demob days) • **142** days in the Arctic • **40** days in the ice • **524** conductivity/temperature/depth casts • **17** trace metal CTD casts • **13** expendable bathythermograph casts • **254** net tows • **36** moorings deployed • **38** moorings recovered • **7** gliders deployed • **6** gliders recovered • **260** corings collected • **34** buoys/floats deployed • **1** buoy/float recovered • **9** towed cameras • **190** bottom samples collected • **33** sediment traps deployed • **32** sediment traps recovered • **32** geodetic benchmarks deployed