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 U.S. 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

UAF COLLEGE OF FISHERIES AND OCEAN SCIENCES
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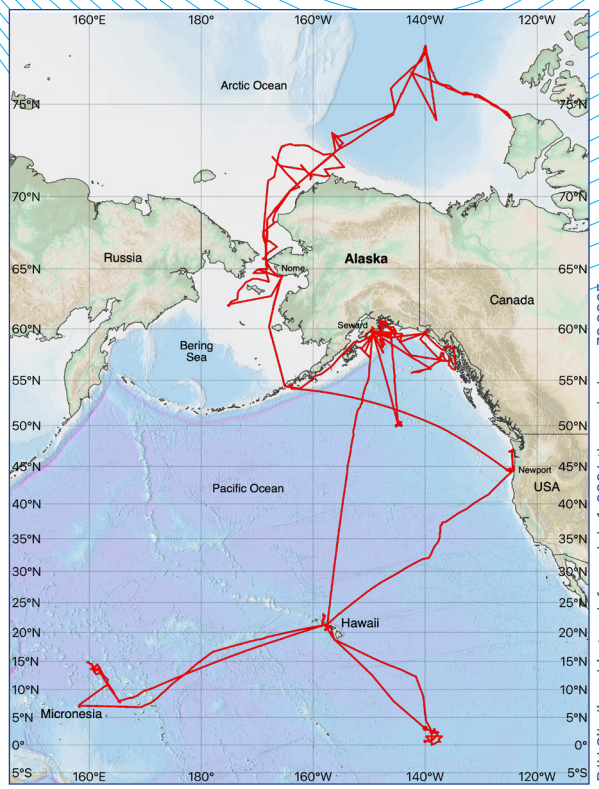
FY2025 Research Cruises

In its ninth year of operation, the research vessel *Sikuliaq* supported 14 science cruises led by researchers from UAF and several other institutions, traveling 36,970 nautical miles through the Pacific and Arctic oceans. UAF faculty, staff and students were involved in 35% of *Sikuliaq's* science days at sea. *Sikuliaq* and its crew started FY2025 by supporting a project to study how microbes in the Gulf of Alaska have adapted to persist in an environment with limited energy availability. The year concluded with work on a multidecadal project, the "Seward Line," for the Northern Gulf of Alaska Long-Term Ecological Research project. In between, the ship traveled from the Beaufort and Chukchi seas to the Pacific Northwest to the far reaches of the tropical Pacific Ocean, providing a safe and effective platform for a variety of research projects.

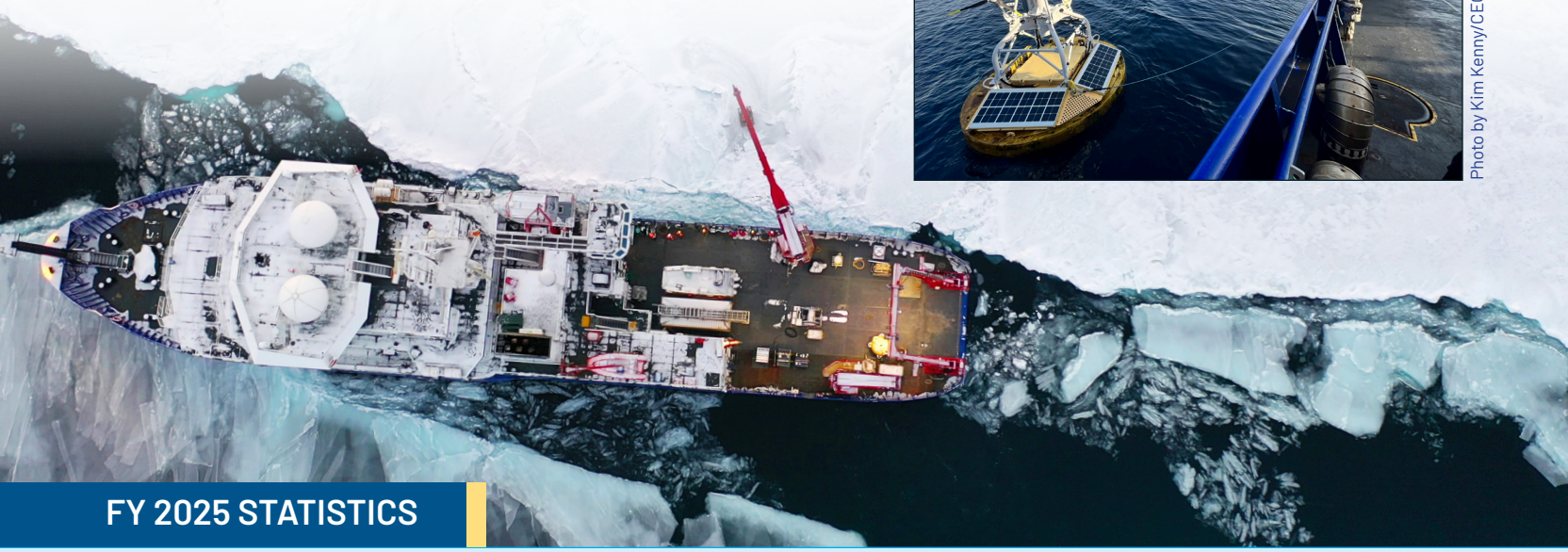


R/V *Sikuliaq* ship track from July 1, 2024 through June 30 2025.

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.

Photo by Kim Kenny/CEOAS, OSU.



FY 2025 STATISTICS

36,970 nautical miles traveled • **302** paid ship days • **209** days at sea • **48** days in the Arctic (as defined by the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984) • **4** days in the ice • **290** conductivity/temperature/depth casts • **25** trace metal CTD casts • **18** expendable bathythermograph casts • **226** net tows • **48** moorings deployed • **43** moorings recovered • **8** ROV dives • **12** gliders deployed • **10** gliders recovered • **104** corings collected • **28** buoys/floats deployed • **13** buoys/floats recovered • **3** towed cameras • **179** bottom samples collected • **1** sediment trap deployed • **8** magnetometers deployed • **6** seismic streamers deployed • **13** seismic air guns deployed