ABOUT
The research vessel Sikuliaq—pronounced See-KOO-lee-ak 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.
**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.

**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