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 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

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2022 RESEARCH CRUISES

In its sixth year of operation, the research vessel *Sikuliaq* supported 12 science cruises led by researchers from UAF and other institutions, sailing more than 29,000 nautical miles throughout the Pacific and Arctic Oceans. UAF faculty, staff and students were involved in 45% of *Sikuliaq* science days at sea.

Sikuliaq started the year hosting the Northern Gulf of Alaska Long-Term Ecological Research project and ended it sampling iron distributions in waters of the North Pacific Ocean. On a cruise led by UAF researchers, the ship traveled farther north than ever before (just shy of 80 degrees North latitude) and successfully navigated through heavy ice conditions.

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.

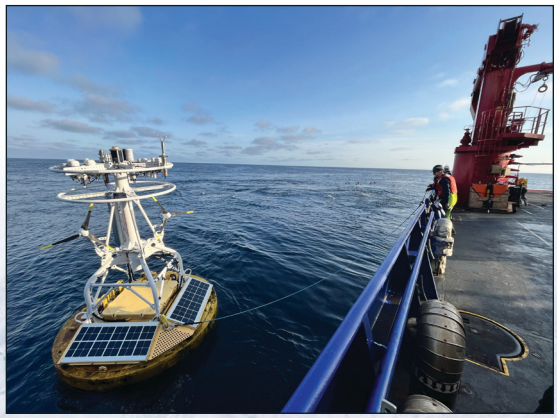

Photo by Kim Kenny/CEOAS, OSU.

FY 2022 STATISTICS

29,050 nautical miles traveled • **255** paid ship days • **217** days of science (not including mob/demob days)
97 UAF/CFOS principal investigator and participant days • **131** days in the Arctic • **65** days in the ice • **2** ice station days
265 conductivity/temperature/depth casts • **50** trace metal CTD casts • **16** expendable bathythermograph casts
38 moorings deployed • **36** moorings recovered • **6** gliders deployed • **5** gliders recovered • **100** buoys/floats deployed
7 towed cameras • **6** ocean-bottom seismometers deployed • **6** ocean-bottom seismometers recovered
29 bottom samples collected • **6** sediment traps deployed • **6** sediment traps recovered
24 multichannel seismic survey lined completed