



## COLLEGE OF FISHERIES AND OCEAN SCIENCES

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### ALASKA SIKULIAQ PROGRAM

#### Introduction

Since 2015, the State of Alaska has allocated \$500,000 annually to support research and operations performed aboard the research vessel *Sikuliaq*. In 2019, the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (CFOS) established the Alaska *Sikuliaq* Program (ASP) to formalize a peer-review proposal process to be used in awarding these funds to UAF-based researchers. By providing valuable funding for ship time, ASP enhances Alaska's marine research and education programs and promotes statewide collaboration in the use of R/V *Sikuliaq*.

#### Background

R/V *Sikuliaq* is owned by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and has been operated by CFOS since 2014 through a Cooperative Agreement with NSF. *Sikuliaq* is the only Global Class, ice-capable research vessel in the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) academic fleet. *Sikuliaq's* mission builds on the College's longstanding commitment to support fisheries and ocean sciences research and education to benefit the State of Alaska. ASP represents the commitment of the State of Alaska and CFOS in ensuring that *Sikuliaq* is well positioned to meet the research and education needs of Alaska and its coastal communities. ASP funding also provides an opportunity for Alaska Native researchers and students to participate in the use of this polar research vessel.

#### Proposal Review Process

The Alaska *Sikuliaq* Program Review Committee (ASP-RC), established by the CFOS Dean's Office, coordinates the proposal review process in awarding ASP funds. ASP-RC membership is comprised of the CFOS Marine Superintendent, the CFOS Associate Dean for Research and the CFOS *Sikuliaq* Science Liaison. At the discretion of ASP-RC, subject matter experts are recruited on an *ad hoc* basis to assist in reviewing and recommending proposals. The Review Committee is responsible for reviewing, scoring and ranking proposals based on criteria set forth in the ASP proposal application. The CFOS Dean in consultation with the ASP-RC makes the final funding decisions.

#### Proposal Submission

The annual call for ASP proposals for the following year is in February, with proposals due in March of that year. Application information and materials are available on both CFOS and *Sikuliaq* websites. Proposals for ASP funding must be in compliance with UNOLS rules and regulations.

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