

Support Vessels of Alaska, Inc. is proud to host Science Afloat.



SCIENCE AFLOAT

A TRUE EXPEDITION — WITH MEANING

Science Afloat invites everyday people to work alongside marine scientists and naturalists aboard active research vessels. From the icy waters of the Bering Sea to the rich coastal ecosystems of Southeast Alaska, your hands-on contributions drive crucial research and conservation efforts.

Along the way, you'll witness the untamed beauty of Alaska up close. Cruise past calving glaciers, untouched coastlines, and remote islands rarely seen by tourists. This is wilderness in its rawest form.

From the deck, you may spot breaching humpback whales, walrus hauled out on ice floes, pods of orcas slicing through open water, flocks of seabirds wheeling overhead, and, if you're lucky, the elusive polar bear patrolling the ice edge. Underwater, researchers may share insights about sharks and other deep-sea species rarely encountered in the North Pacific.



SMALL GROUP VOYAGES
3-15 DAY TRIPS
AGES 18+

This is more than an expedition – it's a rare chance to be part of something bigger: real science, real impact, and an unforgettable immersion in Alaska's wild and wondrous marine world.

Science Afloat | A Program by Support Vessels of Alaska, Inc.
Based in Homer, Alaska

THIS IS YOUR INVITATION TO
ADVENTURE WITH PURPOSE



AN EXPERIENCE FEW WILL EVER HAVE

- Live and work aboard a professional Alaskan research vessel
- Be part of a small, capable crew collecting field data that matters
- Explore glacier-fed fjords, rugged coastlines, and open ocean ecosystems
- Witness whales, seabirds, marine mammals – and help track changes in their world
- Gain knowledge, confidence, and purpose through real scientific engagement



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WHY THIS MATTERS

You won't just be along for the ride.

You'll be a key part of the reason this research can happen at all.

With federal funding for ocean science stretched thin, many vital research projects face a simple problem: the need for high-quality field data hasn't gone away, but the support to collect it has. By stepping aboard as a Scientific Crew Participant, you're not only helping gather that data firsthand, you're making the expedition possible in the first place.

Your support directly funds real science in one of the world's most remote, challenging, and fascinating marine environments: the waters of Alaska.

This is an experience few will ever have:

- Live and work aboard a professional Alaskan research vessel
- Be part of a small, capable crew collecting field data that matters
- Explore glacier-fed fjords, rugged coastlines, and open ocean ecosystems
- Witness whales, seabirds, and marine mammals, and help track changes in their world
- Gain knowledge, confidence, and purpose through real scientific engagement

This is not a cruise. This is not a tour. It's a true expedition – with meaning. You'll work side-by-side with scientists and crew, contribute to something far larger than yourself, and come home with the kind of story few people ever get to tell: "I helped make this research possible."

This is your invitation to an adventure with purpose.

WHO THIS IS FOR

Open to adults 18+ in good physical condition who are eager to contribute to real science. You don't need a technical background, just a willingness to learn and participate.

Ideal for marine science enthusiasts, purpose-driven travelers, students or early-career professionals, and conservation-minded individuals.

2026 EXPEDITIONS & VOYAGE DATES

We're busy planning next year's expeditions! Dates and destinations will be released soon. Stay tuned for an unforgettable season of exploration, research, and discovery.

EXPEDITION OVERVIEW

Home Port: Homer, Alaska (*departure ports vary*)

Duration: 3-15 Days

Group Size: 4-12 Participants

Expedition Fee: Starting at \$1,500/day per person (*supports science and vessel operations*)

All Meals Included



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EXPEDITION FEE: Starting at \$1,500/day

Includes:

- 3-15 days aboard a working Alaskan research vessel (*duration dependent upon expedition*)
- All onboard meals, lodging, and equipment use
- Full training and field participation as a Scientific Crew Participant
- Access to post-expedition data and findings
- Certificate of completion
- Direct funding of vital marine science

**Travel to/from departure port is not included.*

YOUR ROLE

You don't need to be a scientist – just curious.

As a Scientific Crew Participant, you may:

- Assist with collecting eDNA water samples
- Record environmental data (temperature, salinity, clarity)
- Log sightings of marine wildlife
- Assist in data handling for long-term ecological modeling
- Help log environmental data
- Contribute to research that may inform conservation strategies

Assignments will vary by expedition, depending on project objectives.

You're not a passenger. You're part of the team!

ABOARD THE RESEARCH VESSEL

- Bunk-style accommodations
- Hot meals prepared in the onboard galley
- Daily field operations and science briefings
- Scenic travel through glacial bays, fjords, and offshore zones
- Evenings spent stargazing, reviewing data, or swapping stories with the crew

RESERVE YOUR SPOT

This is more than an expedition – it's a commitment to science.

4-12 Scientific Crew Participant spots are available per voyage.

Contact Support Vessels of Alaska to request additional information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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