

RESEARCH VESSELS



The College of the Environment houses numerous research vessels in the School of Oceanography, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences and at the Friday Harbor Laboratories, ranging from ocean-roving ships to small boats capable of getting into shoreline nooks. Whether towing plankton nets in Lake Washington or in the Puget Sound, or charting temperature-salinity profiles in the South Pacific, these vessels offer scientists unparalleled access to both ocean and freshwater environments.

Credit: Sarah McCullagh

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Thomas G. Thompson

The University's flagship research vessel, the R/V Thomas G. Thompson is capable of sailing to nearly any ocean across the globe. Owned by the U.S. Navy and operated by the University of Washington, the vessel is open to scientists not only from the UW, but from other academic and research institutions across the nation. The Thompson is 274 feet long and can house up to 36 scientists along with 21 crew and 2 technicians.



Credit: Ryan Tabata

Rachel Carson

The R/V Rachel Carson arrived in late 2017 thanks to the exceptional generosity of donors Bill and Beatrice Booth. The Carson's endurance, ship handling and seakeeping capabilities, lab space, and increased load handling abilities mean UW and its partners can conduct research in a wider range of conditions and locations than on the Carson's predecessor, the R/V Clifford Barnes. With 13 berths, the Carson gives more students the opportunity to participate in overnight research on Washington's waters.



Credit: Sarah McCullagh

Kittiwake

Operating out of the Friday Harbor Laboratories, the R/V Kittiwake is a 42-foot research vessel that offers students and scientists access to the waters of the San Juan Islands, Puget Sound, Salish Sea and the outer coast. The Kittiwake can accommodate up to 12 researchers on her voyages throughout the region.



Credit: Matt Baker

Smaller Boats

Numerous smaller boats fall under the purview of College departments as well, allowing scientists and students the ability to travel to nearby field locations situated within local marine and fresh waters.

For more information, please contact the College of the Environment at coenv@uw.edu or visit environment.uw.edu

