

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

**U. S. Coast Guard**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Seattle, WA – The nation’s largest ice breaker, Coast Guard Cutter HEALY, will depart Seattle today for its Arctic West Summer-Winter 11 patrol. HEALY will be spending the summer in the arctic, conducting Arctic Ocean hydrographical research and mapping the Extended Continental Shelf (ECS).

HEALY will spend seven months underway in the Beaufort Sea and the Arctic Ocean for four separate science missions during its deployment. During the first mission, the crew of the HEALY will be working with researchers from NASA to collect and study water and ice samples, looking largely to learn more about the refractive properties of sunlight in the Arctic environment. The second mission will be the HEALY’s fourth year of collaboration with the Canadian Coast Guard Icebreaker LOUIS S ST-LAURENT to map the floor of the Arctic Ocean, helping to create a more complete picture of the topographical features of the Arctic seafloor. The third mission will include deploying several types of hydrographic moorings, as well as recovering hydrographic moorings deployed on earlier missions, and the fourth mission will be a biology-based mission, studying the behavior of copepods in the winter months.

HEALY, which was commissioned in 2000, is the nation’s newest and largest U.S. polar icebreaker. The cutter is 420 feet long and has extensive scientific capabilities. Homeported in Seattle, WA, the cutter has a permanent crew of 80; her primary mission is scientific support. In addition, as a Coast Guard Cutter, HEALY is capable of other missions such as search and rescue, ship escort, environmental protection, and the enforcement of laws and treaties in the Polar Regions.

For interviews, please contact Lieutenant (j.g.) Emily Kehrt at emily.ts.kehrt@uscg.mil

For more information about HEALY, please check:

<http://www.uscg.mil/pacarea/cgchealy>

<http://www.icefloe.net>

NASA ICESCAPE: <http://www.espo.nasa.gov/icescape/>

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