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## Icebreaking cutter docks in Kodiak Tour the boat Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m.

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DAILY MIRROR STAFF

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One of the world's most powerful non-nuclear icebreakers is available to the public to tour on Saturday.

The Coast Guard cutter Polar Sea arrived in Kodiak at the city pier Thursday. The ship, which is home-ported in Seattle, is about to embark on a two-month deployment in support of the Bering Sea Ecosystem Study.

The cruise is part of a six-year study of the Bering Sea ecosystem, and is supported by the National Science Foundation and the North Pacific Research Board.

The scientific focus of the cruise is to examine the impacts of changing ice conditions on food web structure in the Bering Sea. A team of 25 scientists will study, processes and collect data relating to food webs in the northern Bering Sea and try to learn how climate change and reduced ice cover will impact the Bering Sea ecosystem.

The study is conducted in an area where Arctic animals such as walruses, bearded seals and spectacled eiders use sea ice as a platform to take advantage of abundant seafood on the sea floor.

Changing ice conditions are likely to influence potential expansion of Bering Sea fisheries farther north as well as shrink Arctic habitat currently available on the shallow continental shelf.

Some data and samples to be collected include seafloor sediments, sea ice, and water samples and plankton. Other research includes studies of the distribution of bird and marine mammals, including the world's population of spectacled eiders.

The 75,000 horsepower ship is able to break up to 21 feet of ice or 6 feet of ice continuously at a speed of 3 knots.

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