



## Great Lakes Science Center Research Vessels

The USGS Great Lakes Science Center is dedicated to providing scientific information for restoring, enhancing, managing, and protecting living resources and their habitats in the Great Lakes region. The USGS Great Lakes Science Center is headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and has biological stations and research vessels located across the Great Lakes Basin.



**A  
R  
C  
T  
I  
C  
U  
S**

**Specifications**  
Length: 77 ft  
Beam: 26 ft  
Draft: 8.9 ft  
Cruising speed: 9.5 kts

### The Fleet

The Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC) operates five large research vessels, ranging in length from 70 to 107 ft, with one vessel stationed on each of the Great Lakes. The vessels are equipped with wet laboratories, gear for fish, limnological, and contaminant sampling, hydroacoustical fish-detection systems, and GPS navigation systems. The GLSC also operates a fleet of small (18-25 ft) research vessels, outfitted with GPS navigation systems and equipment for fishery and limnological research, and has a side-scan sonar and remotely operated vehicle.

community. Data on prey fish populations are especially important in evaluating management strategies such as predator stocking and harvest quotas. The *Arcticus* can be at sea thirty days with sleeping accommodations for eight people. The *Arcticus* has a full galley and two heads with showers.



**K  
A  
H  
O**

**Specifications**  
Length: 70 ft  
Beam: 18 ft  
Draft: 5.5 ft  
Cruising speed: 12 kts

### R/V Kaho

The R/V *Kaho*, based in Oswego, New York, was built in 2011 and currently operates on Lake Ontario. The new *Kaho* replaced the original R/V *Kaho* (built in 1961), which was the workhorse of the multiagency fisheries research fleet on Lake Ontario for more than three decades. The new *Kaho* participates in long-term data collections including population studies of prey fish and stocked lake trout, fish and environmental sampling for contaminants monitoring, and documentation of changes in food webs and fish distributions associated with invasive species. The *Kaho* can be at sea five days with sleeping accommodations for six people. The *Kaho* has a full galley and two heads, one with a shower.

### R/V Arcticus

The R/V *Arcticus*, based in Cheboygan, Michigan, was built in 2014 and currently operates on Lakes Huron and Michigan. The *Arcticus* is used primarily to carry out annual prey fish assessments, which have occurred since the 1970s. The annual assessments provide current information on the prey fish base to fisheries managers and are used to facilitate understanding of long term population trends in the fish





**K** Specifications  
**I** Length: 107 ft  
**Y** Beam: 27 ft  
**I** Draft: 10 ft  
 Cruising speed: 10 kts



**M** Specifications  
**U** Length: 70 ft  
**S** Beam: 18 ft  
**K** Draft: 5.5 ft  
**I** Cruising speed: 12 kts  
**E**



Old R/V Musky II  
Retired 2011



**S** Specifications  
**T** Length: 104 ft  
**U** Beam: 25 ft  
**R** Draft: 10 ft  
**G** Cruising speed: 11 kts  
**E**  
**O**  
**N**

**Great Lakes Science Center  
 Research Vessel Locations**



**R/V Kiyi**

The R/V *Kiyi*, based in Bayfield, Wisconsin, was built in 1999 and currently operates on Lake Superior. The *Kiyi* conducts fish stock assessment, fisheries research, and habitat monitoring, particularly in the Apostle Islands area of Lake Superior. The *Kiyi* uses trawls and gillnets to annually sample prey fish populations and to track progress in the sustainability of lake trout populations. The *Kiyi* is also used to collect fish and environmental samples for a wide spectrum of studies, including contaminant monitoring. The *Kiyi* can be at sea fourteen days with sleeping accommodations for nine people. The *Kiyi* has a full galley and three heads with showers.

**R/V Muskie**

The R/V *Muskie*, based in Sandusky, Ohio, was built in 2011 and currently operates on Lake Erie. The *Muskie* replaced the R/V *Musky II*, which was the primary USGS research platform on Lake Erie since 1960. The *Muskie* is used to assess annual recruitment of major prey and predator fish in western

Lake Erie as well as in lake trout restoration research in eastern Lake Erie. The *Muskie* also participates in studies designed to determine the impacts of environmental changes and invasive species on the Lake Erie ecosystem. The *Muskie* can be at sea five days with sleeping accommodations for six people. The *Muskie* has a full galley and two heads, one with a shower.

**R/V Sturgeon**

The R/V *Sturgeon*, based in Cheboygan, Michigan, was built in 1974 and currently operates on Lakes Huron and Michigan. The *Sturgeon* was transferred to the GLSC in the 1990s and was later retrofitted and commissioned in 2004. The *Sturgeon* supports fisheries related science, including deepwater studies, restoration ecology, and invasive species, to aid in management decisions for top fish predators. The *Sturgeon* is designed to function as an offshore work platform during the ice-free season. The *Sturgeon* can be at sea fifteen days with sleeping accommodations for ten people. The *Sturgeon* has a full galley and three heads, two with showers.



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