



TIĞLA

The *Tigla* was completed in April, 1987 at Moss Point Marine, Inc., a shipyard in Escatawpa, Mississippi, and commissioned in July, 1987 by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

TIGLAX

**Commissioned July, 1987
Homer, Alaska**



ALASKA MARITIME NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

is a spectacular blend of tundra, forest, cliffs, volcanoes, beaches, lakes, and streams. It extends from the Arctic Ocean to southeastern Alaska with most land bordering the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska. The 3.5 million acre refuge consists of more than 2,500 islands, islets, spires, rocks, and headlands including nearly all of Alaska's seabird nesting habitat. The flora is rich and diverse with plants from both North America and Asia. Most of the refuge is nationally designated wilderness.

Its lands are important to millions of nesting seabirds and thousands of marine mammals. The refuge protects all or parts of hundreds of islands for seals, marine birds, and other wildlife. The refuge provides crucial resting and feeding stops for migrating birds. More than 250 species have been observed in the Aleutian Islands and new species are added almost annually.

The cold, turbulent ocean waters of the Alaskan coast are highly productive providing abundant food for people (several countries), seabirds, and other marine life. Large beds of kelp in the shallow waters add to the diversity and richness of the nearshore ocean environment. About 40 million seabirds return each year to nest in the isolation of refuge lands and to feed their young from these rich waters.

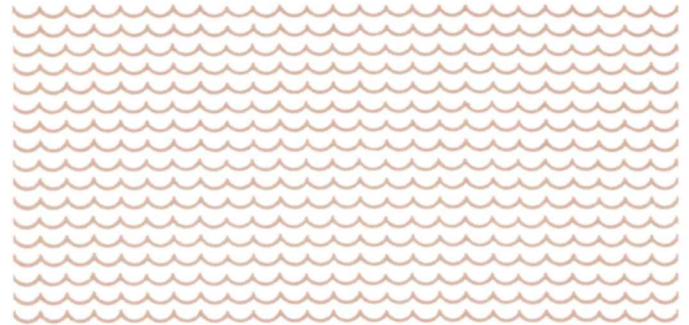
A SPECIAL MISSION

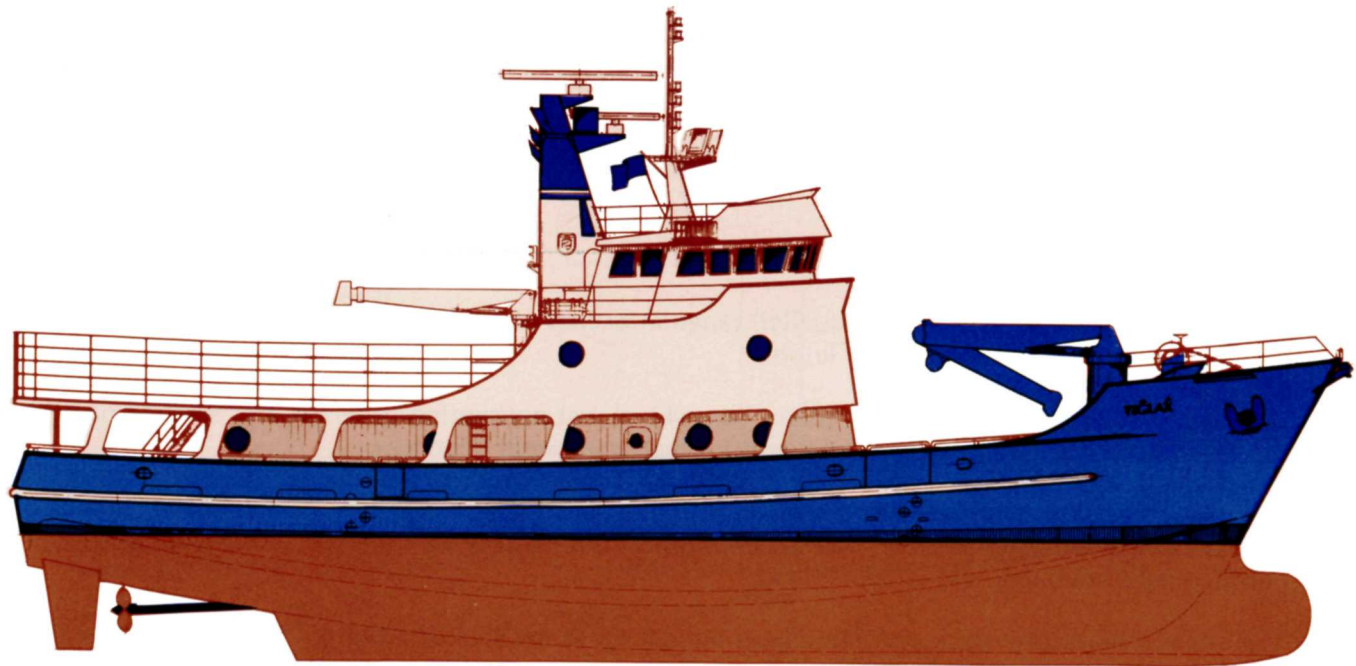


The motor vessel *Tiġlaġ* is essential to managing the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and collecting information on related marine resources. In support of management the *Tiġlaġ* is used mainly to transport Service personnel, equipment, and supplies between work sites throughout the refuge. These scientists monitor seabird colonies, work on re-establishing endangered species, survey habitats, identify archeological and historical resources, monitor human impacts on habitats and populations, and maintain remote field facilities.

The *Tiġlaġ* also serves as a seagoing research platform and living quarters for Service personnel who survey wildlife, transplant endangered species, monitor commercial activities in refuge waters, assess populations and distribution of forage fishes upon which seabirds feed, mark and track polar bears and walrus along the edge of the Arctic icepack, respond to oil-spill and other pollution incidents, and patrol refuge waters.

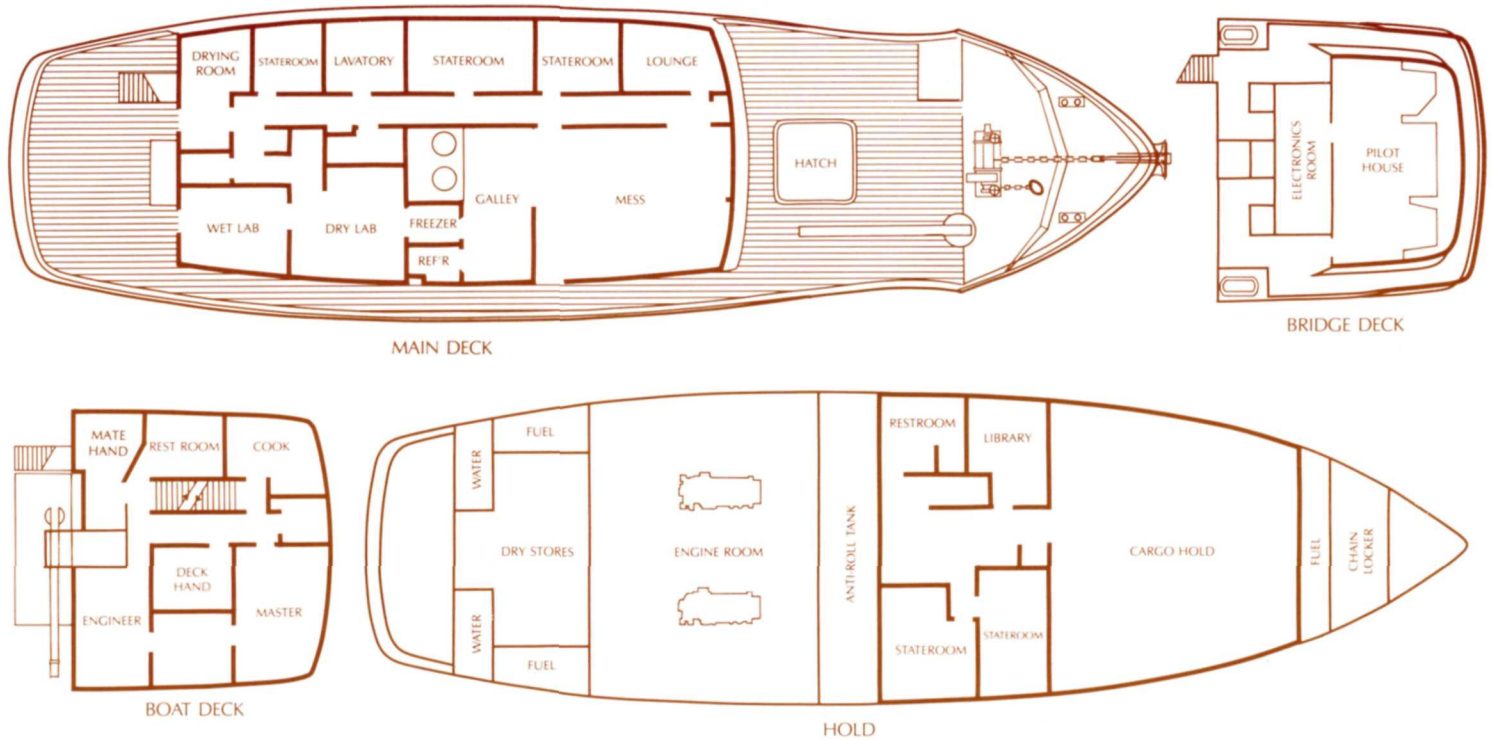
Sometimes scientists or personnel from other agencies including universities are invited to use the *Tiġlaġ* as a sea-going base to do research that contributes to understanding resources and their management. The *Tiġlaġ* typically spends 160-200 days at sea covering as many as 15,000 nautical miles in traveling from the home port of Homer to Attu Island at the extreme west end of the Aleutian Chain and north past St. Matthew Island to areas beyond St. Lawrence Island.





VESSEL CHARACTERISTICS AND CAPABILITIES

- Diesel-powered, twin-screw.
- 120 feet long, weight 250 tons (unladen).
- Crew of six persons.
- Accommodates up to 16 passengers or researchers; a fully-equipped galley and a combination lounge/mess area seating up to 22 persons.
- Eight outboard-powered inflatables up to 17 feet long.
- Fuel capacity: 37,000 gallons. Unrefuelled range in excess of 10,000 nautical miles cruising at 9 to 10 knots (maximum speed about 11.5 knots).
- Navigation equipment: twin radars, sonar, Loran C, global positioning system (GPS), satellite navigation receiver, radio direction finders (RDF), and navigational depth sounders.
- Weather information received in map form on a weather facsimile receiver (weatherfax) and in photographic form on a weather image receiver. Radio communications include VHF marine, aircraft, and government bands, single-sideband, and citizens band.
- The vessel's helicopter deck accommodates aircraft up to the size of a Bell Jet Ranger. JP-5 fuel (5,300 gallons) carried to support the helicopter.
- Over 4,800 cubic feet of hold space available for cargo. A crane forward provides lifting power for loading and unloading supplies and equipment.



The *Tiġlaħ* is outfitted to conduct scientific work at sea. Wet and dry laboratories are provided for examining and preparing specimens which can be stored in special freezers. Depth sounders, water sampling devices, sonar, salinity and dissolved oxygen sensors, sampling nets, and data processing equipment are available to collect data on the physical properties and inhabitants of the sea.

THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

The National Wildlife Refuge System is a vast collection of lands and waters. It was begun in 1903 when President Theodore Roosevelt established tiny Pelican Island refuge in Florida. There are now more than 400 National Wildlife Refuges and they contain habitat unequalled in quality and beauty. Of the 88 million acres of lands and inland waters within the National Wildlife Refuge System about 77 million acres (about five-sixths) is in Alaska. This count does not include the adjacent nearshore ocean waters (millions of acres) frequented by wildlife.

In Alaska most of the 16 refuges were established by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980. The pre-eminent purpose of these refuges is to conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity. Secondary purposes include fulfilling international treaty obligations relating to migratory birds and marine mammals, providing opportunity for subsistence uses, and ensuring adequate supplies of clean water.

Although set aside primarily to protect habitat for wildlife these refuges are for people too. Millions of people visit these refuges each year. They come to see wildlife in natural settings and to compare what they see with the quality of their own environment. Recreational uses that do not conflict with the purpose for which a refuge was established are allowed on these lands.

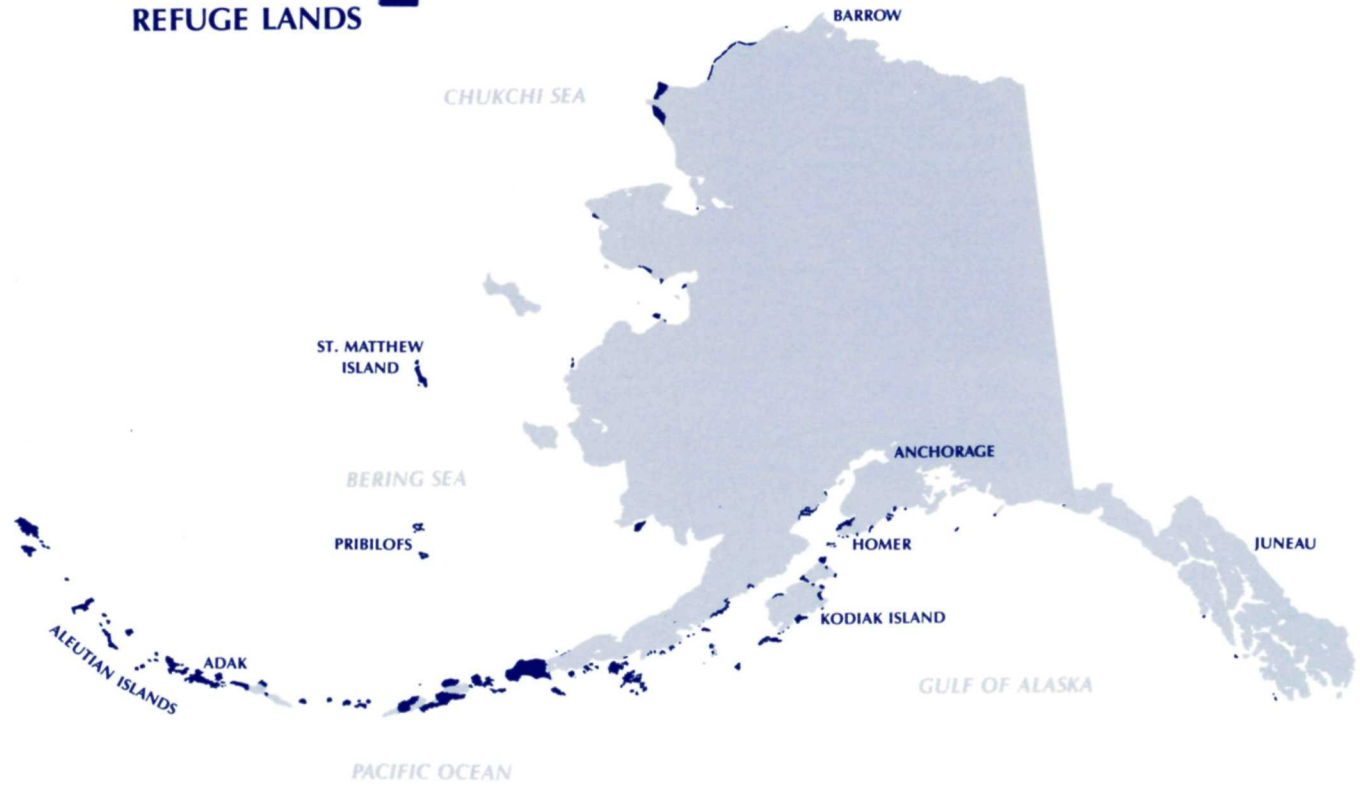


FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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**ALASKA MARITIME
REFUGE LANDS**



TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA



Alaska's land and water are a vast but delicate habitat. Its protection is essential to wildlife that are nationally and internationally important. Be careful your actions do not alter the character of the landscape or disturb the biological processes.

