

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U. S. Coast Guard

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SEATTLE, WA – The nation’s largest ice breaker, Coast Guard Cutter HEALY, will arrive in home port Seattle, WA on 1 October, 2009, completing her Arctic West Summer 2009 (AWS09) mission. For the last three months, HEALY has been underway in the Arctic Ocean. The AWS09 mission included studying Arctic Ocean hydrography, as well as continuing work on the Joint US-Canadian Arctic Extended Continental Shelf Mission, which included several weeks of collaboration with the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker *Louis S. St-Laurent*. HEALY’s return to Seattle signals the start of her drydock maintenance period.

HEALY spent the summer underway in the Beaufort Sea and the Arctic Ocean for the final two components of its AWS09 mission. The first component included deploying several types of hydrographic moorings, as well as recovering hydrographic moorings deployed on earlier missions. During the second component of the mission, HEALY participated in a joint effort with the Canadian Coast Guard Cutter *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 Chief Scientist for the first segment of the trip was Dr. Robert Pickart of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. Dr. Larry Mayer, of the University of New Hampshire, was the Chief Scientist for the second segment.

HEALY, which was commissioned in 2000, is the nation’s newest and largest of the nation’s three polar icebreakers. 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 ENS Emily Kehrt at emily.ts.kehrt@uscg.mil
Press packages, with pictures from AWS09 and information about HEALY, are available.

For more information about HEALY, please check:

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

<http://www.icefloe.net>

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