
Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

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Presentation ~ U.S. in the Arctic

- Background & U.S. Arctic Definition
- U.S. Arctic Policy & National Strategy for the Arctic Region
  - Council on Foreign Relations Arctic Imperatives Report
- U.S. Challenges in the Maritime Arctic
The Arctic ~ Mostly Ocean
Arctic Boundary as defined by the Arctic Research and Policy Act (ARPA)

All United States and foreign territory north of the Arctic Circle and all United States territory north and west of the boundary formed by the Porcupine, Yukon, and Kuskokwim Rivers; all contiguous seas, including the Arctic Ocean and the Beaufort, Bering and Chukchi Seas; and the Aleutian chain.¹

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Oil and Gas
U.S. Arctic Policy & Strategies

- U.S. Arctic Policy ~ NSPD-66/HSPD-25 (9 Jan 2009) (POTUS)
  - Navy Arctic Roadmap (Oct 2009)
  - NOAA Arctic Vision & Strategy (Feb 2011)
  - Managing for the Future in a Rapidly Changing Arctic ~ Interagency (DOI Led) (Mar 2013)
- National Strategy for the Arctic Region (May 2013) (POTUS)
  - U.S. Coast Guard Arctic Strategy (May 2013)
  - DOD Arctic Strategy (Nov 2013)
- Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for the Arctic Region (Jan 2014) (NSC White House)
  - U.S. Navy Arctic Roadmap 2014-2030 (Feb 2014)
  - NOAA’s Arctic Action Plan (Apr 2014)
(A) National Security & Homeland Security Needs
(B) Protect the Environment & Conserve Biological Resources
(C) Natural Resource Management & Economic Development ~ Environmentally Sustainable
(D) Strengthen Cooperation ~ 8 Arctic States
(E) Involve Indigenous Communities in Decision Making
(F) Enhance Scientific Monitoring & Research

~ Themes: International Science Cooperation; Arctic Marine Transportation; Economic Issues & Energy; Resources & Assets
National Strategy for the Arctic Region ~
May 2013 ~ President Obama
(For Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Kuruna, Sweden)

• Advance National Security Interests
• Pursue Responsible Arctic Region Stewardship
• Strengthen International Cooperation

Approaches:
Safeguard Peace & Stability + Decisions Based on Best Available Information + Pursue Innovative Arrangements + Consult & Coordinate with Alaska Natives
Arctic Council ~ Intergovernmental Forum
AMSA Lead Countries for PAME ~ Canada, Finland & USA
AMSA Focus ~ Marine Safety & Marine Environmental Protection
13 Major Workshops & 14 Town Hall Meetings

Key Challenge ~ Many Non-Arctic Stakeholders
Table of Contents

- Executive Summary with Recommendations
- Arctic Marine Geography
  Climate & Sea Ice
- History
- Governance
- Current Use/Database
- Scenarios to 2020 & 2050
- Human Dimensions
- Environmental Impacts
- Infrastructure
Enhancing Arctic Marine Safety

Protecting Arctic People and the Environment

Building the Arctic Marine Infrastructure

AMSA RECOMMENDATIONS (17) ~ THEMES
Arctic Imperatives
Reinforcing U.S. Strategy on America’s Fourth Coast

- **CFR Motivation** ~ End of the U.S. Arctic Council Chairmanship (May 2017) and a new Administration
- **Co-Chairs:** ADM Thad Allen, Former USCG Commandant & Christine Todd Whitman, Former New Jersey Governor & EPA Administrator
- **18 Additional TF Members & 8 Observers**
- **Areas covered:** Arctic region & change + U.S. Policy + U.S. National Security + Economic, Energy & Environmental Interests + Alaska & Alaska Natives + Additional & Dissenting Views
- **“The U.S. needs to bolster its infrastructure and assets in the Arctic to safeguard its strategic interests, defend its national borders, protect the environment, and maintain its scientific and technological leadership.”**
Council on Foreign Relations Task Force Report: *Main Goals* for the United States in the Arctic:

- Securing Rights to 386,000 sq. miles (1 million sq. km) of Subsea Resources on the Extended Continental Shelf by *Ratifying UNCLOS*.
- Funding up to 6 *Icebreakers* Operated by the USCG ~ Having at Least Three Operational in the Polar Regions at Any one Time.
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U.S. Coast Guard Polar Icebreaker

- Instrument of National Policy in the Arctic & Antarctic ~ Unique National Asset
- U.S. Sovereign & Naval Presence in All Polar Maritime Regions
- Independent, Highly Mobile USCG Base with High Endurance

- Conducts USCG Multi-missions in U.S. Territorial Sea & EEZ ~ Arctic & Antarctic Research ~ Incident Response ~ Arctic Ocean SAR/Safety ~ Command & Control
- U.S. Polar Capable Ships in Federal Fleet Since 1867 Alaska Purchase (USRCS)
- Commercial Arctic Marine Transportation ~ Not a Convoy Icebreaker
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- Deepening Work with All Arctic States, including Russia, on Confidence Building & Cooperative Security Measures through the Arctic Council.
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- Deepening Work with All Arctic States, including Russia, on *Confidence Building & Cooperative Security Measures* through the Arctic Council.
- Supporting Sustainable Development for the *People of the Arctic* & Further Consulting with Alaska Natives to Improve Their Well-Being.
- Sustaining *Robust Research Funding* to Understand the Ongoing Profound Changes in the Region & Their Impact on the Globe.
Key CFR Task Force Recommendations:

- Senate ratify UNCLOS.
- Arctic Council ~ U.S. robust diplomacy.
- Maintain Arctic Executive Steering Committee (in the White House).
- Designate an Arctic Ambassador.
- 6 icebreakers to support Arctic & Antarctic national interests.
- Higher priority ~ US.-Canada Beaufort Sea border dispute.***
- Consider ~ international Joint SAR operations center.
- Extend ~ Central Arctic Ocean moratorium on commercial fishing.
- Options to maintain long-viability of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System.
- Apply highest environmental standards for resource extraction.
- Federal & State ~ safeguard subsistence hunting, fishing & gathering.
Canada vs US

Beaufort Sea

USA

Canada

Prudhoe Bay

Barrow

Wiseman

Coldfoot

Mackenzie Bay
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Key CFR Task Force Recommendations (continued):

- Improve access to safe drinking water & sanitation throughout Alaska.
- DHS and HHS ~ coordinate & fund community relocation where warranted.
- Improve Arctic infrastructure:
  -- Series of safe harbor & SAR stations along the coast.
  -- Locations for a deepwater port.
  -- Develop a trans-Arctic SAR communications network.
  -- Position more geostationary satellites over the Arctic for telecom & environmental monitoring.

www.cfr.org/ArcticImperatives
Amendments to IMO Conventions: SOLAS, MARPOL & STCW
Commercial Carriers & Passenger Ships (500 tons or more)

I. SOLAS Amendments:
• Polar Ship’s Structural & Equipment Standards (Ice Classes: PC1/ PC7)
  • Marine Safety and Lifesaving Equipment
• Training & Experience of Polar Mariners (STCW Rules ~ July 2018)
  • Polar Ship Certificate (Flag State ~ Ship Classes A,B,C)
  • Polar Water Operations Manual (Ship Specific)

II. Environmental Rules ~ MARPOL Annexes:
• Annex I ~ Oil & Oily Mixtures (No Discharge)
• Annex II ~ Noxious Liquid Substances (No Discharge)
  • Annex IV ~ Sewage
• Annex V ~ Food Waste/Garbage
Maritime Traffic
1 June to 30 November 2013
Alaska Marine Exchange
Maritime Traffic
1 Jan to 31 May 2013
Alaska Marine Exchange
Challenges for the U.S. Maritime Arctic & Beyond

- Maintain Arctic Underwater Naval Capacities
  - Addressing the Polar Icebreaker Fleet
  - Increased Hydrography & Charting
  - Implementation of the IMO Polar Code
- Enhanced Domain Awareness & Robust Arctic Observing System
- Improved SAR & Environmental Response ~ Offshore Development & Increased Marine Traffic
  - Continued Research & Exploration
  - Alaskan Arctic Deepwater Port
Thank You & Questions
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