

Arctic Shipping

Present and Future Perspectives in a Comparative light

by

Willy Østreng

Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research

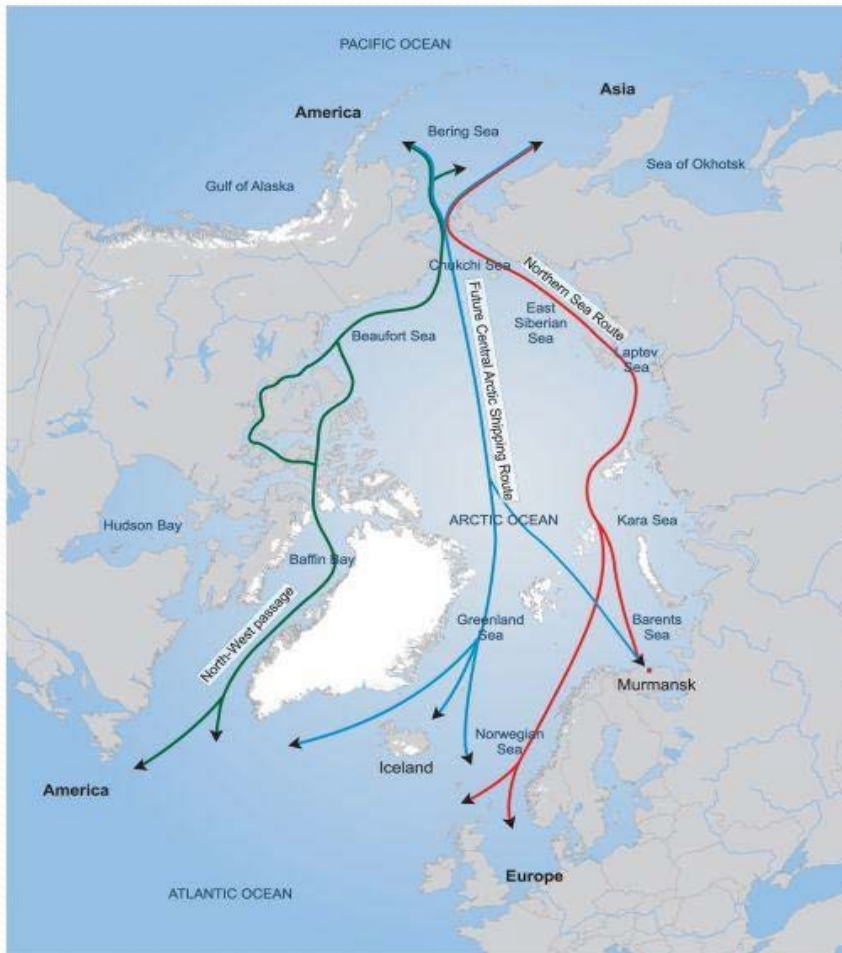
Workshop on «Climate Change in the Arctic and Northern Eurasia and their Regional and Global implications,
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Operational conditions for shipping in Arctic Waters

Two interactive and partly interdependent categories:

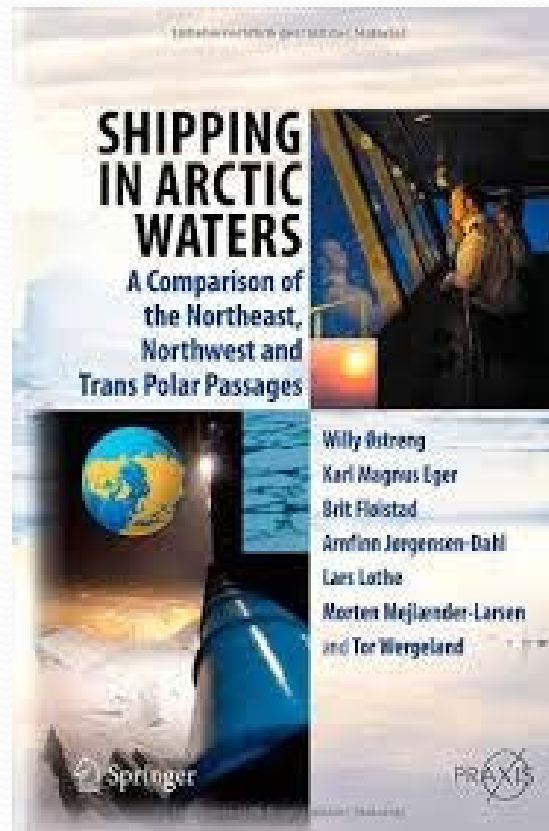
- 1. ***Natural conditions*** (objective and in principle inflexible)
 - 2. ***Societal conditions*** (interest-driven, subjective and in principle flexible)
 - Cultural/Human
 - Infrastructural
 - Legal (governance)
- } Political regime

Arctic Transportation Passages

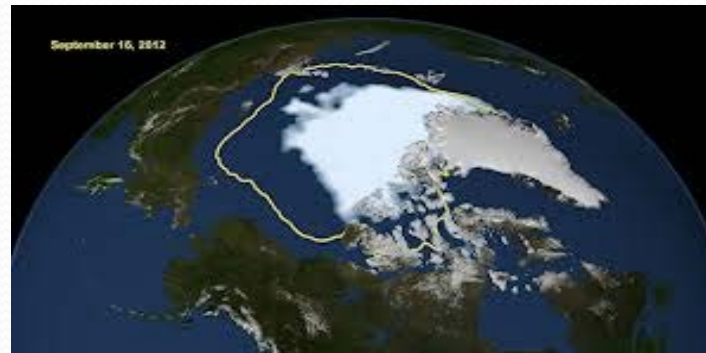
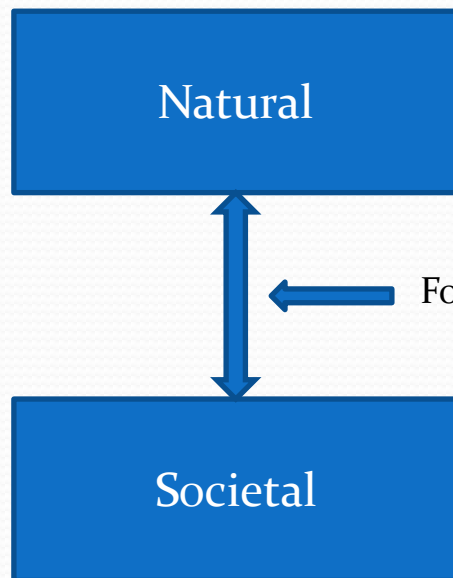


- *The alternatives:*
- **The Northeast Passage (NEP)** (two-state route, presently in use)
 - The Northern Sea Route
- **The Northwest Passage (NWP)** (three-state route, presently in use)
- **The Transpolar Passage (TPP)** (international waters: potential future use)

In this book all relevant natural and societal conditions to shipping in Arctic waters were addressed



In this presentation the focus is scaled down to one interactive example relating to Eurasia

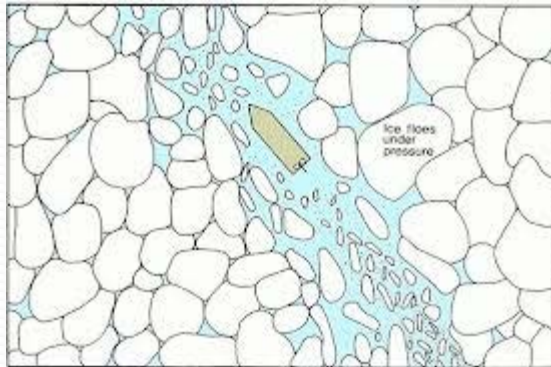


NWP: Sea bed pingoes

- **Cultural:** NWP/NEP affects coastal communities
- **Infrastructure:** NEP far superior to the two others
- **Legal:** NSR/NWP declared internal waters. TPP located in the High Seas

Interaction of Natural and Societal Conditions forging Passage Characteristics and legal positions

- No fixed sailing channels
- The corridor feature of the NEP/NSR



The manifest NSR Dispute

- *Two positions:*
 - ❖ **Russian position:** The NSR is an internal Russian transportation route sorting under full coastal state jurisdiction and sovereignty.
 - ❖ **USA position:** The NSR is an international strait subjected to transit passage as defined in UNCLOS.

The extended corridor definition of the NSR

- The routes of the NSR:
 - ❖ Coastal route
 - ❖ Marine route
 - ❖ High-latitude route
 - ❖ Near the Pole Route
- The claimed north-south extension of the NSR



Two reactions to infringements of the High Seas status of the Arctic Ocean

- *Presidential Directive on US National Security in the Arctic of 9 January 2009:*

«Freedom of navigation is top national priority» and important to support the United States «..ability to exercise these rights throughout the world, including through strategic straits.»

Here US Arctic policy is defined in the context of her global strategic interests

- *Communication from the EU Commission to the European Parliament and the Council of 20 November 2008:*

«No country or groups of countries have sovereignty over the North Pole or the Arctic Ocean around it.»

Here EU Arctic policy is that the freedom of navigation and the freedom of the High Seas shall rule the waters beyond territorial seas.

The (possible) extended corridor dispute of the NSR

- *Two positions:*
 - The extended corridor feature of the NSR may result in coastal state regulations executed to parts of the High Seas of the Arctic Ocean.
 - The High Seas status of the Arctic Ocean is secured by UNCLOS and is not to be tampered with adjusting to regional ocean peculiarities.

Some Concluding Remarks: Regional and Global Implications

- ❖ *Two general observations (red) and two empirical suggestions (green):*
 - ❖ *Societal obstacles, involving subjective politics, national interests, competition and prestige, may be harder to resolve, than natural obstacles that can be overcome by the application of adequate technology. INSROP.*
 - ❖ *Interdependent operational conditions across the natural/societal divide reinforce each other, making resolution by political means more complicated and demanding.*
 - ❖ *If the legal dispute(s) over the NSR do not find international resolution, Russia may risk to develop her «Arctic Zone» on her own means and without the contributions of foreign stakeholders.*
 - ❖ *If the legal dispute(s) over the NSR find international resolution, the development of the «Russian Arctic Zone» may get some needed extra impetus and the NEP may form an integral leg of a new hemispheric transportation system (see map).*
- The possibility of a new long-term Eurasian hemispheric transportation system



Thank you for your kind attention!

The Future?

