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Kingdom of Denmark
Arctic Ocean Initiatives

• Illulissat Declaration - cooperation and dialogue
• The continental shelf
• Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean
• Arctic Council – Arctic Marine Cooperation
• New Sea Routes and IMO’s polar code
Illulissat Declaration - cooperation and dialogue

A precondition for other activities and cooperation

- Adopted in 2008 in Ilulissat, Greenland by the Arctic Coastal states (Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, Norway, USA, Russian Federation)

- The Declaration reflects a strong commitment from the Arctic Coastal States to solving disputes in an orderly fashion and through the existing international law framework.

- It further reflects a commitment to take a responsible stewardship role in the management of the Arctic Ocean, and to take steps to ensure the protection and preservation of the fragile marine environment of the Arctic Ocean.

- The Declaration has been instrumental as a basis for cooperation among Arctic States - and it is as valid today as in 2008.

- That’s why Denmark and Greenland have invited the Arctic States to come back to Ilulissat [in May] to mark the 10-year anniversary of the Ilulissat Declaration to demonstrate continued commitment to Arctic cooperation.
The Continental shelf

• 5 territorial claims from the Kingdom of Denmark

• Overlapping claims around the North Pole

• Ilulissat declaration ensures peaceful negotiations

• Positive experience from Norway-Russia and Canada-Denmark borders
Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean

• Climate change → increased straddling fish stocks
• Potential fisheries in the CAO → need to prevent unregulated fisheries
• Oslo Declaration, 2015 – Arctic coastal states
• December 2017 – Agreement concluded
  • Parties:

  ![List of countries participating in the fisheries agreement]

  • Content: Stepwise approach towards a RFMO + Joint scientific program
  • Duration: 16 years + possibility for extension
• Primary forum for discussing Arctic issues – consensus.
  • 6 permanent working groups + 2 current Taskforces + Expert Groups
  • Strategic Plan under Finish chairmanship – to be adopted in 2019

• Promoting cooperation among the Arctic States and in particular on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection.

• Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation
  • Ongoing process under the Arctic Council to strengthen Arctic marine cooperation
  • Mandate to consider future needs for strengthened cooperation on Arctic marine areas
New sea Routes

- 40% shorter route from Asia to Europe
- Accessibility improves slowly
- Politically stable area
- Higher risks, costs
- Limited experience
- Unpredictable delivery critical
IMO Polar Code

• Globally binding instrument to ensure maritime safety and environmental protection for ships operating in polar waters
• Has entered into force in 2017-2018
• Ships will need to comply at next survey (2020 at the latest)
• Ongoing discussion about next phase – e.g. fishing vessels?
THANK YOU