

A large, flat-topped iceberg floats in the ocean. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The water is a deep teal color. The iceberg has a jagged, uneven top surface.

Climate Change in Alaska: A New Maritime Frontier

2009 AK Forum on the Environment

**Presented by RADM Gene Brooks
Commander, USCG District Seventeen**

Agenda

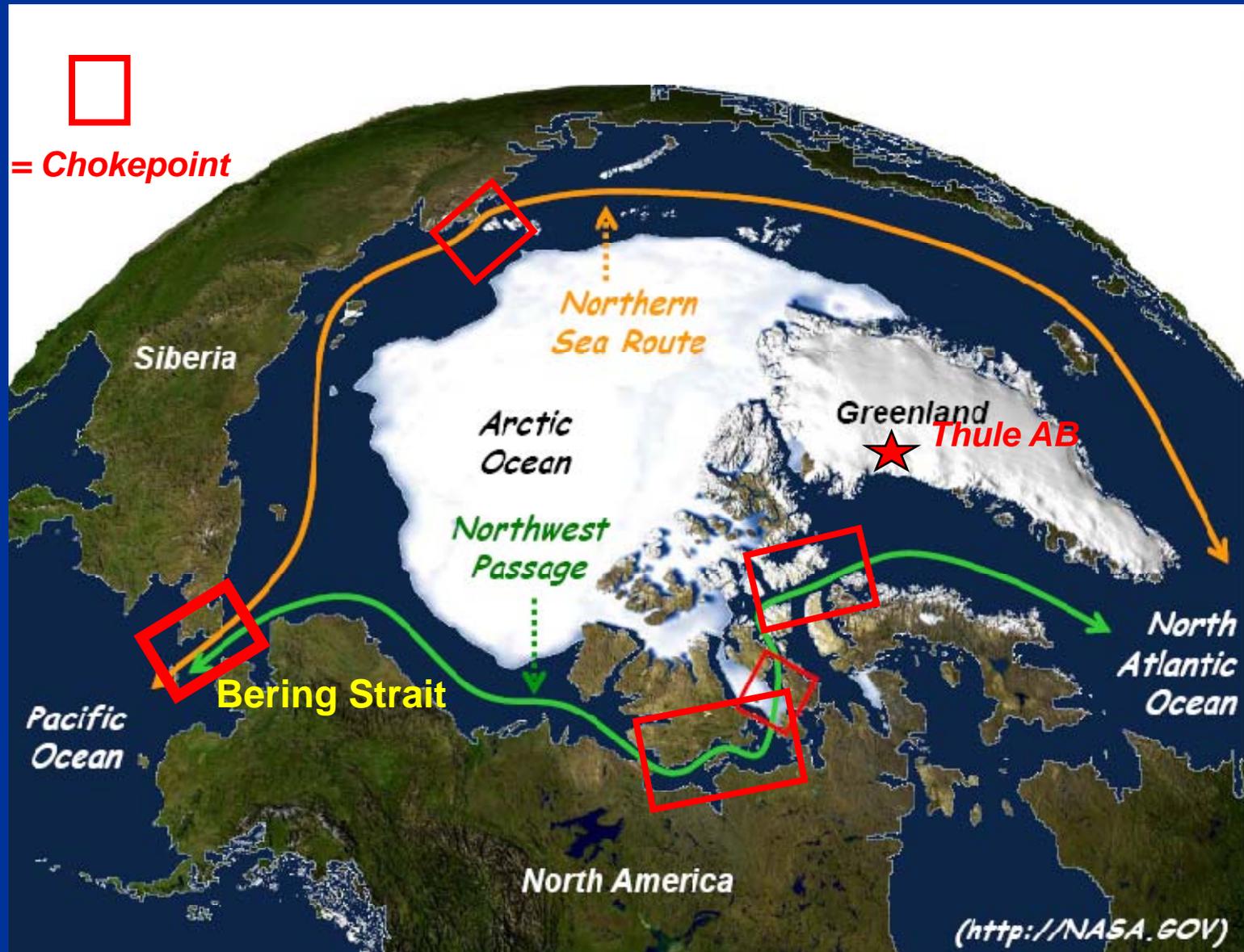
- **The Changing Arctic Frontier**
- **Strategic Challenges & Drivers**
- **2008/2009 Operations**
- **The Arctic Conundrum**



Summer Sea Ice Retreat



Future Maritime Arctic Shipping Routes



Maritime Traffic Management

An aerial photograph of a coastal region, likely the Mediterranean Sea, showing a large bay and a river delta. The water is a deep blue, while the land is a mix of green and brown. The text is overlaid on the image.

- **Establishing ship routing measures**

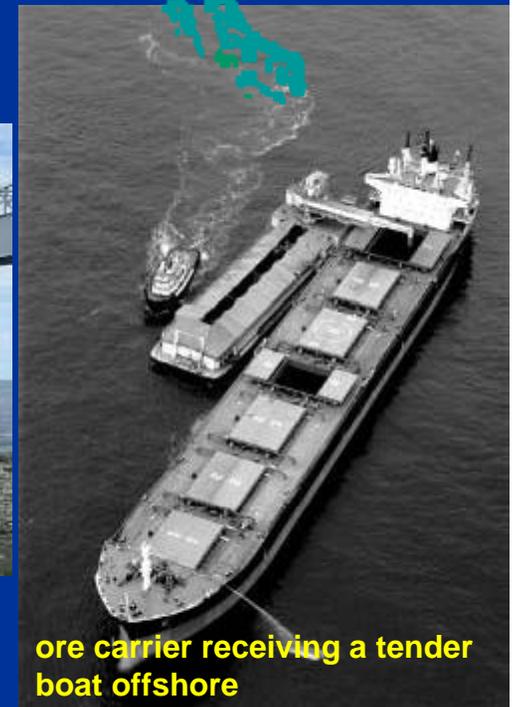
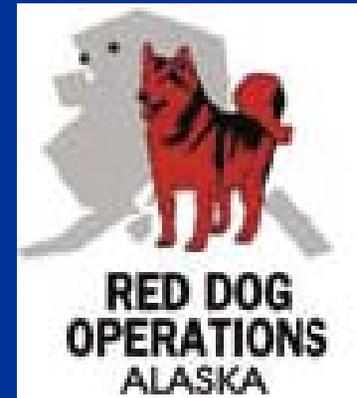
- Lengthy process, ultimately approved by International Maritime Organization

Expanding Resource Development

- Increased offshore development:
 - Oil companies bid nearly \$2.7 billion for Chukchi Sea rights.
 - \$1.3 billion plan to tap Point Thomson on North Slope
- Legal issues pending



Seasonal Ore Operations

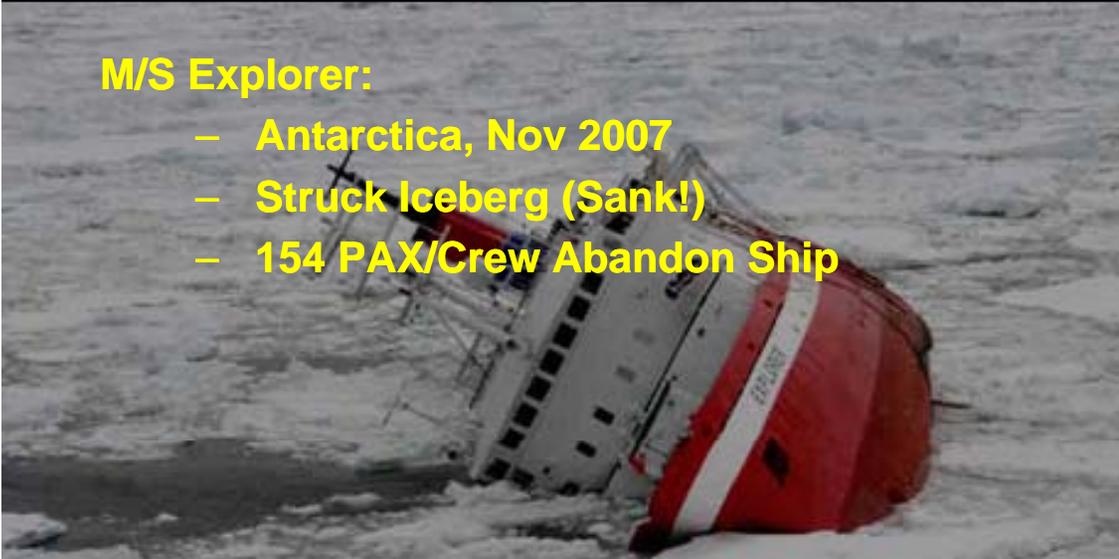


Growing Eco-Tourism



M/S Explorer:

- Antarctica, Nov 2007
- Struck Iceberg (Sank!)
- 154 PAX/Crew Abandon Ship



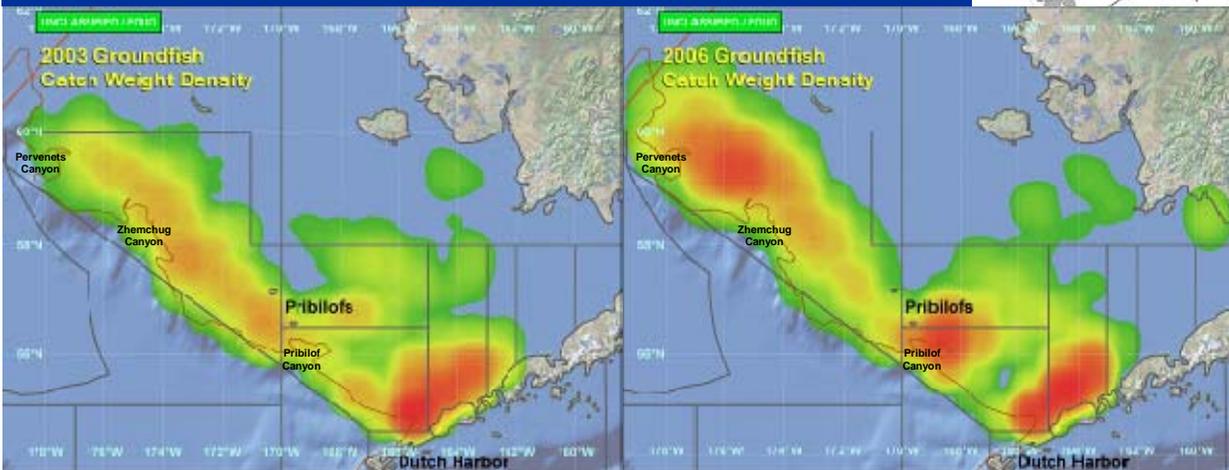
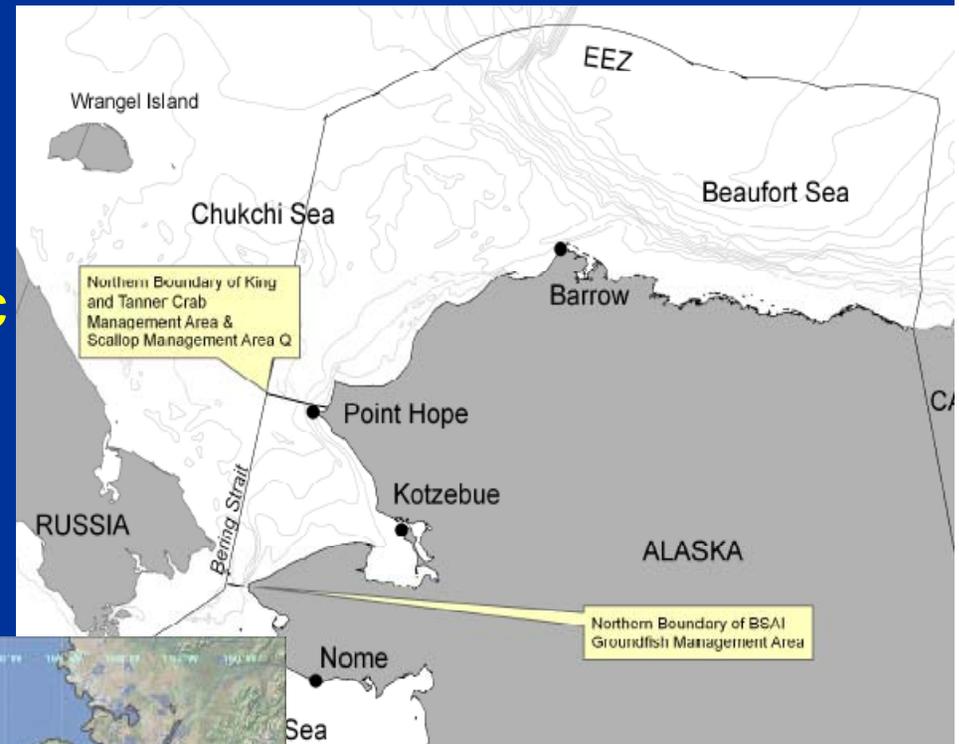
Ice Station Borneo



C/S Bremen making port call in Barrow, AK

Species Movement North

- Stocks are moving North
- No commercial fishing in Arctic
 - Awaiting NPFMC decision
 - Potential large closed area enforcement challenges



**NPFMC – North Pacific
Fishery
Management
Council**



**Homeland
Security**



Threatened and Endangered Species

- Marine Mammal Protection Act - prohibits harassment, injuring, or killing
- Most populations are healthy.
- Legal issues pending in 9th Circuit Court of Appeals



Polar Bear



Bowhead whale



Seals



Walrus



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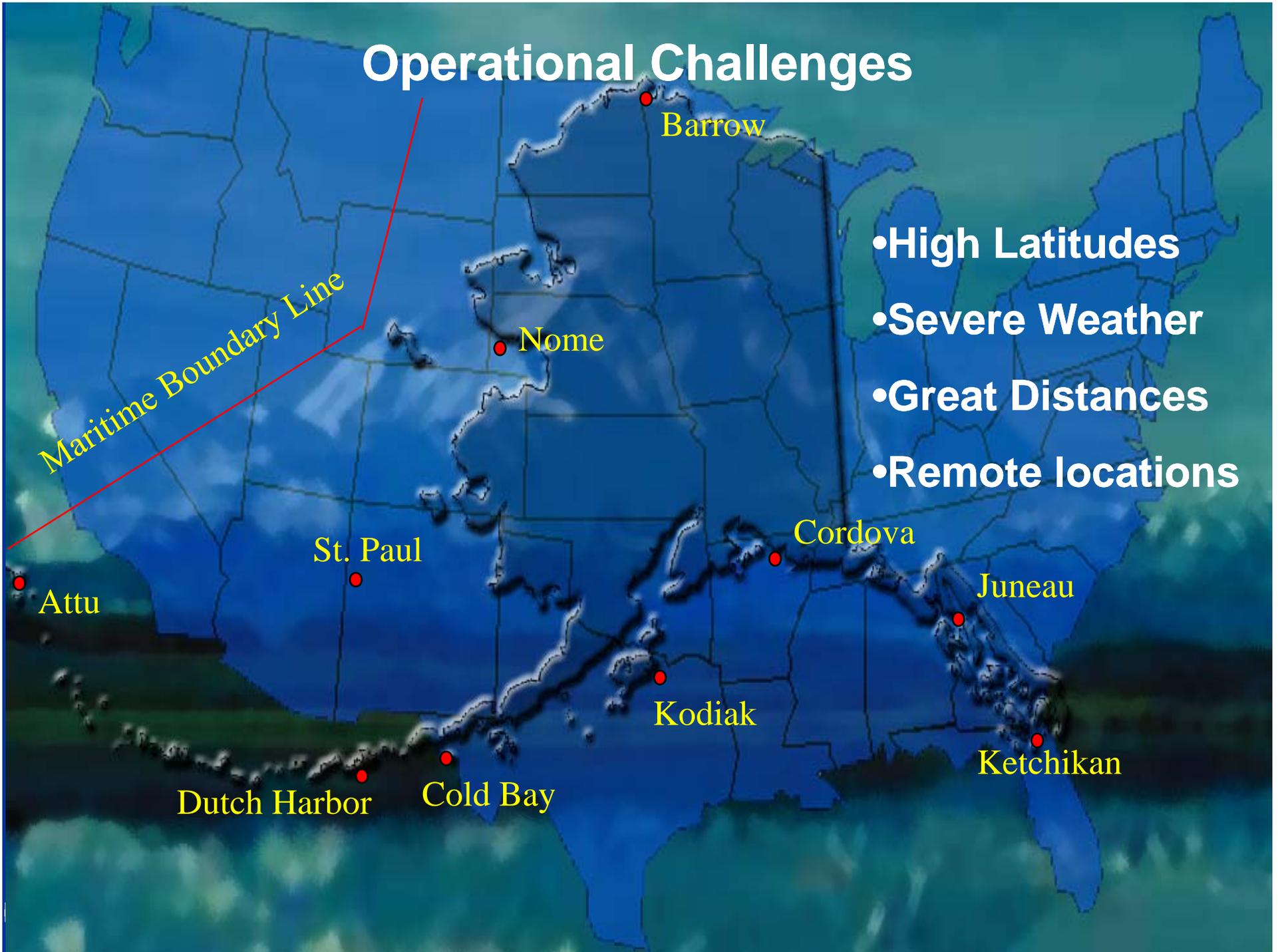
AK Native & Tribal Engagement

- AK has 229 of the 562 Federally Recognized Native Tribes
- EO 13175 – Mandates Tribal Consultation
- 13 Native Regional & 200 Village Corporations
- Protection of subsistence lifestyle - AK Eskimo Whaling Commission, Eskimo Walrus Commission, Nanuk Commission



Operational Challenges

- High Latitudes
- Severe Weather
- Great Distances
- Remote locations



The CG has 143 years of Arctic Service



USRC *Bear*

- Ice breaking
- Ice patrol
- Loran
- Marine mammal protection
- Bering Sea Patrols
- World War II
- Overland Expedition
- Exploration
- Marine Safety



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Arctic Changes Drive Coast Guard Mission Expansion North



All Coast Guard missions in Southern Alaska must be expanded to Northern Alaska

Arctic Ops Summer '08

- Arctic Domain Awareness
- Cutter Operations
- Tailored Force Package Deployment
- Community Engagement
- SAR Exercise



Salliq: Lessons Learned

- **Infrastructure Insufficient**
- **Lack of effective communication**
- **Small boats/short range helos ineffective**
- **Require icebreakers or ice hardened vessels with embarked helos**
- **Input from indigenous people imperative**



Pending Operations

- CGC Polar Sea in Bering/Chukchi Sea
- Cutter Arctic deployments
- ADA flights
- Waterways Analysis



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The Arctic Conundrum



Development

Environment

People



US Arctic Policy Goals

- Meet national & homeland security needs
- Protect the Arctic environment & conserve it's biological resources
- Ensure that natural resource mgmt & economic development in the region is environmentally sustainable
- Strengthen institutions for coop among the 8 Arctic nations
- Involve indigenous communities in decisions that affect them
- Enhance scientific monitoring and research



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Questions?

