

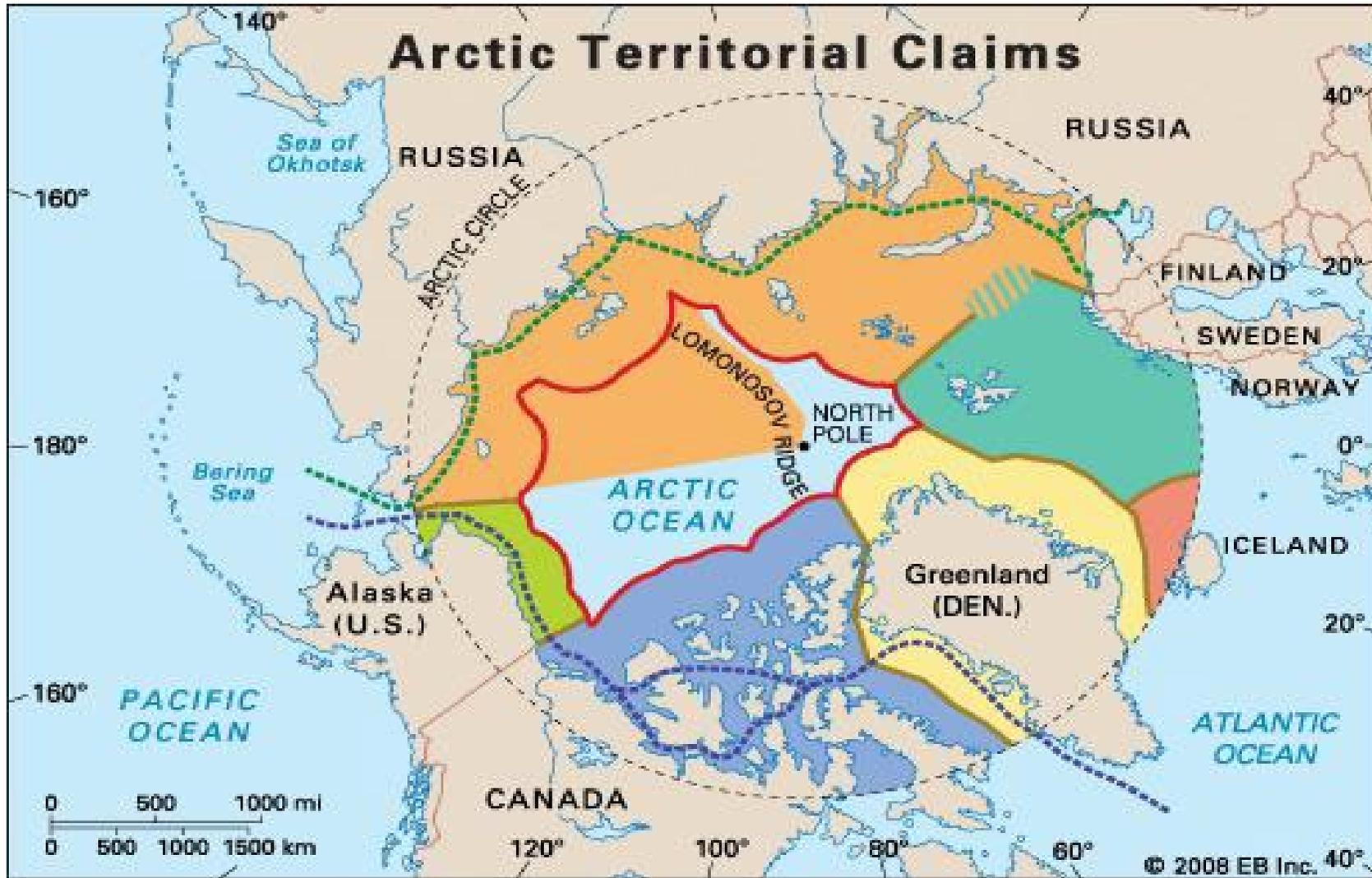
# The Central Arctic Ocean (CAO) Fisheries Agreement: its Challenges and Roles in the Polar Ocean Governance

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# Arctic Territorial Claims

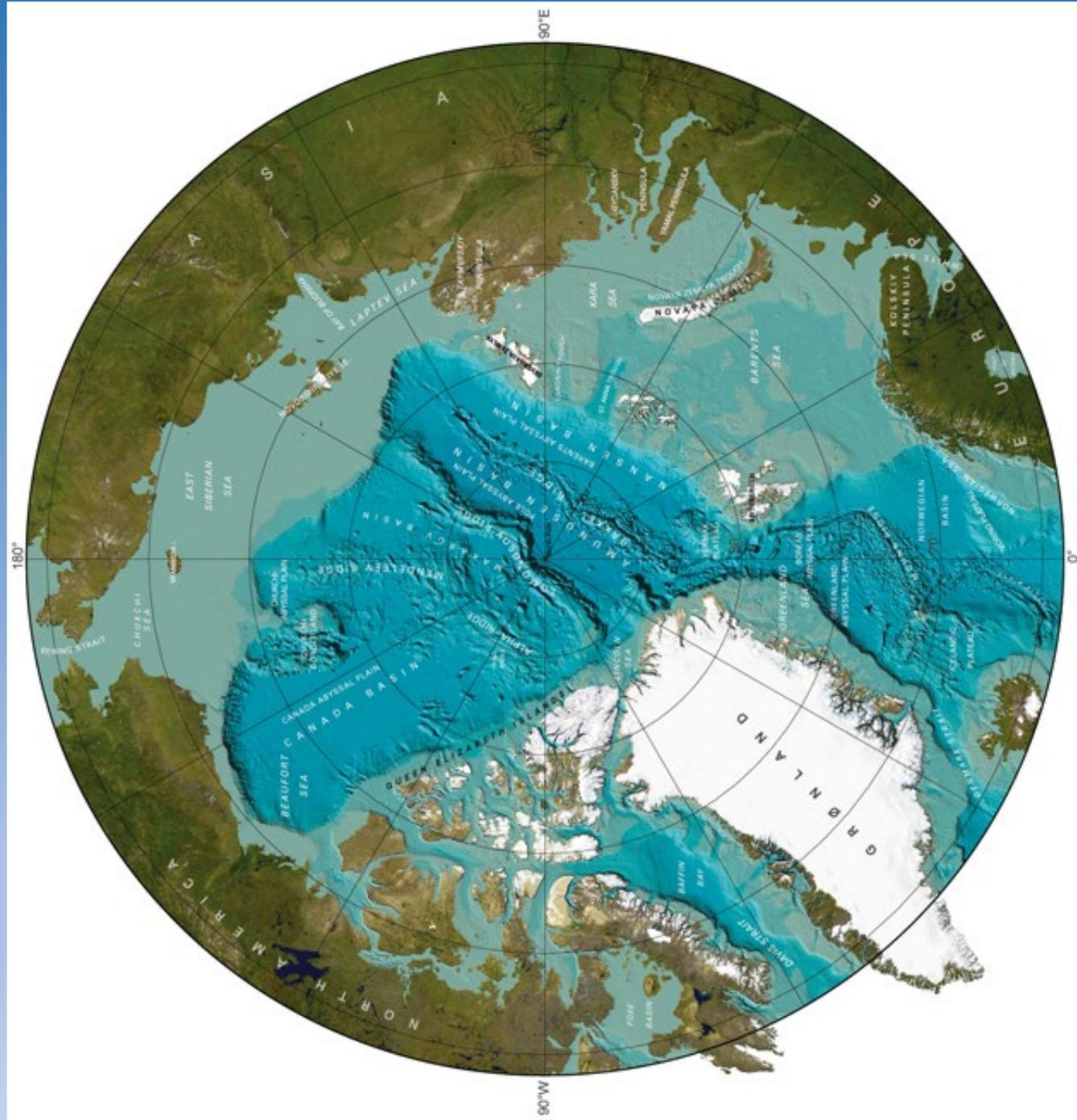


## Claims

- Russia
- United States
- Canada
- Iceland

- Norway
- Denmark
- disputed by Russia and Norway

- 200 nautical mile line (countries have exclusive economic rights from their coastline to this line)
- other nautical boundaries
- The Northwest Passage
- The Northeast Passage



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## Geology and Geopolitics

- The Arctic Ocean in the center, surrounded by and connected to the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, inflow of rivers
- Surrounded by Russia, the USA, Canada, Denmark (Greenland), and Norway
- Environmental protection, Resource potentials and utilization, and Strategic and intelligence importance

	Arctic 5 meetings	Arctic 5 plus 5 meetings	Scientific meetings
2010	June, Oslo		
2011			June, Anchorage
2013	April-May, Washington, D.C.		
			October, Tromso
2014	24-26 February, Nuuk		
2015			14-16 April, Seattle
	16 July, Oslo, Declaration concerning the Prevention of Unregulated High Seas Fishing in the Central Arctic Ocean		
		1-3 December, Washington, D.C.	
2016		19-21 April, Washington, D.C.	
		6-8 July, Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada	
			26-28 September, Tromso
		29 November-1 December, Torshavn, the Faroe Island	
2017		15-18 March, Reykjavik	
		28-30 November, Washington, D.C.	24-26 October, Ottawa

2018		October 2-4 CAO signing ceremony, Ilulissat, Greenland	
2019		May The 1 <sup>st</sup> Preparatory Meeting of the Signatories Ottawa	
2020			February the 1 <sup>st</sup> Provisional Scientific Coordinating Group (PSCG) Ispra
2021		June The 2nd Preparatory Meeting of the Signatories Remote	
		25 June Entry into Force	

## **The Declaration concerning the Prevention of Unregulated High Seas Fishing in the Central Arctic Ocean (Oslo Declaration) on 16 July 2015**

In its preamble, the Oslo Declaration acknowledges the changes in the marine ecosystems of the Arctic Ocean due to climate change

and recognizes that commercial fishing in the high seas portion of the Central Arctic Ocean is unlikely to occur in the near future.

# Main Contents of the CAO Agreement

## **Article 2 (Objective):**

Prevention of unregulated fishing through precautionary measures

## **Article 3 (Interim Conservation and Management Measures):**

Fishing authorization conditions, Scientific research, Exploratory fishing

## **Article 4 (Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring):**

Establish within two years, a data sharing protocol

## **Article 5 (Review and further implementation):**

Meeting of the Parties every two years, Establish conservation and management measures for exploratory fishing within three years

## **Article 6 (Decision-Making):**

Consensus for question of substance

## **Article 13 (Duration of this Agreement):**

16 years

## Article 4

### Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring

1. The Parties shall facilitate cooperation in scientific activities with the goal of increasing knowledge of the living marine resources of the central Arctic Ocean and the ecosystems in which they occur.
2. The Parties **agree to establish, within two years of the entry into force of this Agreement, a Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring** with the aim of improving their understanding of the ecosystems of the Agreement Area and, in particular, of determining whether fish stocks might exist in the Agreement Area now or in the future that could be harvested on a sustainable basis and the possible impacts of such fisheries on the ecosystems of the Agreement Area.

5. As part of the Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring, the Parties **shall adopt, within two years of the entry into force of this Agreement, a data sharing protocol** and shall share relevant data, directly or through relevant scientific and technical organizations, bodies and programs, in accordance with that protocol.

6. The Parties **shall hold joint scientific meetings, in person or otherwise, at least every two years** and at least two months in advance of the meetings of the Parties that take place pursuant to Article 5 to present the results of their research, to review the best available scientific information, and to provide timely scientific advice to meetings of the Parties. The Parties **shall adopt, within two years of the entry into force of this Agreement, terms of reference and other procedures for the functioning of the joint scientific meetings.**

## Article 5

### Review and Further Implementation

1.(d) **establish, within three years of the entry into force of this Agreement, conservation and management measures for exploratory fishing** in the Agreement Area. The Parties may amend such measures from time to time. These measures shall provide, *inter alia*, that:

## Article 13

### Duration of this Agreement

1. This Agreement **shall remain in force for an initial period of 16 years** following its entry into force.
2. Following the expiration of the initial period specified in paragraph 1 above, this Agreement **shall remain in force for successive five-year extension period(s)** unless any Party:
  - (a) presents a formal objection to an extension of this Agreement at the last meeting of the Parties that takes place prior to expiration of the initial period or any subsequent extension period; or
  - (b) sends a formal objection to an extension to the depositary in writing no later than six months prior to the expiration of the respective period.
3. The Parties **shall provide for an effective transition between this Agreement and any potential new agreement establishing an additional regional or subregional fisheries management organization or arrangement** for managing fishing in the Agreement Area so as to safeguard healthy marine ecosystems and ensure the conservation and sustainable use of fish stocks in the Agreement Area.



## Resources and Economic Potentials

- Marine living resources mainly utilized by indigenous peoples
- “Commercial fishing is unlikely to become viable in the high seas portion of the central Arctic Ocean in the near future”
- Potential of abundant energy resources (natural gas, oil)
- The Arctic sea routes

# Challenges for the CAO Fisheries Agreement

- Objectives and goals of the Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring
- Incorporation of interests/knowledge of indigenous peoples into governance and science
- Scenario to and after the 16-year period
- Relation with and Implication to the Arctic Council systems

## Four Main Questions for a Joint Scientific Research Plan

- What are the distributions and abundances of species with a potential for future commercial harvests in the High Seas?
- What other information is needed to provide advice necessary for future sustainable harvests of commercial fish stocks and maintenance of dependent ecosystem components?
- What are the likely key ecological linkages between potentially harvestable fish stocks of the High Seas and adjacent shelf ecosystems?
- Over the next 10-30 years, what changes in harvestable fish populations, dependent species, and their supporting ecosystems may occur in the central Arctic Ocean and adjacent shelf ecosystems?

(Final Report of the Fourth Meeting of Scientific Experts on Fish Stocks in the Central Arctic Ocean, January 2017)

