

# The Strategic Significance of the Arctic: Geopolitical Concerns of Arctic Council Nations

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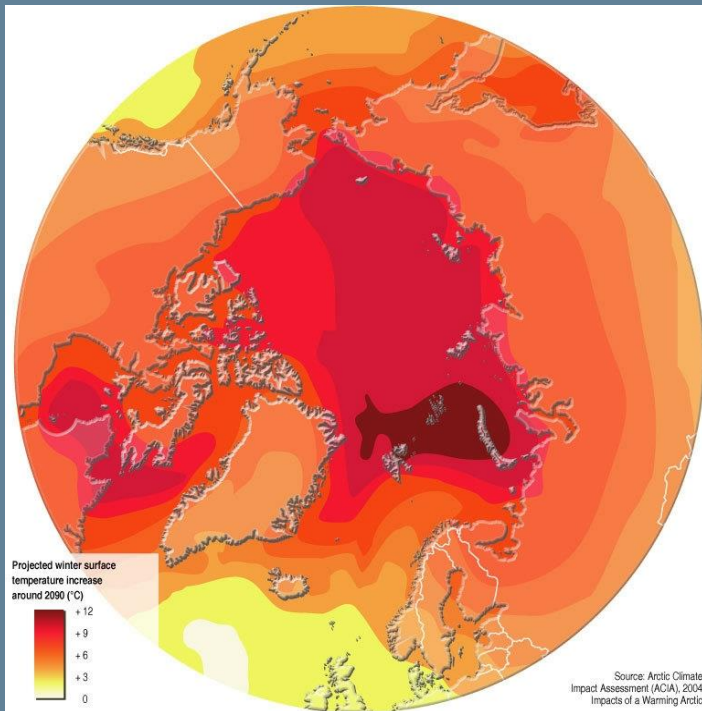


# The View From the North

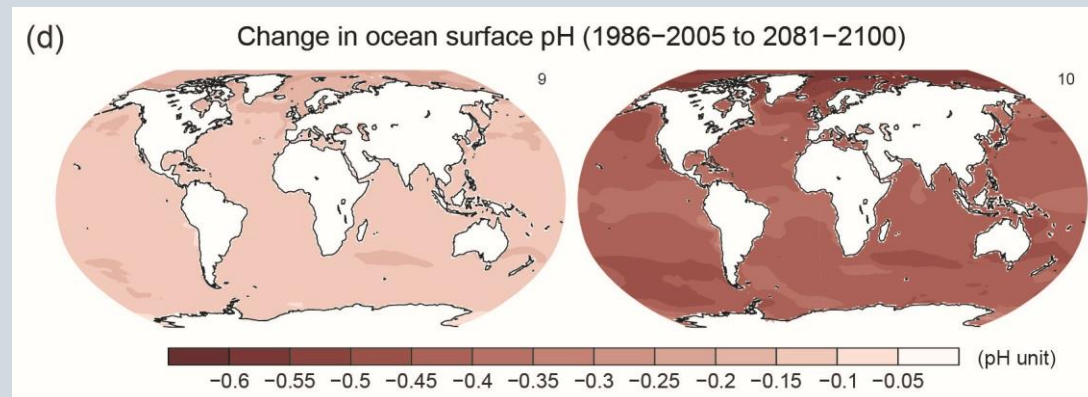
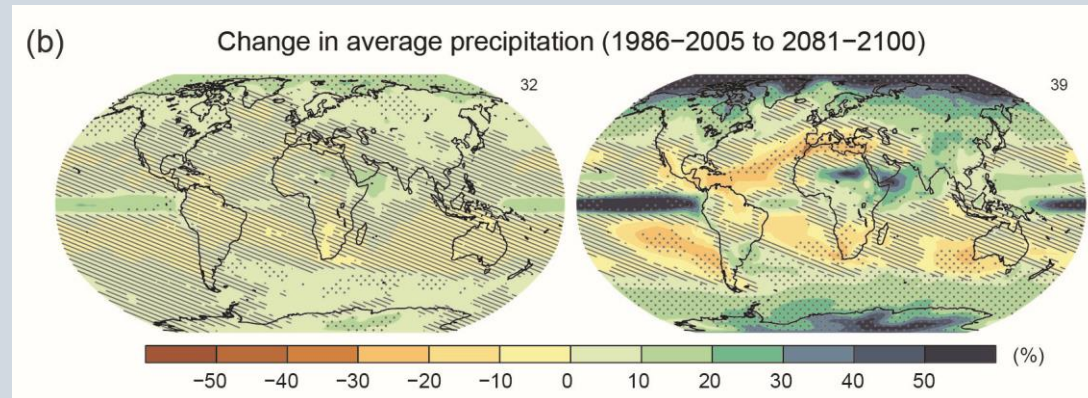
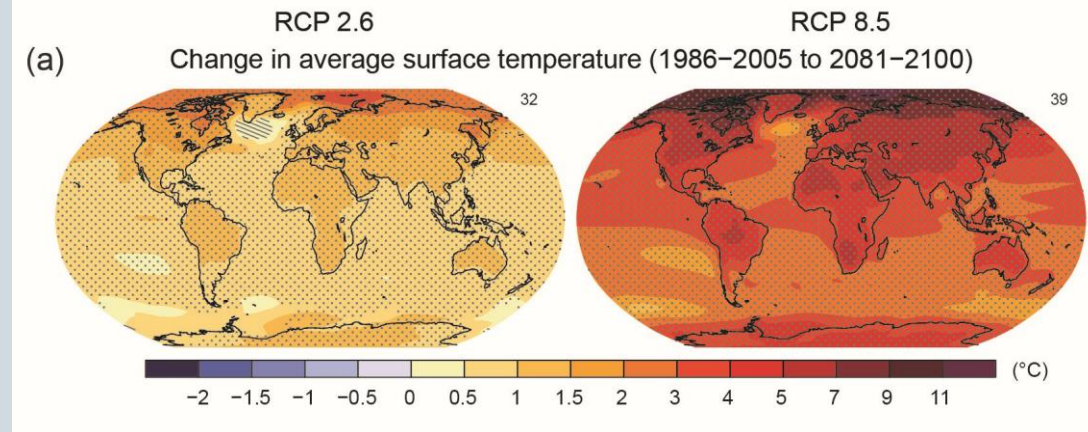
The Mediterranean of the Future



# Climate Change in the Arctic: Temperature and Precipitation Changes



Greater than 90% certainty that the Arctic warms faster than the rest of the world (IPCC 2007)





# Climate Change in the Arctic: Melting Sea Ice

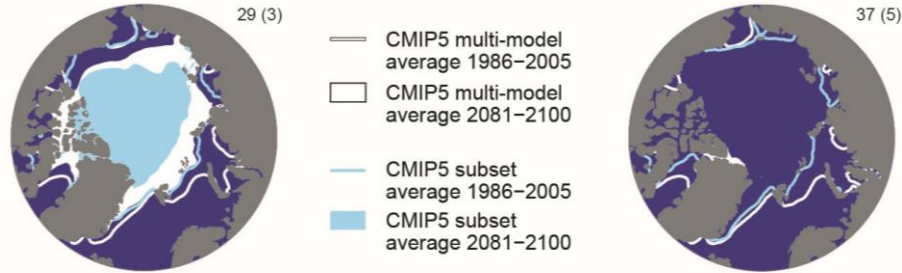
Sept 2012 lowest sea ice extent on record;  
Sept 2015 4<sup>th</sup> lowest

Various government and scientific agencies measure sea ice:

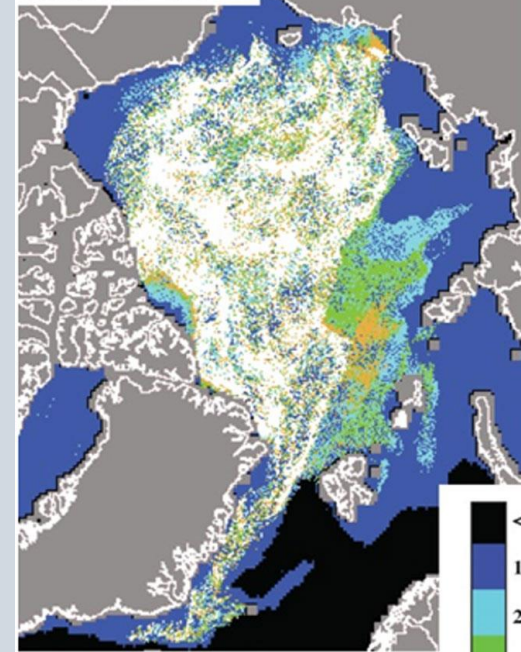
- Canadian Ice Service
- National Snow and Ice Data Center

Not only results in more open water, but in weather and ecological changes

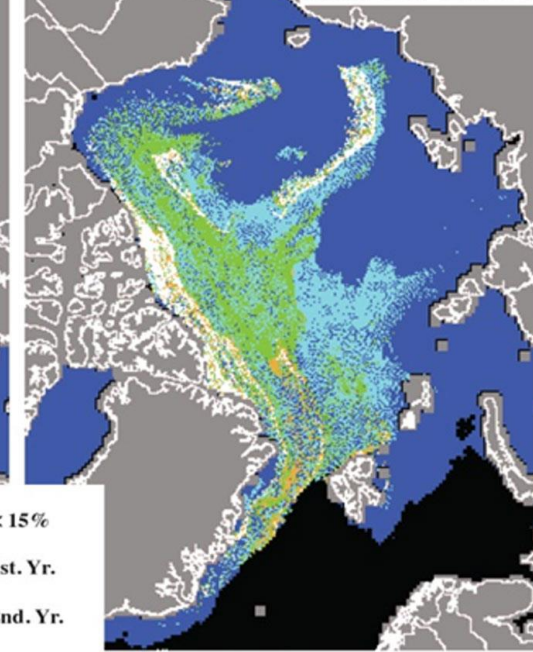
Northern Hemisphere September sea ice extent (average 2081–2100)



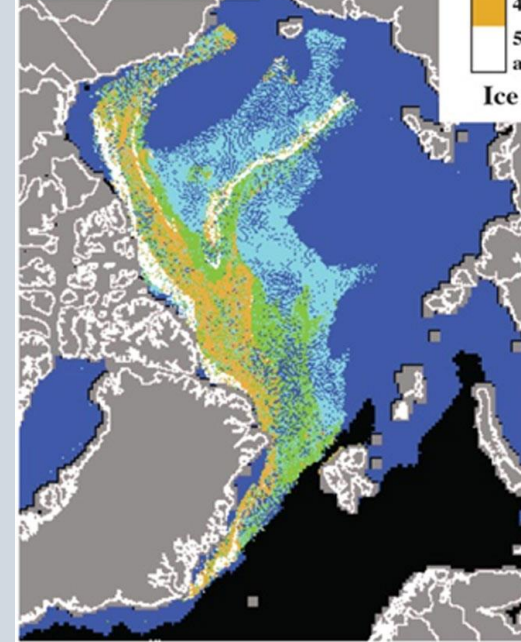
March 1988



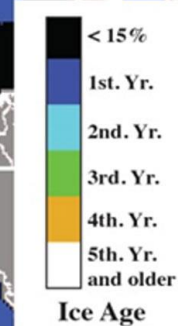
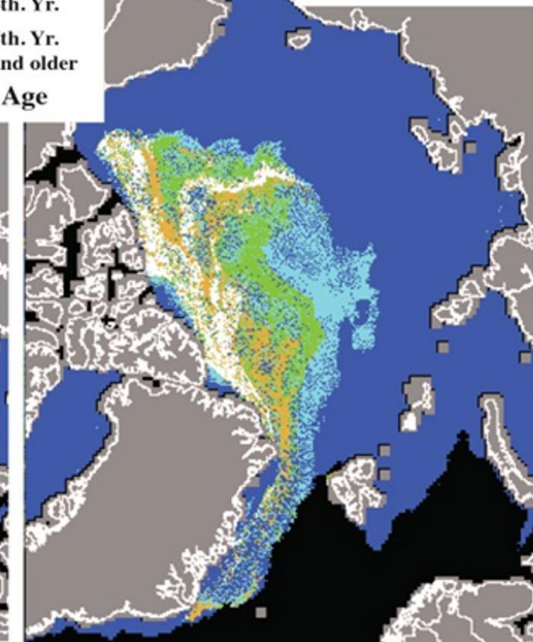
March 2011



March 2012



March 2013



# Who are the key players?

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## CIRCUMPOLAR NATIONS

Canada



United States



Russia



Norway



Denmark



Sweden



Finland



Iceland



First Nations



## WANNABES

China



Japan



South Korea



India



Germany



Australia



# Who are the key players?

## NON-STATE ACTORS

NGOs



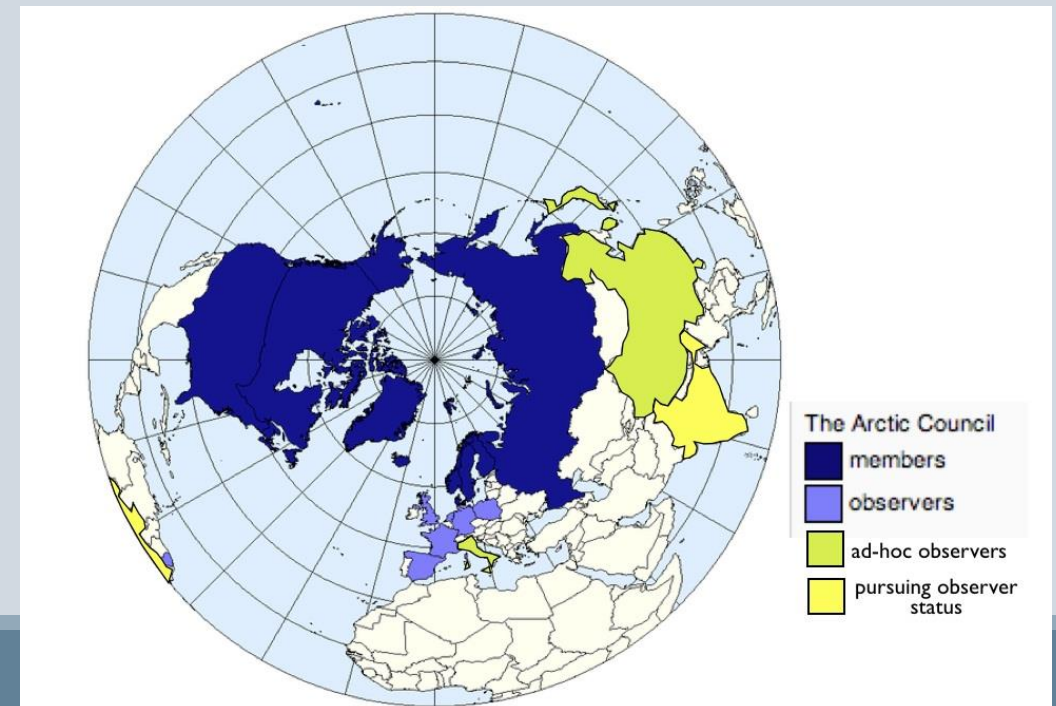
Private Corporations



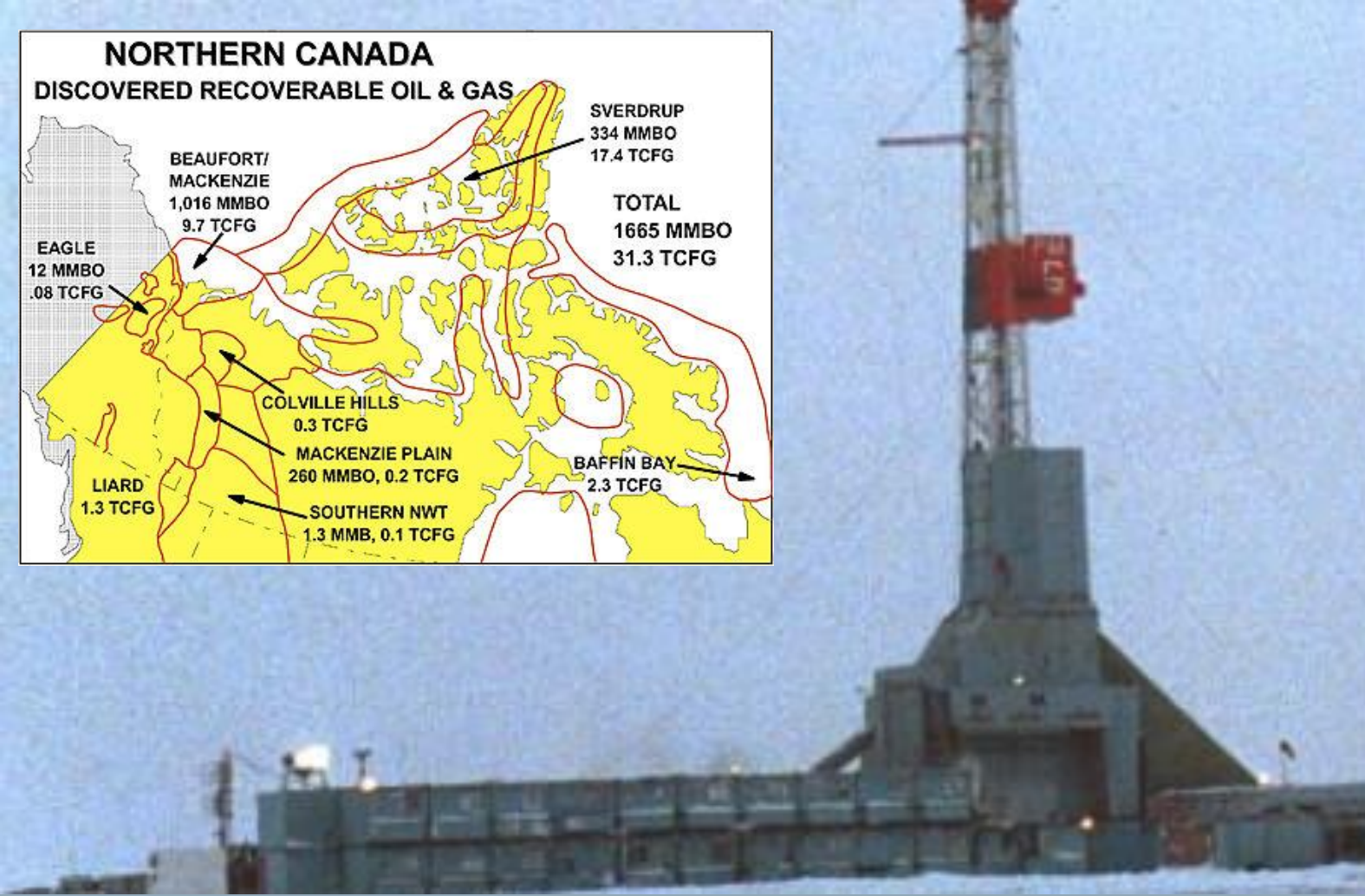
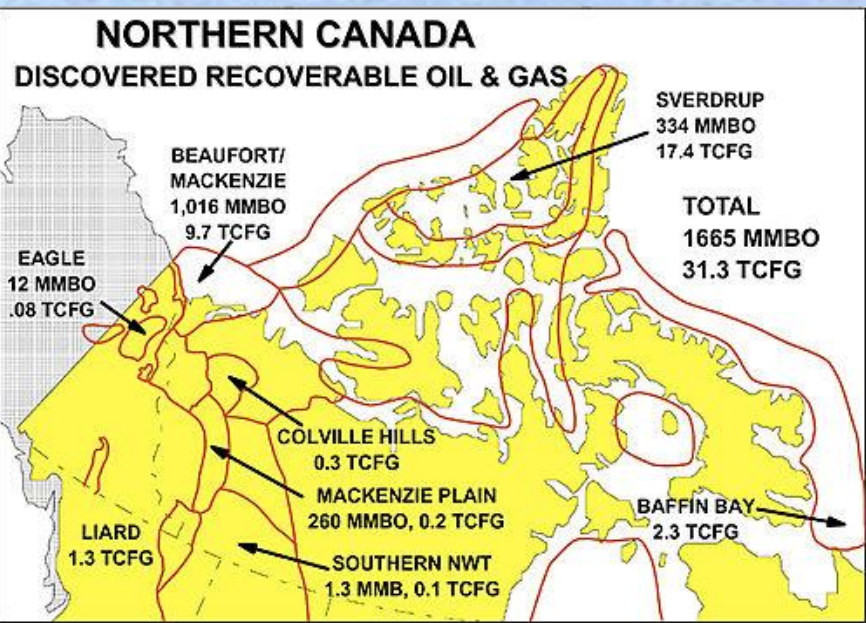
## THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

U.S. is chair through mid-2017

Non-polar nations have observer status

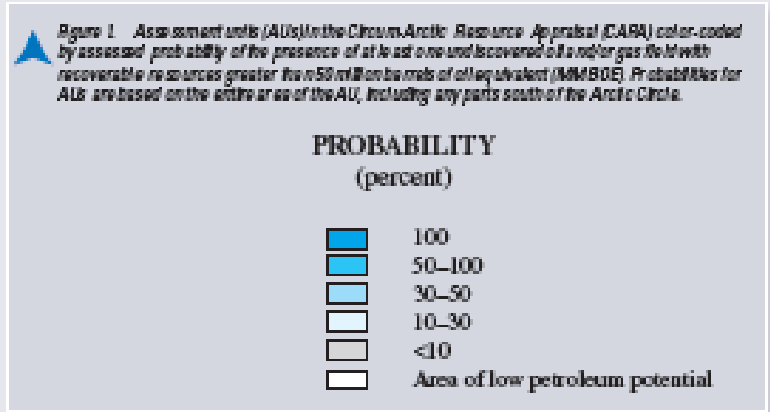
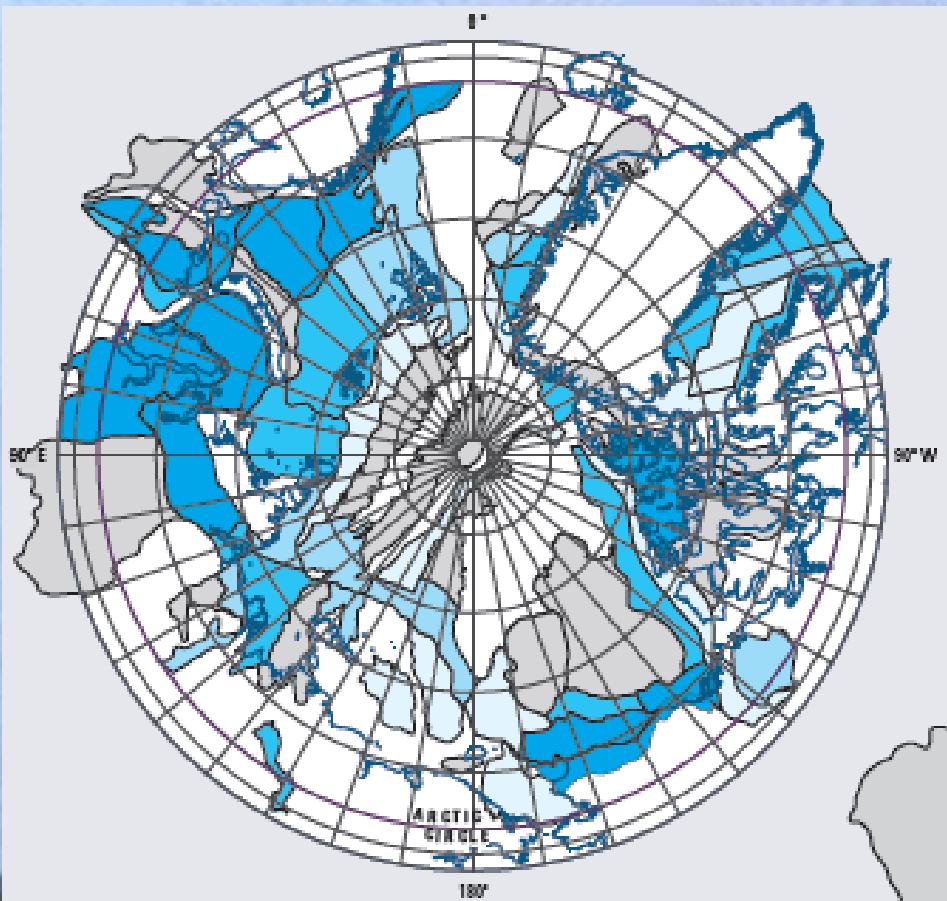






## Strategic Element #1: Energy Exploration

- Oil: 90 trillion barrels
- Natural Gas: 1700 trillion cubic feet
- 22% of estimated global supply





IT'S NOT A SPILL. IT'S US DELIVERING  
FREE OIL TO THE PEOPLE OF ALASKA  
**LET'S GO.**



# Drilling leases in the Arctic – Shell down but not out

ConocoPhillips and Statoil also have leases; only Shell had plans to drill (\$8 billion spent so far)

Environmental groups protested; oil prices falling for now . . .





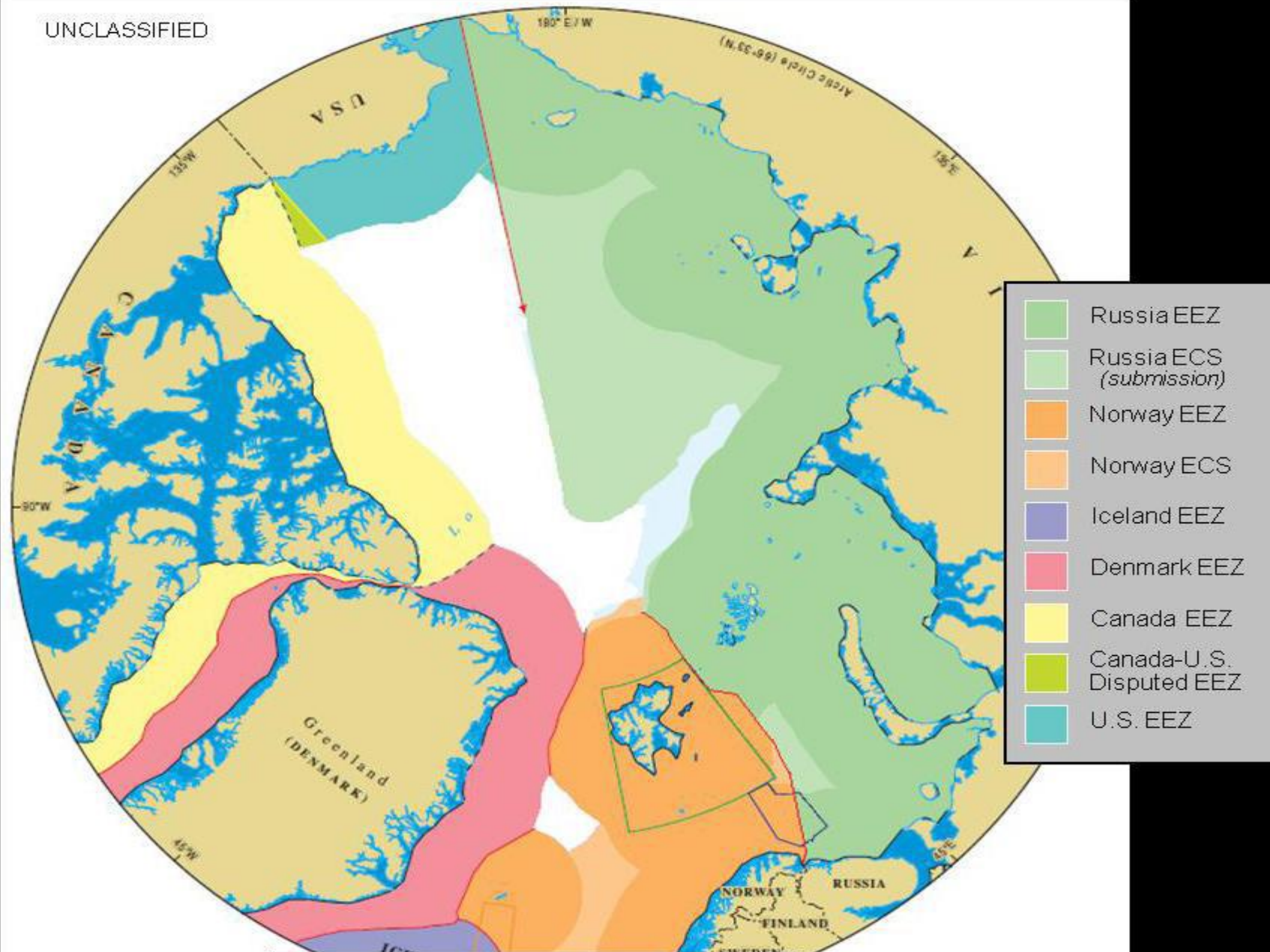
## Strategic Element #2: Trans-Arctic Shipping and Transit

Northern Sea Route will be ice-free sooner than the Northwest Passage

Legal argument over the status of the NWP as an international strait



UNCLASSIFIED



(U) Arctic Sovereignty:  
Current Claims

UNCLASSIFIED

## Strategic Element #3: Territorial Claims in the Arctic

Successful claims lead to  
continued presence











## Strategic Element #4: Military/CG Facilities

Bases, Equipment, Aircraft, Icebreakers, Personnel & Training

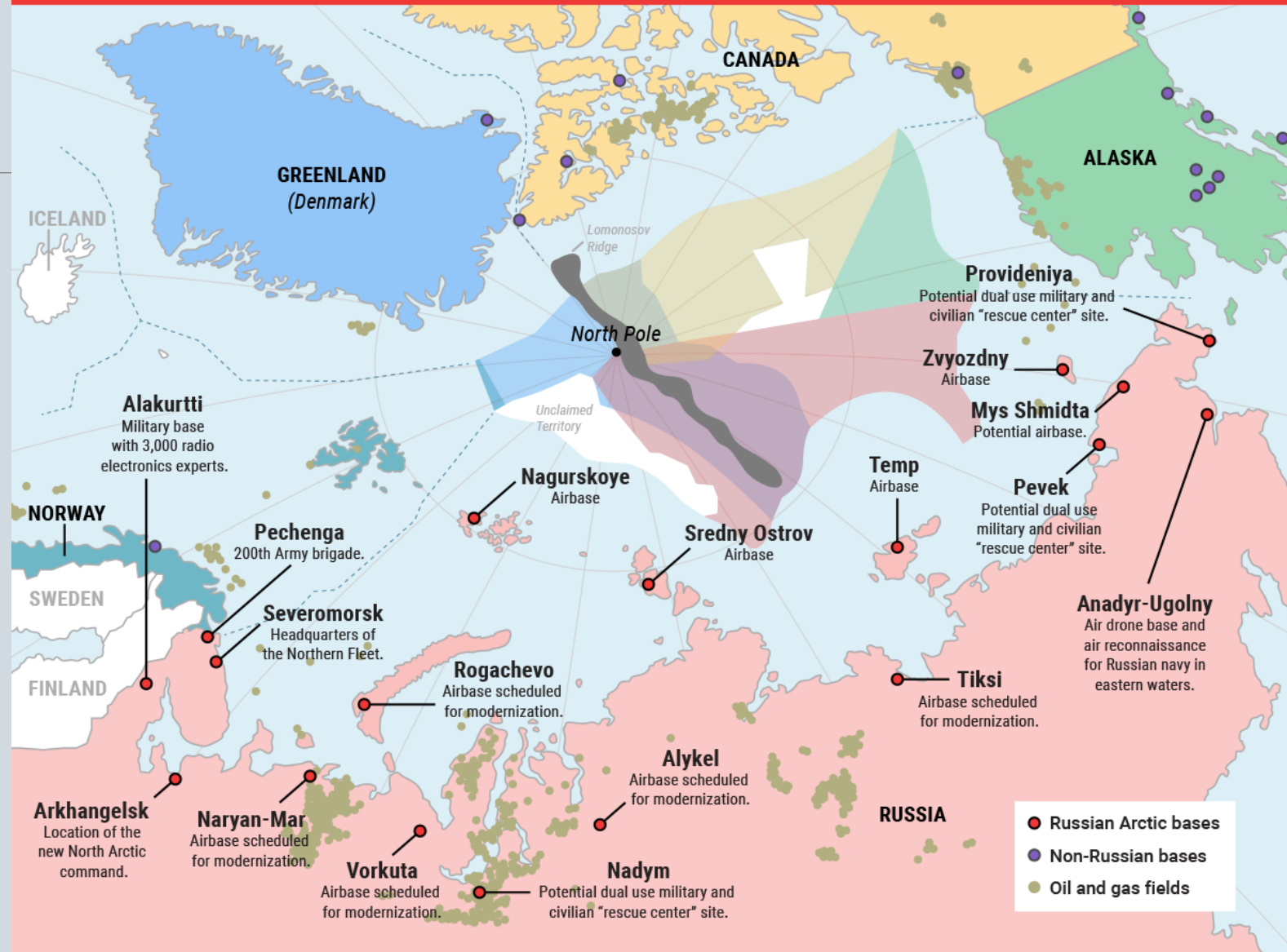
Oct 2015: Arctic Coast Guard Forum → renewed pledges of cooperation in SAR, environmental issues; NOT discussing freedom of navigation or Arctic sovereignty



# Conflict or Cooperation?

- Russia increasing its military access
- China sailing warships in the Bering Strait
- Canada arguing that presence does not equate to sovereignty (!)
- U.S. playing catch-up, relying on Canada to secure the North American Arctic

## RUSSIA'S MILITARIZATION OF THE ARCTIC



**SOURCES:** The Heritage Foundation, TASS, Sputnik News, RT, USNI News, The Moscow Times, Associated Air Charter, Barents Observer, Council on Foreign Relations, The Economist.



Should the United States wait for other nations to set the strategic and operational agenda in a globally-warmed Arctic?

No.





# Recognize and Prepare for New Missions

**Recommendation:** increase training and equipment for Arctic operations; this may include support for domestic and foreign law enforcement, anti-smuggling efforts, SAR





# Increase Scientific Cooperation

**Recommendation:** embrace bilateral and multilateral scientific initiatives like the recent International Polar Year (IPY);  
Improve standing capabilities of government agencies that fund science ; IOs and NGOs that link scientists





2004: USS Hampton busts up Santa's workshop  
Santa pissed, sailors go on "Naughty" list

**What happens  
when you don't  
plan . . .**



PERITO MORENO GLACIER, ARGENTINA, IS A MASS OF ICE MEASURING 300 SQUARE MILES. AT THE PETROLEUM ENERGY HUMBLE SUPPLIES, ANOTHER 3000 TONS MELT IT AT THE RATE OF 1 MILLION TONS A DAY!

## EACH DAY HUMBLE SUPPLIES ENOUGH **ENERGY** TO MELT 7 MILLION TONS OF GLACIER!

This giant glacier has remained unmelted for centuries. Yet, the petroleum energy Humble supplies—it converted into heat—could melt it at the rate of 80 tons each second! To meet the nation's growing needs for energy, Humble has applied science to nature's resources to become America's Leading Energy Company. Working wonders with oil through research, Humble provides energy in many forms—to help heat our homes, power our transportation, and to furnish industry with a great variety of versatile chemicals. Stop at a Humble station for new Enco Extra gasoline, and see why the "Happy Motoring" Sign is the World's First Choice!

**HUMBLE**  
OIL & REFINING COMPANY

America's Leading **E**nergy **C**ompany



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In the "Unintentionally Ironic" department...





OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 10, 2015

Benjamin Carson  
Carson America  
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 140  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Dr. Carson,

I hope you've enjoyed your visit to the Golden State. It's come to my attention that while you were here you said the following regarding climate science:

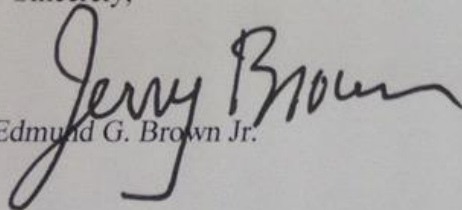
"I know there are a lot of people who say 'overwhelming science,' but then when you ask them to show the overwhelming science, they never can show it... There is no overwhelming science that the things that are going on are man-caused and not naturally caused. Gimme a break."

Please find enclosed a flash drive with the complete United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) "Synthesis Report," the concluding installment of the Fifth Assessment Report, published earlier this year. This report assessed over 30,000 scientific papers and was written by more than 800 scientists, representing 80 countries around the world, who definitively concluded that: "...human influence on the climate system is clear and growing, with impacts observed across all continents and oceans."

This is just one of the thousands of reports authored by the world's top scientists on the subject, including a study published just last month by Columbia University, University of Idaho and NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies scientists that found climate change has intensified California's drought. These aren't just words. The consequences are real.

Please use your considerable intelligence to review this material. Climate change is much bigger than partisan politics.

Sincerely,

  
Edmund G. Brown Jr.





THANK YOU!  
ANY QUESTIONS?



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