Activities in the Arctic Maritime Region:
- The Russian View -

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Key Issues

- Interests and strategy
- Historical presence
- Maritime commercial access
- Scientific research
- Resource treasury
- Defense and security
Interests & Strategy

• Intent is to avoid conflict, secure access to natural resources, prevent outside interference
• Expectation is to expand commercial activity
  • Gas & oil extraction
  • Mining
  • Fisheries
  • Use of Northern Sea Route
• Naval forces central to maritime defense strategy
  • No significant increase in Arctic naval activity
  • Development of Border and Coast Guard capabilities
• Strategic perspective – only countries with direct interests in region should be involved in regional policy-making
Historical presence

- Earliest activity dates back to 11th century
- Commercial beginnings in time of Ivan IV (the Terrible) – 16th century
- Extensive exploration in 16th & 17th centuries
- Organized presence since 18th century – Peter the Great
Maritime Commercial Access

- Gulf stream provides access to Barents Sea
- Russia’s first sea trade through White Sea
- Kola Gulf - exit for northern ore shipment
- Planned shipment points for hydrocarbons
- Access to the entire Siberian watershed
Northern Sea Route

- Differing definitions of northern sea route
  - Northeast Passage
  - Northern Sea Route

- Northeast Passage
  - Any northeast route

- “Northern Sea Route”
  - Specific route defined by 31 July 1998
    Russian legislation in accordance with UNCLOS Article 234
Scientific Research

• Long history of exploration and study

• Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute
  • Established in 1920

• Drifting North Pole ice stations
  • First in 1937
  • NP-38 currently active
Resource Treasury

- Fisheries
- Off shore gas & oil
- Access to resources of Siberian interior

- Strengthening of Border/Coast Guard to secure frontier and protect rights in EEZ
Hydrocarbons

- Great portion within Russia’s undisputed Exclusive Economic Zone
- Initial exploration and exploitation activity in western sector
  - Prirazlomnaya in Pechora Gulf
  - Shtokman in Central Barents
Defense and security

- Incoming sector for US land-based strategic missiles
- Main location of Russian sea-based deterrent force
- Location of Russia’s most powerful naval fleet
- Russia’s longest maritime frontier (thinly defended)
- Vital sea lines of communication (Siberian basin)
- Russia’s least populated region
Questions?

Russian Arctic

Defend

Protect