



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

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# Key Issues

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



# Interests & Strategy

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- **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 11<sup>th</sup> century**
- **Commercial beginnings in time of Ivan IV (the Terrible) – 16<sup>th</sup> century**
- **Extensive exploration in 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> centuries**
- **Organized presence since 18<sup>th</sup> century – Peter the Great**





# Maritime Commercial Access

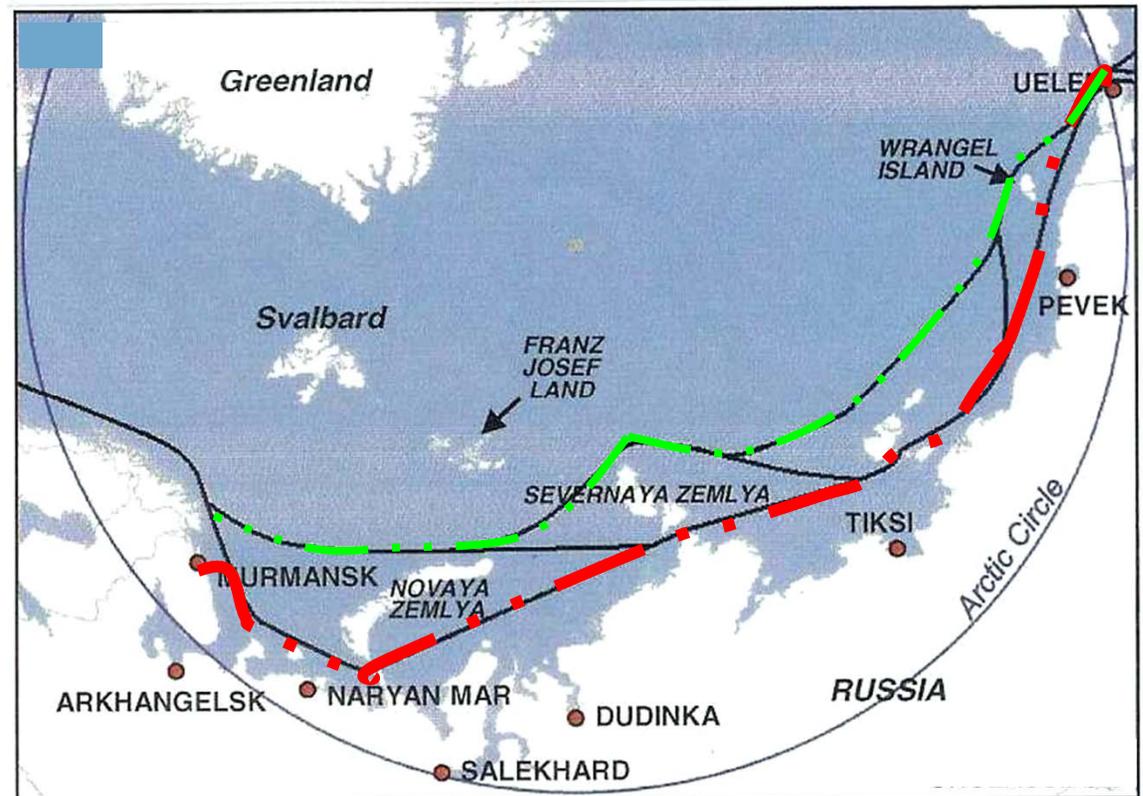
- **Gulf stream provides access to Barents Sea**
- **Russia's first sea trade through White Sea**
- **Kola Gulf - exit for northern ore shipment**
- **Planned shipment points for hydrocarbons**
- **Access to the entire Siberian watershed**





# 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

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- **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**



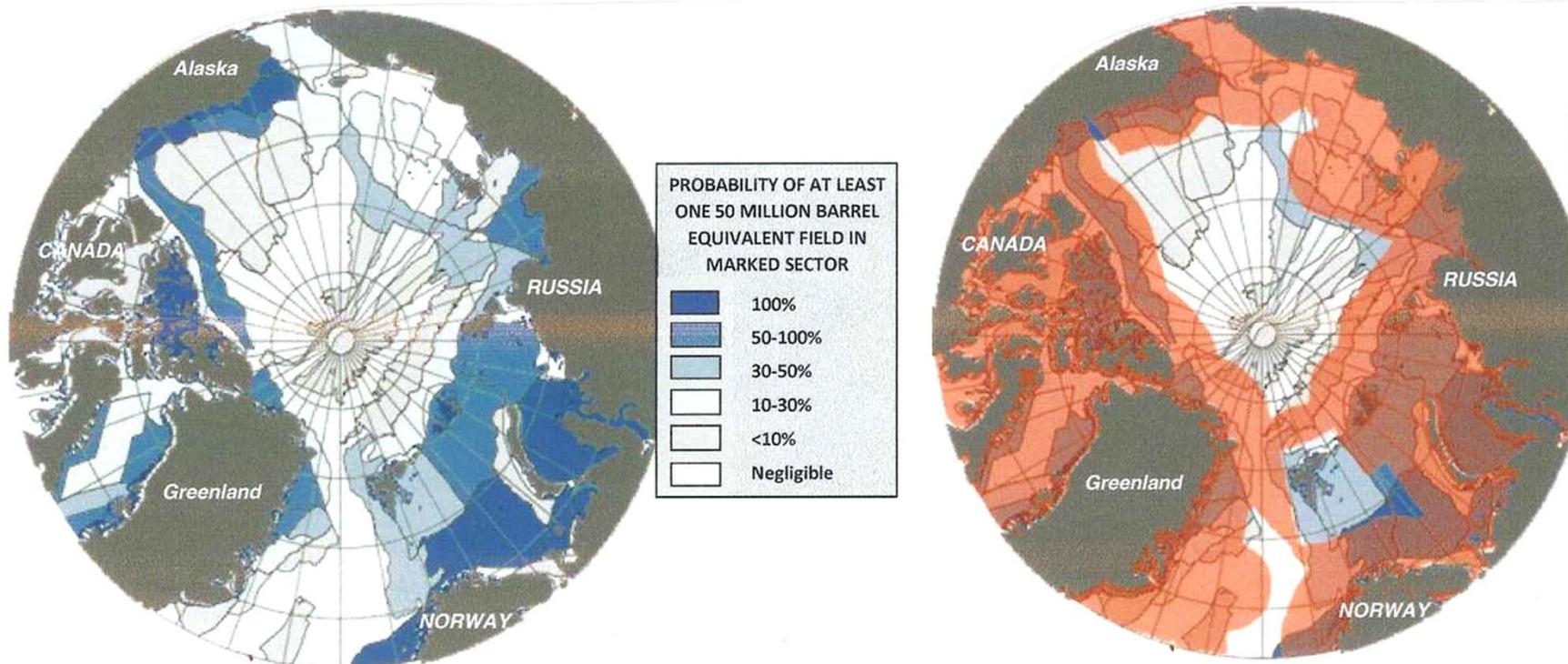
# Resource Treasury

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- **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

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- **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?

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## Russian Arctic



**Defend**

**Protect**

