

# **Negotiating the International Agreement to Prevent Unregulated Fishing in the High Seas of the Central Arctic Ocean**

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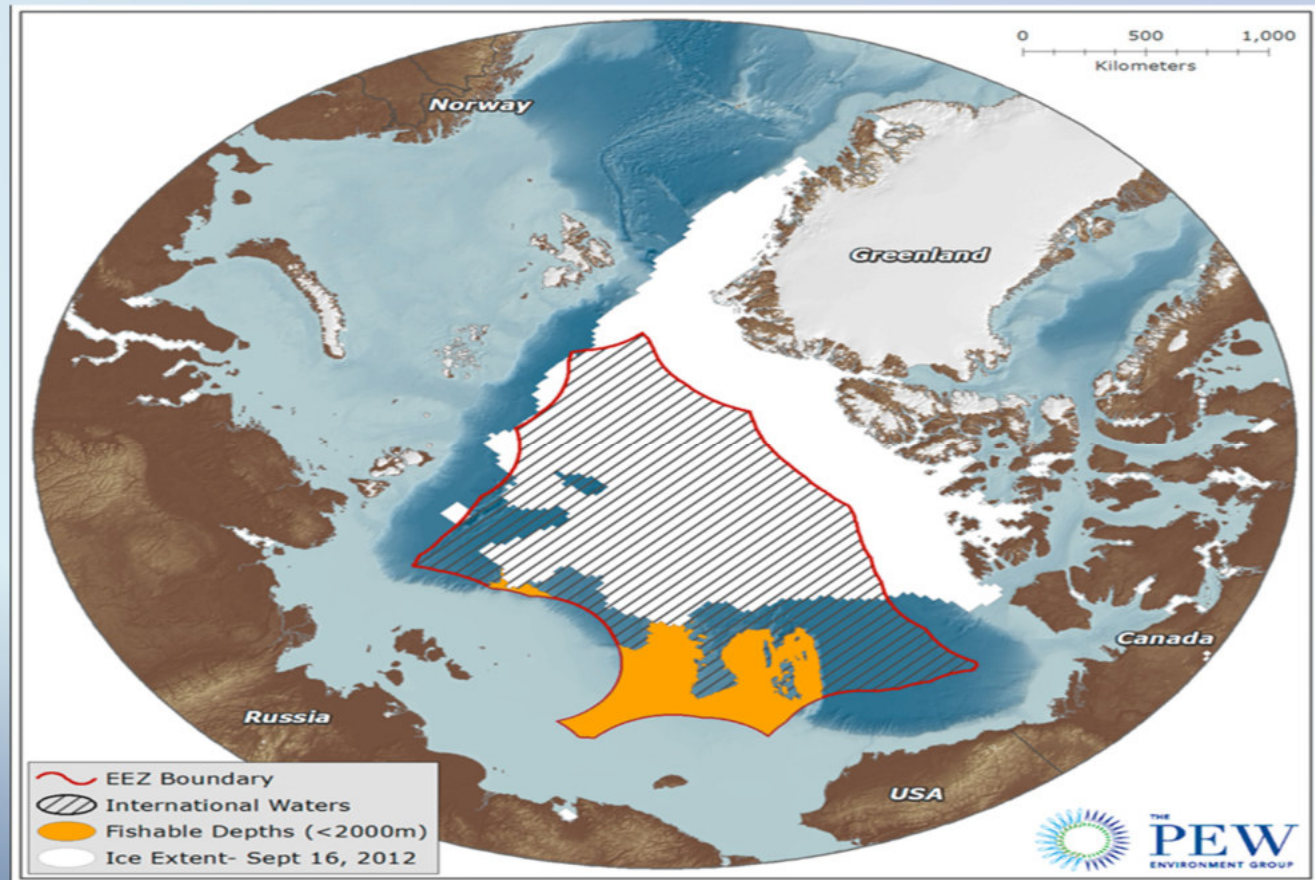
**Fisheries and Oceans Canada**

**Arctic Biodiversity Congress**

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# Moving towards a New Agreement

Overview of the Negotiation of an International Agreement to Prevent Unregulated Fishing in the high seas of the Central Arctic Ocean (CAO).



# Changing Arctic Conditions

- With changing sea ice conditions in the Arctic, there are for the first time, areas of open water in the Central Arctic Ocean (CAO), an area of high seas which can now be accessed by fishing vessels.
- Knowledge of the marine ecosystems in that area is lacking and not sufficient to predict if/when fish stock abundance in the CAO may support



# Current sub-Arctic and Arctic Fisheries

- Currently there is no fishing of any kind in the central Arctic Ocean, due in large part to extensive ice coverage.
- Sub-Arctic areas support major regional fisheries for species such as Cod, Shrimp, and Halibut, including in the Bering Sea (Russia/U.S), Barents Sea (Norway/Russia) and Davis Strait (Canada/Greenland).



# Negotiating an International Agreement

- Early discussions among the five Arctic Ocean Coastal States – ***Canada, US, Russia, Norway, and Denmark (in respect of Greenland and the Faroe Islands)*** in 2010, following the 2009 US announcement of a moratorium on commercial fishing north of the Bering Strait, including the Chukchi and Beaufort seas.
- Discussions culminated in the signing of the 2015 *Declaration Concerning the Prevention of Unregulated High Seas Fishing in the Central Arctic Ocean*.
- Later in 2015 a new discussion was launched with a broader group of States with an interest and capacity to fish in the CAO- China, Iceland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the European Union, and the Arctic CS.

# Negotiating an International Agreement

- Formal negotiations began in spring 2016, 6 sessions over 2 yrs- a final text was agreed to Nov 30 ,2017 in Washington, DC.
- Throughout the negotiations the Inuit Circumpolar Council participated in the meetings, and on Canadian delegation.
- At conclusion of negotiation, each State and the EU completed internal review and approval. Agreement text in English, French, Russian and Chinese- all version equally authentic.

Negotiators- Torshavn, Faroe Islands Nov.2016



Agreement Signed October 3, 2018

Environment | Climate change | Wildlife | Energy | Pollution

Fishing

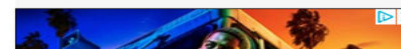
## Commercial fishing banned across much of the Arctic

International agreement will protect fisheries as the ice melts



**Fiona Harvey** Environment correspondent  
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## EU and Arctic partners enter historic agreement to prevent unregulated fishing in high seas

### Binding agreement on Arctic fisheries moratorium officially signed by EU and nine countries

3 October 2018 | Levon Sevunts, Radio Canada International | 0 Comments | Arctic Ocean, fisheries, fishing, indigenous, environment, nature, oceans



landmark international agreement to prevent unregulated commercial fishing in high seas was signed in Ilulissat, Greenland.

The deal is between the European Union, the United States, Canada, and the People's Republic of China.





# Key Elements of the Agreement

- Agreement enters into force only once all Parties have ratified
- Upon entry into force, the Agreement is valid for an initial period of 16 years, after which it may be renewed for five year periods- upon agreement of all Parties.
- Parties agree to prohibit commercial fishing by their vessels until there is an international regime in place to govern such fishing.

# Key Elements of the Agreement

- The Parties will establish a Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring for the CAO.
- Exploratory Fishing will be allowed, only according to rules that will be established and agreed to by the Parties.
- Parties shall, at least every 2 years, review whether to commence negotiations for an international regime to manage/govern commercial fishing in the area (RFMO).
- Parties to the Agreement shall encourage non-Parties to comply and shall take measures to deter activities which could undermine the Agreement.

# Next Steps

- Parties to the Agreement will be working to complete ratification so that it can enter into force.
- First meeting of the Parties to occur once the Agreement is Ratified.
- Preparatory discussions could occur prior to that should it be needed

# FisCAO

- Parallel Science cooperation to support the policy discussion/negotiations
- **Scientific experts on fish stocks in the central Arctic Ocean -FisCAO**



Arctic cod in the Canada Basin, Arctic Ocean. Photo by Elizabeth Siddon, NOAA Fisheries.



- 1st meeting of Arctic coastal states(A5), Oslo 2010:  
***Q: What is the status of science?***
- 1st FisCAO meeting, Anchorage 2011:  
***A: No urgency, need to establish baseline data.***
- 2nd mtg A5 gov'ts, Washington DC 2013:  
***Q: Prospects for commercial fisheries in the ABNJ?***
- 2nd FisCAO mtg, Tromsø 2013:  
***A: not really. Need to know more.***
- 3rd mtg of A5 gov'ts, Nuuk, 2014: *Agreement on text of the Oslo Declaration (signed 2015)*
- 3rd FisCAO mtg, Seattle, 2015:  
*Status of knowledge report, framework for a science plan*

## **FisCAO: accomplishments and next steps**

- 1-3 meeting (2011-15): Status & gaps reports, inventory of research & monitoring, draft FW for JPSRM
- 4 meeting (2016): Synthesis of knowledge, Science & Monitoring plan, FW for implementation plan
- 5 meeting Ottawa (2017): implementation plan developed

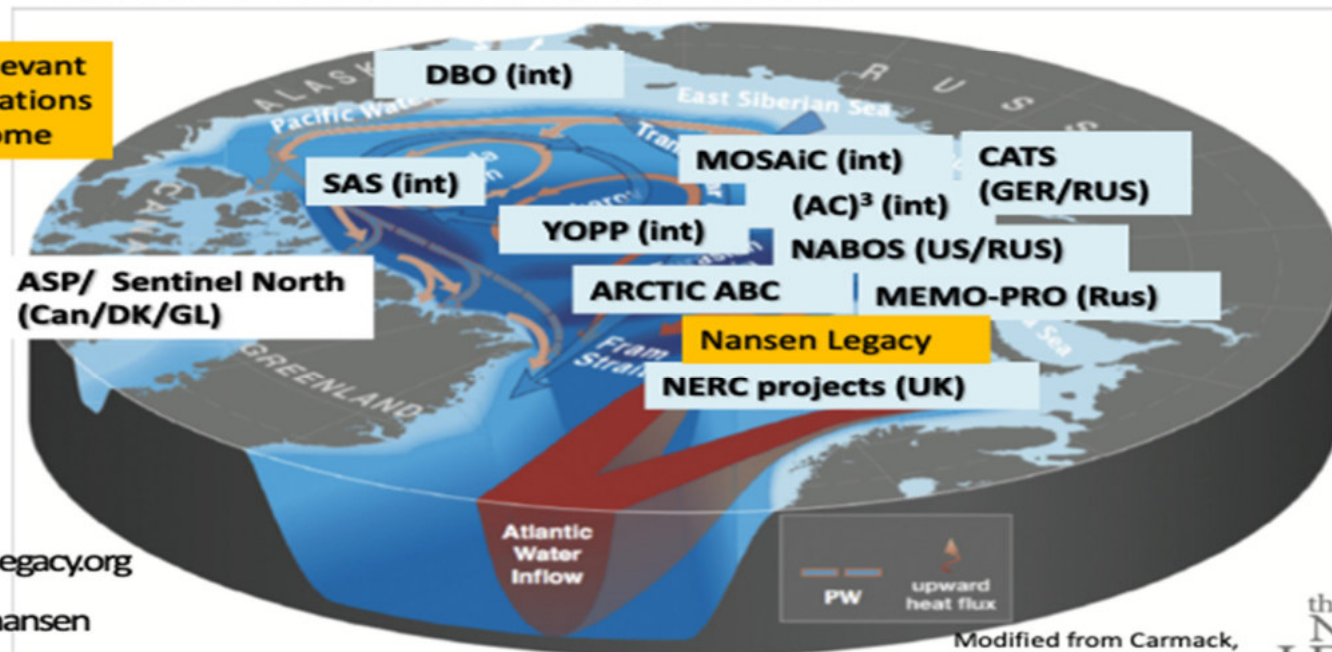
# **The Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring**

- Will need to be established by the parties- will take up where the FisCAO left off
- Mapping: snapshots of ecosystem status
- Monitoring: long term trends
- Infrastructure and resource needs

# The Nansen Legacy in an Arctic science landscape

Examples of collaborative projects/ initiatives

New relevant  
collaborations  
welcome



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Modified from Carmack,  
Polyakov et al. 2015

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# Questions?

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