

UiT

THE ARCTIC
UNIVERSITY
OF NORWAY

Regulating Arctic shipping – the political science part

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Closing seminar A-LEX: Regulating Arctic Shipping: Political, legal, and technological and environmental challenges”.

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- Team members:
 - Dorottya Bogнар, PhD-student (RCN funded scholarship)
 - Piotr Graczyk, PhD-student (UiT funded scholarship)
 - Hans-Kristian Hernes, professor
 - Main sources
 - Documents
 - Meetings (directly and tape recordings)
 - Interviews
 - Outcome
 - Dissertations – with articles

IMO and Arctic Council

- Point of departure – regulation of shipping in Arctic waters
 - Arctic Council
 - Initiatives on knowledge building and regulation of shipping
 - Work on Arctic issues, increased cooperation
 - IMO
 - Regulatory body for global shipping
 - Development of the Polar Code
 - The role of Russia
 - IMO and Polar Code

Some findings

- The importance of the Arctic Council
 - An institution for knowledge building
 - Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) report
 - Environmental reports
- BUT
 - AC has not been an actor at IMO
 - Lack of institutional interplay
 - Arctic states active in AC and IMO
 - The Arctic states have not acted as a group in the IMO
 - Promoted their interests, part of different coalitions/groups
- Shipping – a driver for Arctic cooperation?
 - Knowledge work in the AC
 - Not in IMO
 - Arctic states have diverse interests in shipping

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- Russia and the Polar Code
 - Russia – not a prominent actor in the discussions
 - Leaving initiatives to other actors (states)
 - Acting alone – not part of alliance
 - Reluctant, but active in the final rounds
 - Important actor, making connections to other processes in the IMO

Reflections

- Polar Code – a next step?
 - Possible – IMO able to reach a decision
 - Fundament for new process
- Arctic Council – what role
 - Disseminating knowledge
 - Follow-up by nation states
 - Developing new policies
 - Marine protected areas