



GLOBAL
CHOICES

The Central Arctic Ocean

A case for a 10 year Moratorium

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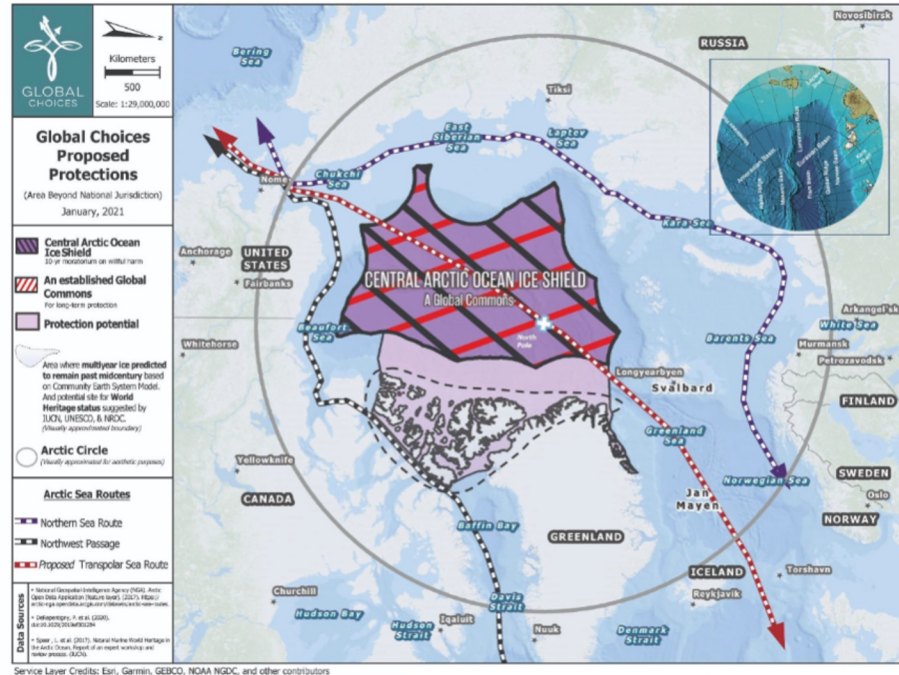
Transpolar Shipping Route (TSR)- because we can doesn't mean we should.....

- Cutting across the North Pole near the Bering Strait - potentially reducing journey time between North America/Northern Europe and East Asia by 3-13 days.
- Some associated economic benefits but high risk and there are alternatives
- Currently inaccessible due to frozen conditions – A TSR would require rapidly melting ice and/or icebreaking
- Significant impacts of shipping in a unique and vulnerable region – biodiversity loss and disturbance from underwater noise, graywater discharge and black carbon
- Additionally TSR would only result in emissions reductions of about 24% in 1/25000 vessels

A 10yr Moratorium on exploitation of CAO High Seas

We need to protect what we can of the ice and the this unique biome with a precautionary principle pause

Restrict : commercial tourism, fishing, nuclear testing, radioactive waste dumping, seismic surveys, oil and gas exploration, deep sea mining, and transpolar shipping.



Global Choices proposed Central Arctic Ocean Ice Shield - Total area of the CAO is $2.8 \text{ km}^2 / 1.1 \text{ M mi}^2$
Map Insert Credit: The International Bathymetric Chart of the Arctic Ocean was produced by investigators representing the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), the US Office of Naval Research (ONR), and the US National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC).

Benefits of a 10yr pause on exploitation of the CAO

- The CAO Arctic Ice is vital to climate regulation and is a particularly vulnerable ecosystem which is irrecoverable in our lifetime once lost
- Ice loss there amplifies ocean warming and acidification, sea level rise, ocean current and atmospheric current disruption globally affecting
- It is an alarm system for keeping States incentivised to keep under 1.5 degrees
- Fosters international cooperation in an area beyond national jurisdiction
- Low-tech pre-emptive solution to protect the existing ecosystem before it is damaged
- Gives scientists time to discover more about this little known region and for legal instruments like the High Seas Treaty time to come into force
- The CAO is an Area Beyond National Jurisdiction - A Global Commons where the climate just response is to take into account broader voices of those most affected including indigenous communities, LDC's and Small Island States

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE ARCTIC, DOESN'T STAY IN THE ARCTIC.



www.GlobalChoices.org/Arctic-Ice-Force