

Canadian/Circumpolar Arctic Shipping and Transportation Research Network (CASTnet)

Specializing in applied interdisciplinary science on Arctic shipping to support decision-making on ocean governance and sustainable economic development.



Supported by



MEOPAR



Transformation of the Arctic

- Shipping and maritime transportation is a **\$500 billion** dollar industry;
- Approximately **90% of all commodities** globally are transported by ships;
- Climate change and related reductions in **sea ice are facilitating new opportunities** for shipping through the Canadian Arctic;
- Traffic through the Northwest Passage has **tripled over the past decade**;
- Canada is in an excellent position to be a **global leader** in Arctic oceans governance and development.
- **Canadian scientists** should be leading science initiatives focused on shipping in our Arctic waters

Our Vision

To co-develop a **world-class research network** to undertake science that supports policy and decision-making for oceans governance, sustainable shipping and economic development, while training the next generation of Arctic marine and shipping research experts.

To **leverage the assets** of such a network (ships, people, and coastal infrastructure) to improve ocean, ice, and atmospheric observations along Arctic shipping routes.

To conduct university-based science that supports:

- **Decision-makers** to establish evidence-based policy and to position Canada as a global leader in Arctic oceans and shipping governance;
- **Industry** to operate more efficiently and in a safer environment; and
- **Arctic communities** to mitigate local impacts and enhance economic opportunities.



Scientific Leadership



Dr. Jackie Dawson
Policy and Social Science
Lead
University of Ottawa



Dr. Brent Else
Natural Science Lead
University of Calgary

Network Leadership



Dr. Jim Parsons
Partnerships Lead
Marine Institute, Memorial
University

Alexa Reedman
CASTnet Manager
University of Ottawa





Focus Areas

- Environment
- Operations
- Geopolitics
- Economy
- Law and Policy

Moving Forward & Next Steps

- Developing a **five-year strategic plan** for the Network.
- A **website** is under development to promote CASTnet's researchers, active projects, and future plans.
- Co-developing **research projects** that will respond to identified needs from industry, government, Inuit organizations, and communities.
- Getting involved – those interested in CASTnet are welcome to **join our network**.

