Arctic Shipping: risks to ecological and socio-cultural values

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Oceans North supports marine conservation in partnership with Indigenous and coastal communities. Arctic shipping work is focused on supporting Inuit-led initiatives, community-based programs, and policy development. Shipping emissions work includes advocating for the inclusion of Canada's maritime sector in its climate plan, including hosting first ever Ports and Maritime Hydrogen Summit.
Arctic shipping risks to ecology and socio-cultural impacts

- Arctic shipping in Canada contends with many special challenges

- Risks from shipping include:
  - Disturbance to wildlife and hunting
  - Pollution events
  - Introducing invasive species
  - Overwhelming essential capacity
  - Contributing to climate change

How can LNG help?

- Significantly lowers spill risk
- Significant decrease in NOx and SOx pollution
- GHG emissions are not at scale compatible with net zero by 2050
Need for shared vision for future Arctic shipping

- Possible Futures
  - Transit
  - Tourism
  - Destination

- Low Impact Shipping Corridors
  - Focus on prevention
  - Better infrastructure for shipping
  - More, higher-quality, and closer to real-time information for mariners
  - Proactive management and environmental protection
  - Greater monitoring and oversight
  - Higher level of partnerships with Inuit
Greatest risk to the Arctic marine environment is climate change

- Arctic has already warmed 3.1 °C since 1971
- 7.6 trillion tons of Arctic sea ice have been lost since 1994
- Linear relationship: loss of 3 m² of Arctic sea ice per metric ton of CO₂e emissions
- Wide ranging effects
- Equity implications

Sources: AMAP 2021. Arctic Climate Change Update 2021: Key Trends and Impacts
Notz and Stroeve. 2016. Observed Arctic sea-ice loss directly follows anthropogenic CO₂ emissions. Science, 354 (6313)
Implications of climate action for Arctic LNG

- Expect acceleration in pace of policy action
  - Forthcoming methane regulations for oil and gas sector (at least 75 percent below 2012 levels by 2030)
  - Fossil fuel subsidy phaseout by 2023
- Expect shipping to be brought in line with other sectors
- Uncertain and marginal GHG reductions don’t align with action needed

Climate Action Tracker. Canada. 15 Sept 2021 Update.
So what then?

- Better to focus on solutions that get us to where we need to go and that benefit Arctic people
  - Major, long-term investments in housing, energy systems, local infrastructure, and adaptation are climate-aligned
  - Investments in safer arctic shipping to prevent impacts
  - Investment in zero emissions technologies for ships and Arctic communities
Thank you for your attention

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