Changing Maritime Shipping Patterns: focus on Arctic

Figure 14: Major Shipping Routes from East to West

Homeland Security
International Ice Patrol – NW Atlantic shipping safety
Future U.S. Arctic Mission Needs

Energy Security:
• 25% of energy reserves (oil, gas, gas hydrates) estimated to be in the Arctic region.

U.S. Sovereignty (Security):
• Arctic - primarily a maritime domain.
• Maritime presence to reinforce U.S. jurisdictional claims

Defense & Homeland Security Readiness (Security):
• Emerging nuclear threats (DEW, Ballistic Missile Defense program support)
• Other nations: European Union, China, Russia, Japan, and Canada.
• Maritime Domain Awareness (1,300 nm of U.S. coast line north of Arctic circle)
• Thule AB resupply
• Protect people & infrastructure
• Enforce Laws & Treaties (fisheries, border security etc)

Global Mobility (Safety, Security)
• Increased shipping in Arctic – global economy

Safeguarding our oceans & resources (Safety & Stewardship):
• Maritime Prevention & Response (Environment, Commercial vessel safety)
• Search & Rescue (more shipping, more people)

Polar research support – demand continue to increase (Stewardship)
Why the USCG in the Arctic?

- U.S. is an Arctic Nation

- Arctic is primarily a maritime domain – needs a maritime national surface presence.
  - USCG ice capable vessels, including polar icebreakers, aircraft?, shore infrastructure.

- USCG has broad responsibilities – many are projected to increase in the Arctic

- USCG can enforce all aspects of U.S. sovereignty
  - Enforce laws & treaties
  - National security
  - Homeland security/defense (energy security, critical infrastructure)
  - Safeguard our oceans (environment, fisheries etc)
  - Global mobility

- Multi-mission nature:
  - Support polar research
  - Search & Rescue

- National Research Council report
Questions