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MARINE AND MARITIME MONITORING IN THE ARCTIC

Abstract

The Arctic Sea Ice coverage has diminished in late summer by more than 50% since the start of satellite monitoring in 1979. The reduction has opened up transport possibilities along the North Coast of Russia that will significantly reduce transport times between Europe and the Far East. The reduction of ice cover and thickness is continuing and makes it realistic to envisage large parts of the Central Arctic Basin being potentially sailable within a few decades. Currently over 80% of the sea traffic north of the Arctic Circle is in Norwegian waters. Norway has put a large effort in managing this traffic, among others by launching its own AIS satellite, starting a marine surveillance system (BarentsWatch) as well as an extensive use of radar satellites. The intervention will focus on the overall focus of monitoring of marine and maritime issues with the impact on economic and environmental issues. The emphasis will be the use of space infrastructure.