

# ARCTIC SHIPPING - A MARINER'S PERSPECTIVE TO SAFE NAVIGATION **NAVIGATION** by Capt.(Dr.) Ashok Pandey **Associate Professor** Massachusetts Maritime Academy, USA

#### **AGENDA**

Climate
Change &
Shipping
Routes-Arctic

Polar Code: A pro-active risk mitigation document

SIGRID-3 &'CAROT'-Ice Leg uncertainty

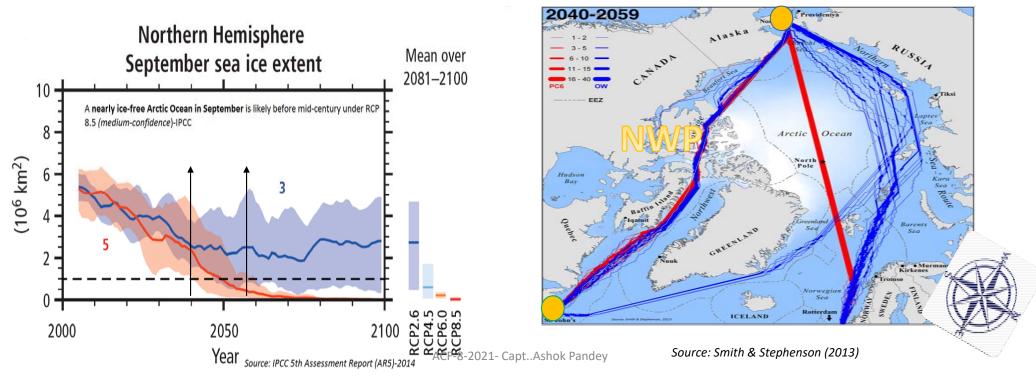
Limitations-Sea Ice Data

Conclusions

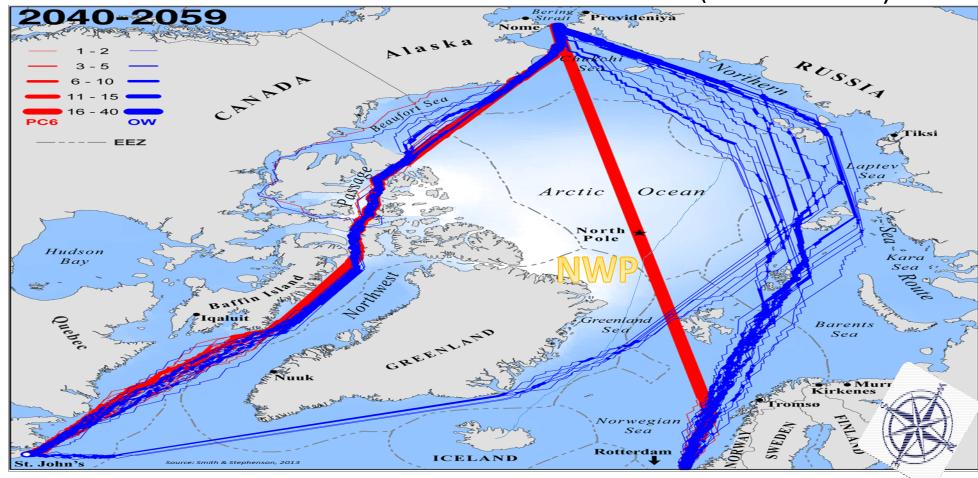
# ARCTIC SHIPPING ROUTES- TRIGGER & CONSEQUENCE

#### THE TRIGGER: DECLINE IN SEA-ICE

# EMERGENCE OF TRANS-ARCTIC SHIPPING ROUTES: THE CONSEQUENCE



### ARCTIC TRANSPORT ACCESSIBILITY-MODEL(2040-2059)



Oct.28,2021

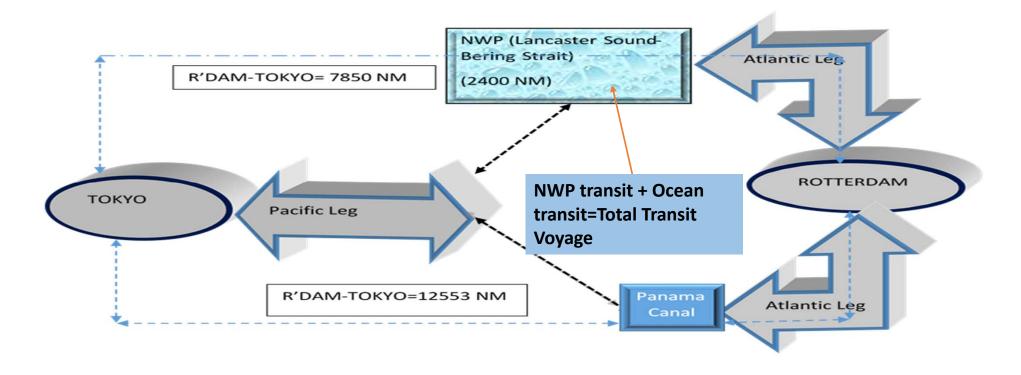
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Source: Smith & Stephenson (2013)

#### DIGITAL ICE CHARTS-'SIGRID'-3

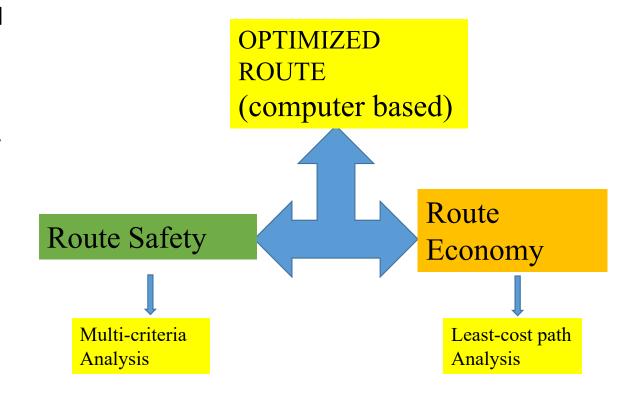
- Adhering to the Polar Code (a pro-active document)- Risk mitigation and voyage planning remains the best option to conduct safe navigation.
- The erstwhile frozen sea ice is also breaking into pieces and each piece can repeat the TITANIC story if not identified and avoided.
- Sea ice forecasts are even more important in ice bound regions than ever before- growlers difficult to detect-experienced ice navigators!
- The SIGRID-3 (WMO,2010) format is a powerful tool in understanding the parameters (CT,CA,SA,FA...CN,CD..)

# THE 'ICE' LEG-AN UNCERTAIN FACTOR IN ARCTIC NAVIGATION



#### 'CAROT' & SIGRID-3

- ➤ The route optimization tool seeks the least cost path in an ice regime
- ➤ SIGRID-3 data quality is a concern that will get better over time.



#### INCONSISTENCIES-SEA ICE DATA

- ➤ It is hard to estimate the average seaice thickness with a 'dummy variable' (-9) present in the mix that introduces an uncertainty in averaging ice thickness.
- ➤ Information on floe size that is critical to voyage planning becomes unreliable with missing values and 'unknown parameters' (99).
- An accurate estimation of ice concentration is also not precise with so many missing variables.

SELECTED SEA ICE CHART DATA-29th SEPT14													
OBJECTID*	Shape *	CT	CA	SA	CB	SB	CC	FC					
		Total Conc	Partial Conc	Stage Of Dev	Partial Conc	Stage Of Dev	Partial Conc	Ice Form					
1	Polygon	92	_9	95	-9	_9	-9	-9					
3	Polygon	91	90	95	10	84	-9	-9					
4	Polygon	91	90	95	10	93	-9	-9					
10	Polygon	1	-9	99	-9	-9	-9	3					
66	Polygon	60	20	95	40	81	-9	99					
95	Polygon	2	-9	98	_9	-9	-9	-9					
96	Polygon	91	-9	84	-9	-9	-9	8					
102	Polygon	90	70	95	10	93	10	4					
103	Polygon	80	-9	81	-9	-9	-9	8					
120	Polygon	92	-9	93	-9	-9	-9	4					
173	Polygon	91	10	95	10	93	10	4					
178	Polygon	1	-9	99	-9	-9	-9	4					
180	Polygon	20	-9	81	-9	-9	-9	4					
263	Polygon	60	10	95	50	81	-9	8					

#### OBSERVATIONS-SEA ICE DATA

- The daily ice charts (CIS) represent the best estimate of ice conditions at the time of image acquisition (4 hours before transmission), based on an integration of data from a variety of sources, such as satellite observation, ship, and aircraft-based visual observations.
- Ice concentration data collected from passive microwave radiation techniques may not be as reliable as SAR (active microwave) telemetry data. Passive microwave radiation data is known to underestimate sea ice concentration
- Ice berg charts of the Arctic on similar lines as the IIP charts off Grand banks is necessary.

## Route Optimization & Sea Ice Data

- ➤ Decision making in ice -timely and accurate
- ➤ Passage planning —a powerful tool that assists the ice navigator in judging the dangers involved and arrive at a better route selection.
- A host of measures to improve safety and reduce risk are currently under development- Model embraces AIRSS methodology & and a risk indexing system for Polar operations (POLARIS).
- A dynamic/tactical route optimization tool 'on-the-fly' will immensely assist in better decision making on the safest route to follow in ice.
- ➤ All of the above may not be possible without an accurate Ice Chart!
- ➤ Deploying more space assets & better ship-shore data connectivity in Arctic

### NWP- NAVIGATION SEASON (2011-2099)

PROJECTED-NAVIGATION DAYS-SUMMER (JULY-OCTOBER)											
	NORTH W	EST PASS	AGE								
	P	C3	P	C6	Non-Ice Class/OW						
RCP4.5	Navigable Days /SD										
	Days	SD	Days	SD	Days	SD					
2011-2030	89	19	79	19	69	19					
2045-2065	109	13	96	18	83	18					
2080-2099	114	17	94	18	84	17					
RCP6.0											
2011-2030	86	15	76	16	67	15					
2045-2065	96	16	85	17	74	15					
2080-2099	116	10	107	1 <u>5</u>	95	16					
RCP8.5											
2011-2030	84	16	75	15	66	13					
2045-2065	121	4	115	8	105	12					
2080-2099	122	1	120	4	116	6					
RCP	Representative Concentration Pathway- Climate forcing scenarion										
SD	Standard	Standard Deviation									
PC-3	Polar Class 3		Year-round operation 2nd year ice								
PC-4	Polar Class	5 4	Year-round operation Thick 1st year ice								
PC-6	Polar Class	s 6	Summer/Autumn ops-Thick 1st Year								
OW	Open Water		Ice free								

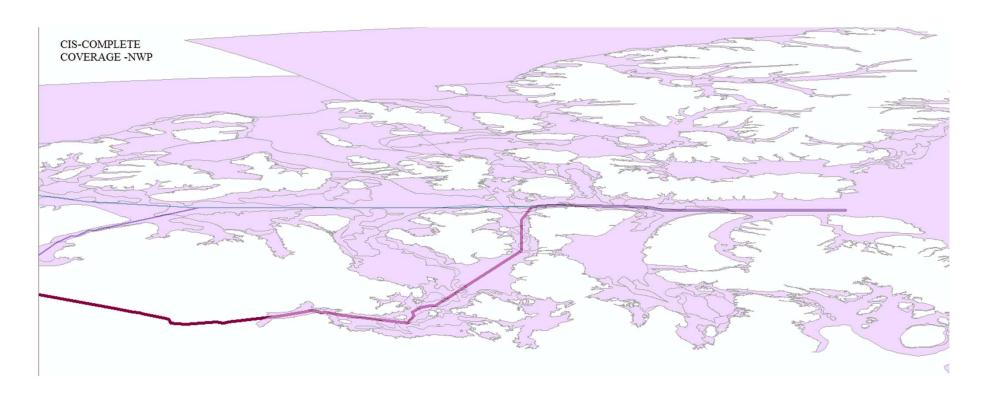
Source: Projected 21st century changes to Arctic Marine Access (Stephenson et. al,2013)

#### **EVIDENCE OF:**

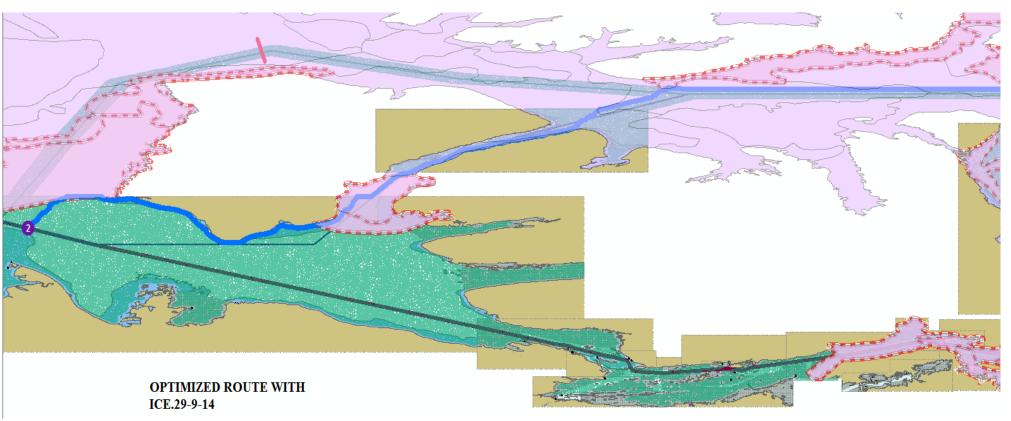
- MEDIAN ICE THICKNESS REDUCING PER AGE CLASS
- INTER-ANNUAL VARIABILITY IN SEA-ICE THICKNESS( 2yr& MYI)

Navigable days-getting longer 'OW' ships

## CIS COVERAGE-NWP



# OPTIMIZED ROUTE-NWP



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#### CARPE DIEM

• Navigation In Ice-infested Waters Remains an Existential Threat to Shipping despite sea-ice receding.

• Let's Eliminate It!

• The role of weatherpersons is seminal in this effort!

We Have Come A Long Way.....Let's Sail-on-the Wire



Captain J-E Bernier looking for ice....