

The accuracy of your written English is really important to us. Please correct all errors of fact, spelling, grammar and punctuation, as well as any inconsistencies, in the following passage about the High North. Do not rewrite it or make substantial changes—just correct the mistakes.

The high north has long been a source of fascination for its dramatic scenery, unique wildlife and inhospitable conditions. Over recent decades, images of it's melting ice cap and the affects on ice-dependant species such as polar bears, walruses and caribou have come to symbolise the impact of climate change on the natural world. However, less attention has been paid to the impact the receding ice pack is having on human activity.

The Arctic is warming at least twice as fast any other place on Earth. As Sir David Attenborough states in the forward to "Frozen Planet", "Within the foreseeable future, the sea ice that covers the North Pole itself may disappear altogether each summer, and ships will be able to sail across from the Pacific along the northern coasts of North America and Eurasia and into the Atlantic Ocean.'

As the ice bergs and ice flows around the pole become more navigable, shipping is the only commercial activity that is likely to increase. There are vast untapped oil and gas fields under the Arctic, as well as large quantities of minerals and rare earth metals, such as cerium; lanthanum and terbium, which are used in modern technologies such as catalytic converters and smartphones. The question is whether these commercial opportunities will bring conflict to the region, which since the end of the cold war has been characterised by the phrase, "High North, low tension"

Since, 1996 the eight Arctic states have come together in the Arctic Council, which was established by the Ottawa declaration. It is made up of the five littoral states to the Arctic Ocean—Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russia and the USA—as well as Finland, Iceland and Sweden. It also contains bodies that represent the indigenous people's of the region, who are having to adapt to the changing Arctic environment. Dr Dalee Sambo Dorough, the chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Congress, has said, "The longevity of Inuit knowledge and observations has resulted in extraordinary understanding of Arctic ecosystems, which are embedded in our language and way of life." He argues that it is essential that this knowledge is utilised by climate scientists working in the Arctic.

Nowhere is the co-operation between the seven Arctic states more obvious than in the field of science. The UK Arctic research station is part of an international research community at Ny-Ålesund in the Svalbard archipelago. As well as managing the Research Station, the British Arctic Survey operates the RSS Sir David Attenborough—a brand new polar research ship that cost £200 million to construct. The winning entry in the public competition to name the ship, Boaty MacBoatface, was vetoed in favour of the name of the respected broadcaster and naturalist.

As the environment of the High North changes and the icepack continues to melt, it will have profound effects on the people who live there and on commercial activity in the region. What is not yet clear is whether it will bring conflict to what is one of the most peaceful places on earth?