

# The Arctic High Seas Fisheries Negotiations - Background and Context

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# Global framework....

## **1982 Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS)**

1993 FAO Compliance Agreement

## **1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA)**

1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries + IPOAs

2003 FAO Ecosystem Approach guidelines

2007/9 UNGA bottom fishing resolutions

2009 FAO Deep Sea Fishing Guidelines

2009 FAO Port State Measures Agreement

2014 FAO Flag State Performance guidelines

2017 FAO Guidelines for catch documentation

... with standards for  
management....

Best scientific evidence available

Precautionary approach

Ecosystem considerations

...that requires significant inputs from science as a basis for decision-making.

"The timely collection, compilation and analysis of data fundamental to the effective conservation and management."

UN Fish Stocks Agreement, annex 1

# Regional cooperation

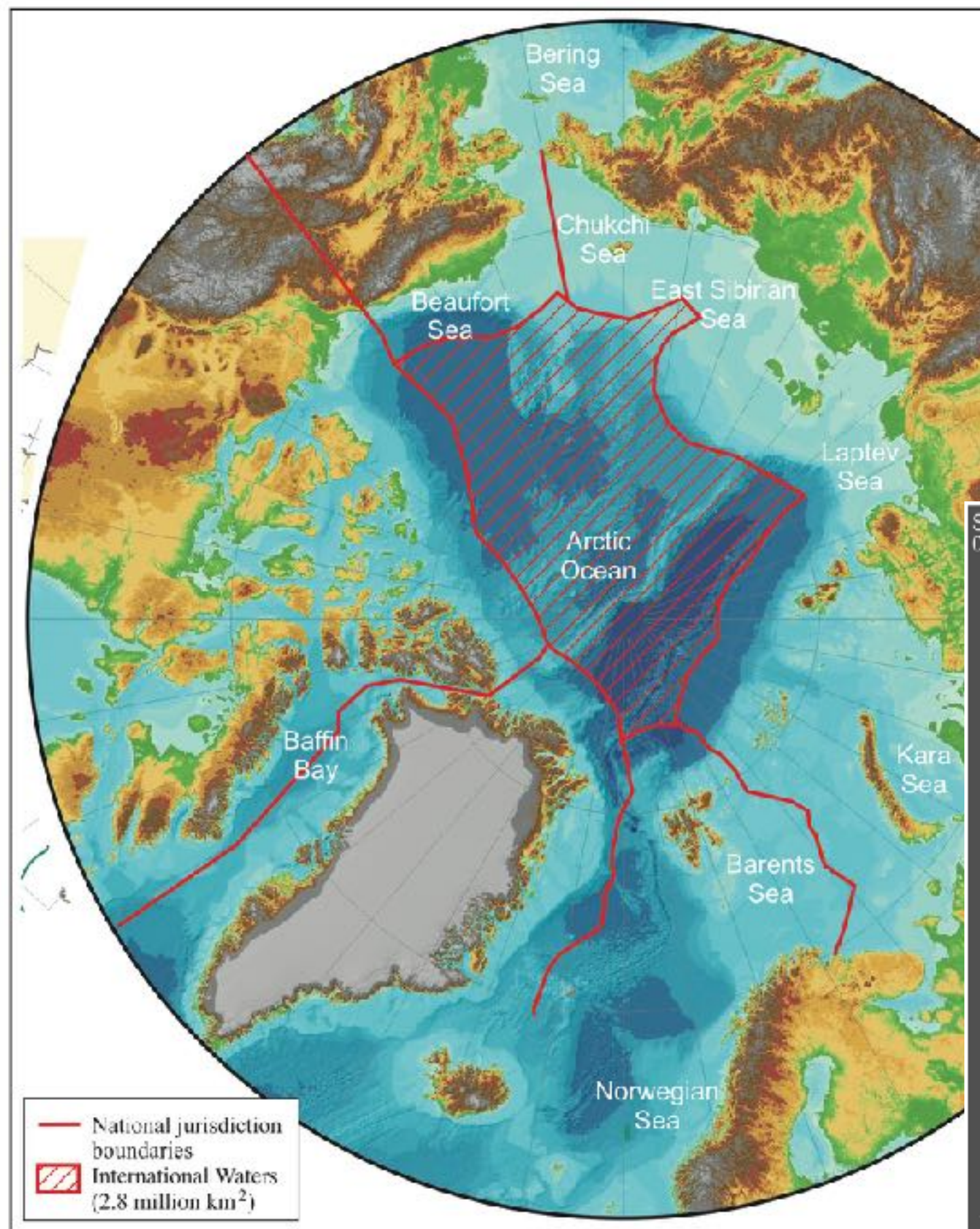
UNCLOS and UNFSA obligations

About 20 Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) worldwide

The High Seas in the central Arctic Ocean and regional cooperation - the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries commission (NEAFC)

Regional **scientific** cooperation: PICES, ICES, PAME





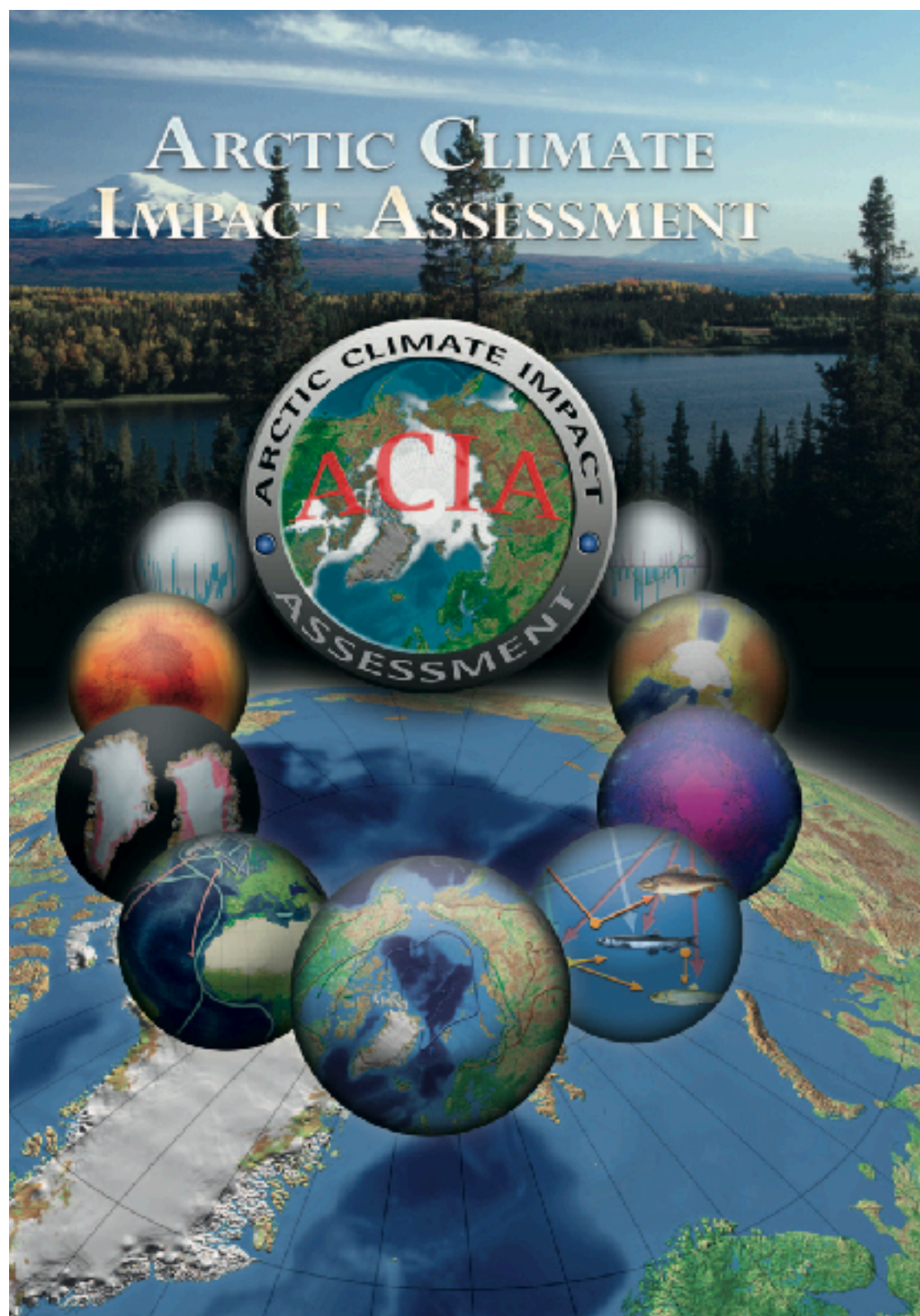
Sea Ice Extent  
09/10/2016



National Snow and Ice Data Center, Boulder, CO

median  
1981–2010





“... the five coastal states ... will take steps in accordance with international law both nationally and in cooperation among the five states and other interested parties to ensure the protection and preservation of the fragile marine environment of the Arctic Ocean.”

Ilulissat Declaration, May 2008



1st meeting of governments, Oslo 2010: *What is the status of science?*

1st scientific meeting, Anchorage 2011: *No urgency, need to establish baseline data.*

2nd mtg of governments, Washington DC 2013: *Prospects for commercial fisheries in the ABNJ?*

2nd scientific mtg, Tromsø 2013: *not really. Need to know more.*

3rd mtg of governments, Nuuk, 2014: *Agreement (2015)*

3rd scientific mtg, Seattle, 2015: *Status of knowledge, fw for science plan*

# The Oslo-Declaration (2015)

*Interim measures to deter unregulated fishing in the ABNJ in the central Arctic Ocean:*

Abstain from unregulated fishing

Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring

An extended process

# Science: accomplishments and next steps

1-3 meeting (2011-15): Status & gaps reports,  
inventory of research & monitoring, draft FW for JPRM

4 meeting (2016): Synthesis of knowledge, Science &  
Monitoring plan, FW for implementation plan

Ottawa October 2017: implementation plan



# The extended process

5 + 5 countries/EU

5 meetings since December 2015 + 1 science meeting (Tromsø sept '16)

Legally binding agreement: Abstain from unregulated fishing, research & monitoring program, future steps

Status presents

# The Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring