

SUMMARY OF THE SEAS OF THE ARCTIC OCEAN

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revised 18 May 2017

The Arctic Ocean, connected to the Atlantic Ocean through the Greenland Sea and Norwegian Sea and Pacific Ocean through the Bering Sea, has an area of approximately 14×10^6 km². There are 11 environing seas defined which, eastbound from the Greenwich Meridian are:

BARENTS SEA: is surrounded by Svalbard, Franz-Josef Land, and Novaya Zemlya with the Norwegian and Russian coast. To its south-west is the Norwegian Sea of the Atlantic Ocean. Murmansk is its major port and there are numerous smaller ones. The last traces of the Gulf Stream keep much of it ice-free, even during winter. The Kola is the principal river which drains into it. It is a major fishing region and source of hydrocarbons.

PECHORA SEA: a small sea to the south east of the Barents Sea, also important for fishing and hydrocarbons. Although traversed by two of the routes through the Northern Sea Route it has no major port. It receives drainage from the White Sea

WHITE SEA: a largely land-locked sea with low salinity. The major port is Arkhangelsk and there are several others. The Onega and Severnaya Divina rivers drain into it.

KARA SEA: the 'ice cellar' of the Arctic, frequently largely ice-covered in summer. Bounded by Novaya Zemlya on the west and Severnaya Zemlya on the east. Several small islands are in its central northern extent. Dikson is its only substantial port. The Yenisey, Ob, and Taz rivers drain into it.

LAPTEV SEA: lies between the Taimyr Peninsula and New Siberian Islands. Tiksi is the principal port. The Khatanga, Olenek, Lena, and Yana rivers drain into it.

EAST SIBERIAN SEA: lies between the New Siberian Islands and Wrangell Island. Pevek is the principal port. The Indigirka, Kolyma, and Palyvum rivers drain into it.

CHUKCHI SEA: lies east of Wrangell Island, between Asia and North America across the Bering Strait. The minor ports of Mys Schmidt (Chukotka) and Barrow (Alaska) are the only ones along its coast. No major rivers drain into it. It is an important fishing region and source of hydrocarbons in its east.

BEAUFORT SEA: extends from the Chukchi Sea along the northern Alaskan and Yukon coasts to Banks Island. The MacKenzie River drains into it. Tuktoyaktuk is its only, small, port. It is an important fishing region and source of hydrocarbons.

PRINCE GUSTAV ADOLF SEA: A small sea within the Sverdrup Archipelago of Canada without ports or rivers.

LINCOLN SEA: a small sea bounded by north-east Ellesmere Island and north-west Greenland. Ice may exceed 6 m thick by rafting in this region. The only settlement on its shores is Alert, a polar station. It is without ports or rivers.

WANDEL SEA: a small sea bounded by north-east Greenland with the Greenland Sea to its south. The only settlement on its shores is Nord, a polar station. It is without ports or rivers.