



US ARCTIC RESEARCH COMMISSION



Agency report to the AICC

John Farrell, Executive Director
Seattle, WA
January 9, 2007



US ARCTIC RESEARCH COMMISSION



What is the USARC?

- Independent US federal government agency
- Established by the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984, as amended
- By law, works directly with both congressional and executive branches
- Develops and recommends an integrated national Arctic research policy
- Helps establish a national Arctic research program plan to implement the policy
- Facilitates cooperation among federal, state and local governments, and other nations with respect to Arctic research, both basic and applied
- 7 presidentially appointed commissioners, and staff in DC and Anchorage offices



US ARCTIC RESEARCH COMMISSION



Mead Treadwell, Chair



Michele Longo Eder



Charles Vorosmarty



Susan Sugai



Duane Laible



Tom Royer



Vera Kingkeeguk Metcalf



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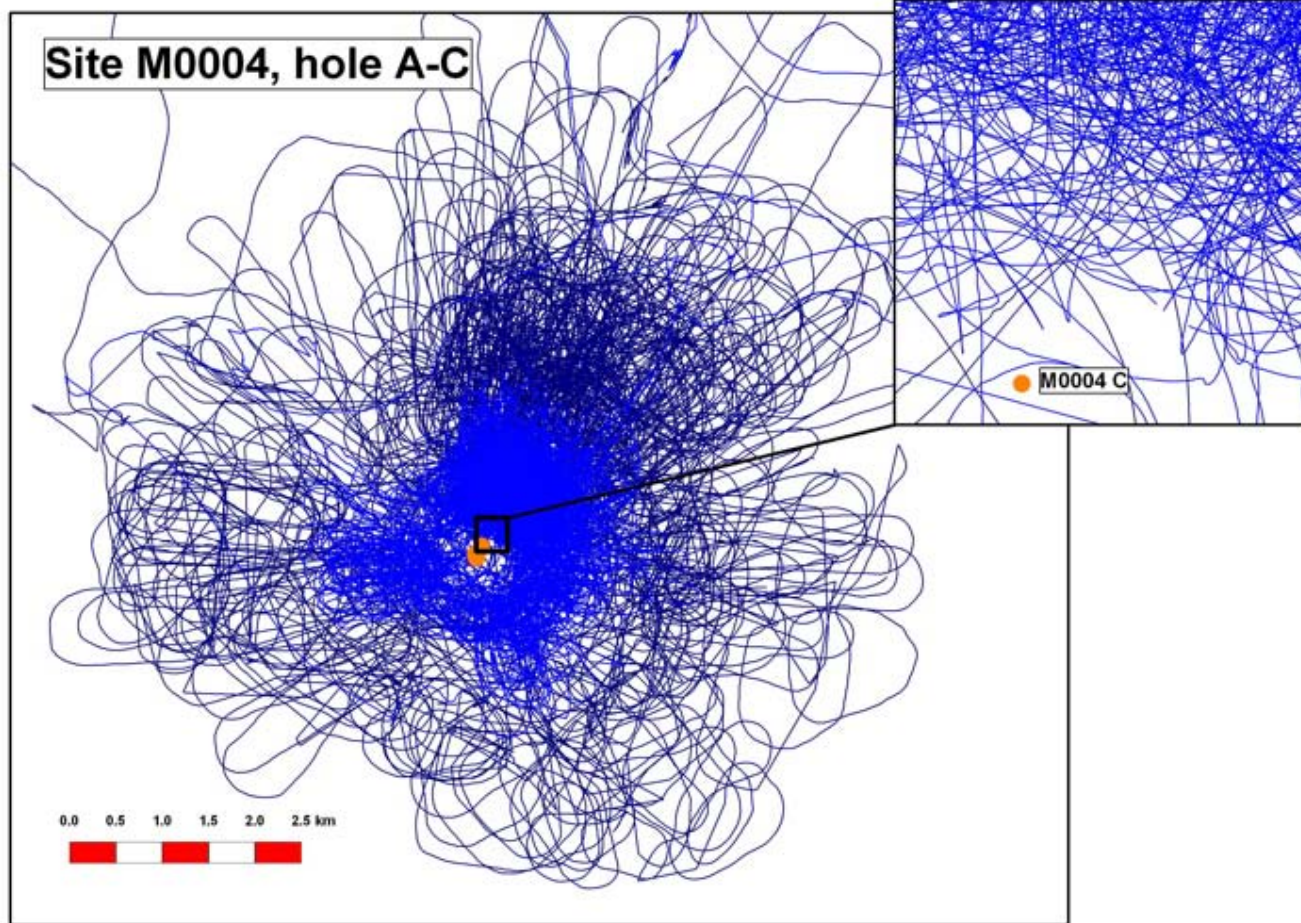


Arctic Coring Expedition (ACEX) 2004 Lomonosov Ridge

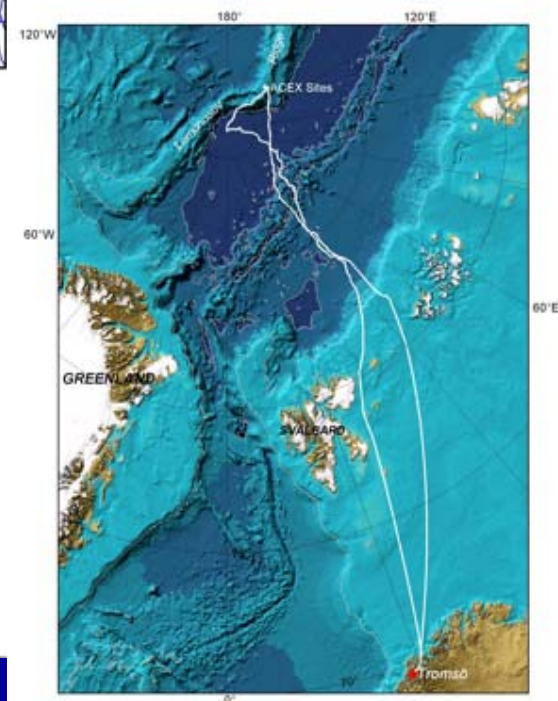




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IODP/ACEX
coring expedition
2004





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Recent USARC activities affiliated with icebreakers

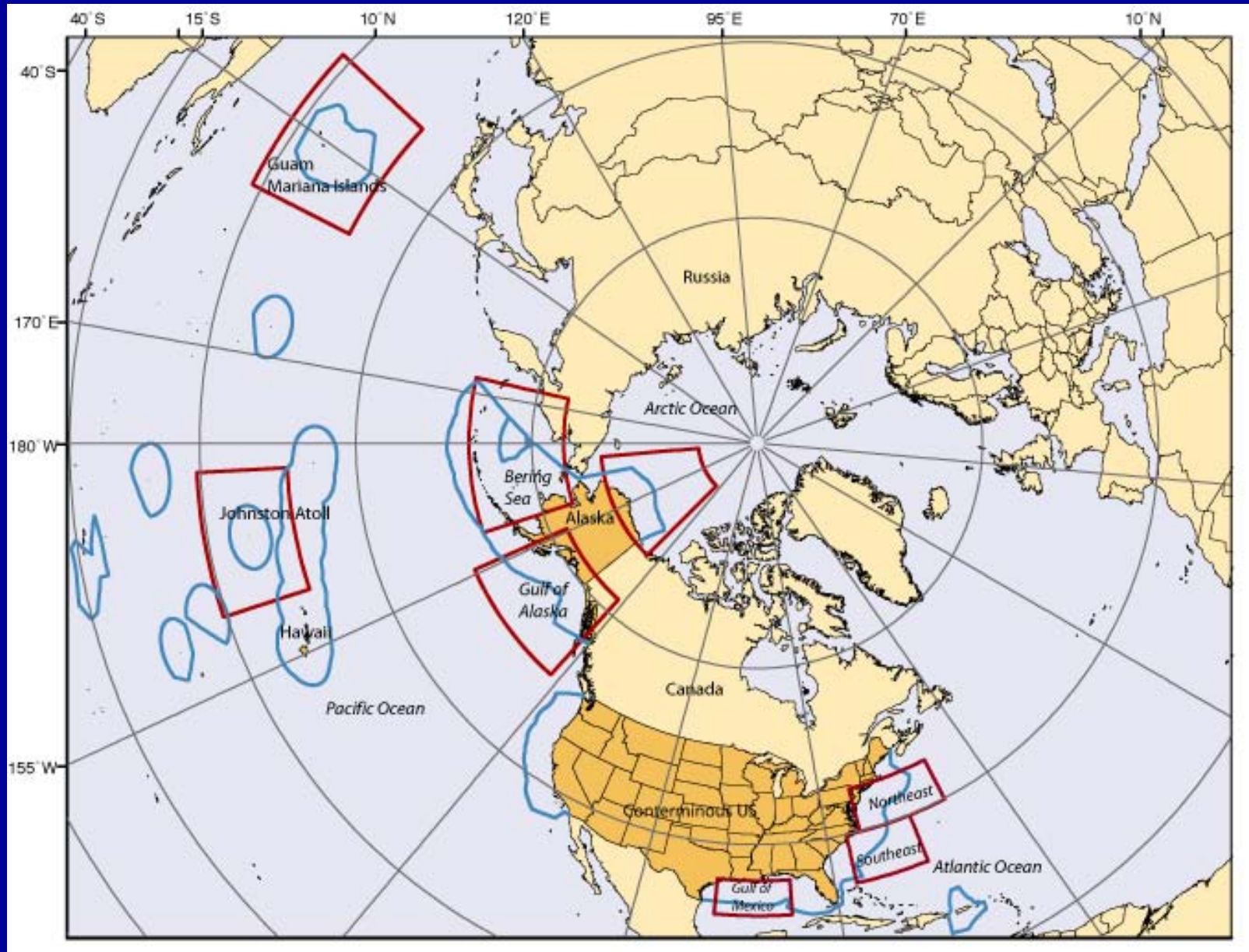
- NAS icebreaker study (help initiate, provide input, review)
- Mead Treadwell testifies to Congress in support of NAS recs on 9/26/06
- Encouraging review of national Arctic policy (State, DOE, DOI, CEQ, Congress, etc.)
- Working with USCG to this end, Treadwell meets with Adm. Allen
- Met with NSF's A. Bement to discuss Arctic research matters, AARV, IARPC
- USARC recommends \$ support to initiate design work for new Polar Class ships
 - to Sen. Stevens and Murkowski, Rep. Young, to OMB
 - highlighted in Goals Report, quote in *NY Times* 12/11/06
- Working closely with govt. and academia on Extended Continental Shelf effort
 - encourage use of sub to help collect data

ECS

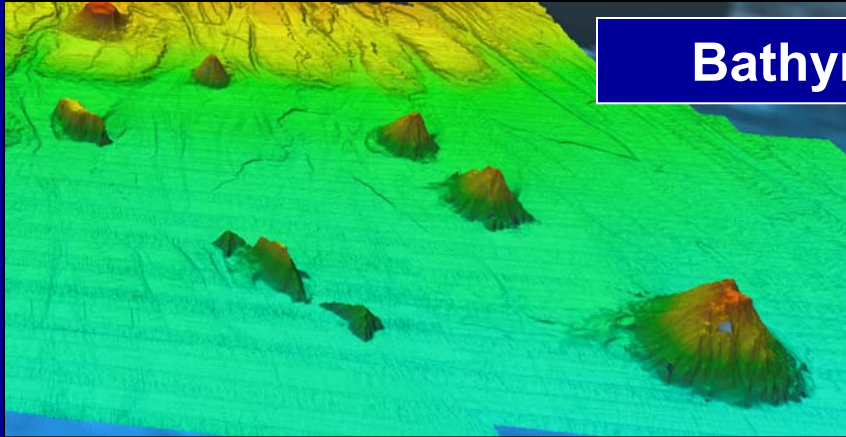
- Establish claim of exclusive sovereign rights beyond EEZ of shelf natural resources
 - oil, gas, mineral resources, sedentary species
- >\$1 trillion in resources* (oil, gas, manganese nodules/crusts, etc.)
- Need to collect and analyze hydro & MGG data if we accede to the UNCLOS or not
 - non-party claim
 - prepare submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Cont. Shelf
- 60 countries have potential ECS claim, 9 have made one so far (\$30 km²)
- some work done or underway (e.g., Healy in Arctic). \$50M+ still needed
- Seismic data collection the largest missing piece. Need more bathy data too
- In Arctic, continued use of Healy, other breakers, subs (revive SCICEX)
- Benefits sovereign rights, natural resource assessment, basic research

* *Global Non-Living Resources on the Extended Cont. Shelf: Prospects at the Year 2000*. Values based on June '00 prices.

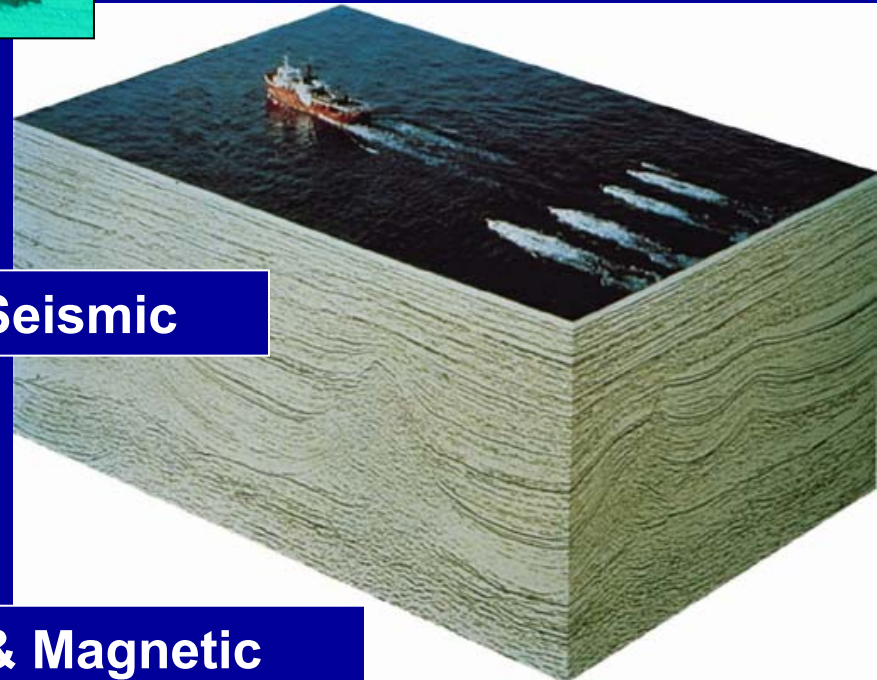
US Extended Continental Shelf



Need to collect data



Bathymetric



Seismic



Gravity & Magnetic

ECS Working Group (to become “Task Force”)



Department of State (DOS)



Department of the Interior (DOI)

MMS

Minerals Management Service (MMS)



U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)



Department of Commerce (DOC)



National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)



Department of Energy (DOE)



U.S. Navy (USN)



Arctic Research Commission (ARC)

Next Steps

1. Obtain support from the Interagency Committee on Ocean Science and Resource Management Integration (ICOSRMI, <http://ocean.ceq.gov/>)
2. White House support and mandate
3. Formalize the interagency process to direct the ECS effort
4. Assign taskings to specific agencies
5. Funding from Congress
 - Engineering study SCAMP II
 - Desktop/feasibility study
 - Data collection (award contracts, field programs)
6. Develop a cross-agency office for data analysis and compilation