

# U.S. Arctic Maritime Transportation System Integrated Action Team *Updates*

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A Federal Partnership for  
the MTS





# U.S. Arctic Maritime Transportation Integrated Action Team (Arctic IAT)

In 2010, the CMTS was directed in the Coast Guard Authorization Act to coordinate transportation in the US Arctic for safety and security.

In response, the CMTS established the US Arctic Maritime Transportation Integrated Action Team.

The Arctic IAT is co-led by US Coast Guard, MARAD, and NOAA and coordinates policy, activities, and assesses the state of the US Arctic MTS.

## ACTIVITIES:

- U.S. Arctic Marine Transportation System: Overview and Priorities for Action 2013
- Ten-Year Projection of Maritime Activity in the U.S. Arctic (2015, 2019)
- Ten-Year Prioritization of Infrastructure Needs in the U.S. Arctic & Infrastructure Inventory Updates (2016, 2018, 2020)
- Recommendations and Criteria for Using Federal Public-Private Partnerships to Support Critical U.S. Arctic Maritime Infrastructure (2017)
- Inventory of Federal Communication Capabilities in the U.S. Arctic (2020)
- Updated US Arctic Marine Transportation Infrastructure Table (2021)
- Second Federal Roundtable on Research Vessel Reporting in the U.S. Arctic (2021)



# 2021 Updated U.S. Arctic Marine Transportation System Infrastructure Table

- Vital to understand the current state of U.S. Arctic Infrastructure as maritime activity grows in the region.
- Includes over 40 substantial updates and additions to earlier versions produced in 2013 and 2018.
- Enables quick look at most essential physical and informational components of MTS
- Critical step to supporting, enhancing, and ensuring safety and reliability of US Arctic MTS





# 2021 Updated U.S. Arctic Marine Transportation System Infrastructure Table

MTS Component	MTS Element
Navigable Waterways	<i>Places of Refuge for Ships</i>
	<i>Areas of Heightened Ecological Significance</i>
Physical Infrastructure	<i>Ports and Associated Facilities</i>
	<i>Geospatial Infrastructure</i>
MTS Information Infrastructure	<i>Hydrographic Surveys</i>
	<i>Shoreline Mapping</i>
	<i>Nautical Charts</i>
	<i>Aids to Navigation (ATON) &amp; Automatic Identification System (AIS)</i>
	<i>Communications</i>
	<i>Marine Weather and Sea Ice Forecasts</i>
	<i>Real-Time Oceanographic Information</i>
	<i>VDatum</i>
	<i>Shore-based Radar</i>
	<i>Federal Icebreaking and Emergency Response Assets</i>
MTS Governance & Response Services	<i>Environmental Response Management</i>
	<i>Search &amp; Rescue (SAR)/Emergency Response</i>
	<i>Mandatory Polar Code/Voluntary Polar Guidelines</i>
Vessel Operations	<i>Crew Standards/Training</i>



# Federal Roundtable on Research Vessel reporting in the U.S. Arctic



Credit: UAF/Val Ihde

May 12, 2021



# CMTS Round Table on Research Vessel Reporting in the U.S. Arctic

- Over 30 participants joined in, representing USCG, NOAA, NSF, UNOLS, DOC, MARAD, IARPC, USARC, BOEM, and USN
- Came about due to concerns related to research vessel operations, vessel to shore communications, and marine subsistence hunting
- Followed up on concerns and recommendations from a previous RT held in December 2019



# U.S. Arctic Research Vessel Reporting Updates

- State Departments Research Activity Tracking System (RATS) has not yet been updated to include language about agencies' regulatory information, and foreign vessels are not required by law to communicate in real time (UNCLOS)
- AWSC has not met in over 2 years, how are agencies ensuring communication among all tribal interests and stakeholders?
- Federal agency communication with Tribal groups can be overwhelming due to a lack of funding support for meetings
- NSF's Office of Polar Programs is now encouraging early community involvement through grant language
- NOAA alongside IARPC is creating an indigenous engagement and communications specialist position to foster relationships with Arctic communities for research to be more inclusive of local communities
- IARPC is hosting a centralized, monthly updated Research Vessel Matrix on their collaborations website for Tribal groups and stakeholders to utilize



# For more information:

- Email [caleb.taylor@cmts.gov](mailto:caleb.taylor@cmts.gov) for information on the CMTS Arctic MTS Integrated Action Team
- Visit the CMTS Website at [www.CMTS.gov/topics/arctic](http://www.CMTS.gov/topics/arctic)



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