



U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System

US Arctic MTS Report

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What is the CMTS?

- Public Law 112-213, The CMTS shall serve as a federal interagency coordinating committee for the purpose of:
 - Assessing the adequacy of the Marine Transportation System (MTS)
 - Promoting integration of the MTS with other modes of transportation and other uses of the marine environment
 - Coordinating, improving the coordination of, and making recommendations with regard to federal policies that impact the MTS
 - Chartered in 2005 in response to Presidential Directive (charter being updated per 46 U.S.C.)
 - Secretary of Transportation is standing Chair
 - 28+ Departments, independent agencies and WH offices



2010 Congressional Directive

- **SEC. 307. ARCTIC MARINE SHIPPING ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTATION**
 - **(a) PURPOSE** — *the purpose of this section is to ensure safe and secure maritime shipping in the Arctic including the availability of aids to navigation, vessel escorts, spill response capability, and maritime search and rescue in the Arctic.*
 - (c) COORDINATION BY COMMITTEE ON THE MARITIME TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.**—*The Committee on the Maritime Transportation System established under a directive of the President in the Ocean Action Plan, issued December 17, 2004, shall coordinate the establishment of domestic transportation policies in the Arctic necessary for carrying out this section.*

CMTS Response

- The CMTS Coordinating Board referred the directive to the CMTS U.S. Arctic Marine Transportation Integrated Action Team (IAT)
- IAT leads: USCG/NOAA/MARAD + 6 CMTS member agencies
- Team chose to perform an updated assessment using AMSA as a foundational document



Why an Updated Assessment?

- Decreasing ice coverage
- Steady growth in commercial maritime activity
- Development on the North Slope
- Oil & Gas Exploration + Mining
- Potential expansion of fishing into U.S. Arctic beyond Bering Straits
- Support to Arctic Communities
- Increased waterborne tourism
- Increased risk to safety of life and property
- Need to address charting and navigation safety infrastructure

Report Development

- Nine CMTS member agencies developed the draft Arctic MTS document
- 17 CMTS member agencies submitted comments
- Public comment period and multiple moderated calls and webinars
- President received report from SECDOT on July 30, 2013

Public Outreach

- CMTS draft Arctic MTS paper issued for 45-day public comment period
- Dedicated moderated conference calls for Public and Tribal interests (19 participants)
- Add'l comments were encouraged to dedicated CMTS email address

Summary of Public Comments

- State of Alaska Officials
- Alaska Tribal Officials
- City Officials
- Non-governmental Organizations
- Industry Representatives



CMTS Arctic MTS Report

- Review of Federal policies & reports regarding the U.S. Arctic MTS
- Inventory of Federal services supporting the U.S. Arctic MTS
- Issue papers regarding system components/elements and the needs of a growing U.S. Arctic MTS to support safety of life and property, security, way of life, economy, environment, etc.
- Acknowledgement of stakeholder and Tribal interests

Issue Papers

- Places of Refuge for Ships
- Areas of Heightened Ecological Significance
- Ports & Associated Facilities
- Geospatial Infrastructure
- Hydrographic Surveys & Nautical Charts
- Shoreline Mapping
- Aids to Navigation
- Communications
- Crew Standards
- Search & Rescue (SAR)
- Marine Weather & Sea Ice Forecasts
- Oceanographic & Real-Time Navigation Info
- Automatic Identification System (AIS)
- Vessel Escort & Icebreaking Services
- Environmental Response Management
- Polar Code /Guidelines for Ships Operating in Arctic Waters



Value of the Report

- Opportunity to address MTS-related issues/needs directly to responsible Federal agencies, including competing uses
- Provides the “big picture” for Federal government activities to address Arctic marine transportation
- Emphasizes transparency and collaboration with State of Alaska, tribal and public stakeholders
- Already used to support the IAM and Arctic Strategy

Report Findings

- Current U.S. Arctic policies sufficient
- Inadequate MTS infrastructure capacity with forecasted increase in users
- Ongoing interagency coordination needed
- CMTS well-suited to lead/report on MTS implementation plan
- CMTS to support other Arctic working groups (NOP, NSS)



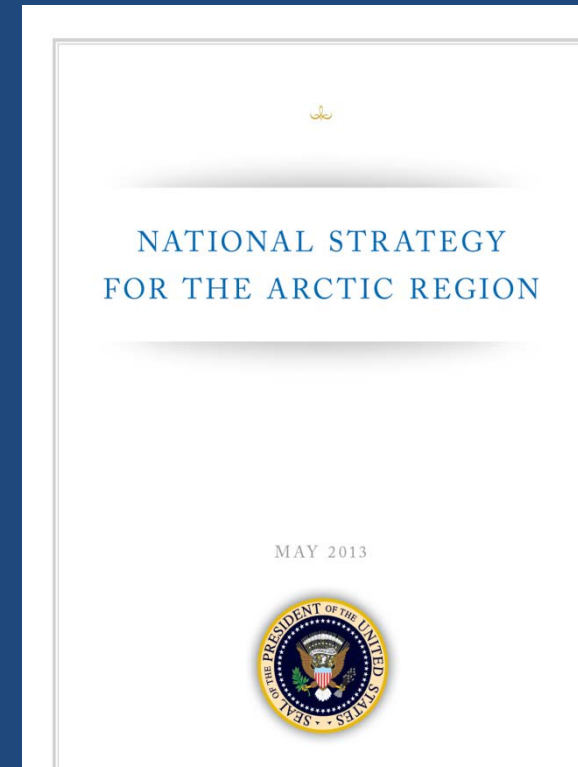
Recommendations

- Interagency coordination of Federal Arctic MTS development
- U.S. Arctic MTS Improvement Plan developed for short/long-term action
- Near Term Priorities are:
 - MTS Information Infrastructure Improvements
 - MTS Response Services
 - Long term needs depend on governance, funding, partnerships



National Strategy for the Arctic Region

- Issued by the President on May 13, 2013
- Sets forth the USG strategic priorities for the Arctic region
- Intended to position the U.S. to respond to challenges and emerging opportunities
- Builds upon existing initiatives by Federal, state, local and tribal authorities, private sector and international partners
- Defines the strategic priorities under 3 “Lines of Effort”





NSAR Lines of Effort

LOE 1: Advance US Security Interests

**LOE 2: Pursuing Responsible Arctic Region
Stewardship**

**LOE 3: Strengthening International
Cooperation**

CMTS Engagement

- CMTS member agencies engaged in development of the NSAR implementation plan
- CMTS MTS report recommendations considered in the implementation plan
- Plan includes recommendation for CMTS to coordinate, monitor and report on milestones for U.S. MTS infrastructure development



**COMMENTS REGARDING A NSAR
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN MAY STILL BE
FORWARDED TO:**

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