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Top of the World Telegraph

News from the Arctic

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THIS WEEK FROM AROUND THE ARCTIC

[Polar meeting mulls melting, warming](#)

The New York Times, 04/07/09

For the first time, countries bound by separate international agreements managing human affairs at the two poles met together in a special session at State Department headquarters in Washington. The meeting was the first joint session of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and the Arctic Council. It preceded the annual meeting of parties to the 50-year-old Antarctic Treaty, which is being held in Baltimore and ends on April 17.

Related article: [Clinton to host first Arctic-Antarctic meeting](#) (AFP, 04/01/09)

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

MARITIME

ALASKA/UNITED STATES

Audio: Young calls for more Arctic icebreakers (APRN, 04/07/09)

<http://aprn.org/2009/04/07/young-calls-for-more-arctic-icebreakers/>

Alaska Congressman Don Young is continuing the call for more icebreakers in the Arctic. Young made his comments at a mark-up hearing of the committee on transportation and infrastructure, which was working on a bill to authorize appropriations for a new icebreaker on the Great Lakes. Although he supports the bill, he said the situation in the Arctic is critical. "As the ice in the Arctic Ocean recedes, if it does so, for longer periods during the summer, shipping in the Arctic will increase. With that increased maritime activity, the Coast Guard will need additional ice-capable vessels in the Arctic."

A tough year ahead for cruises in Alaska (SIKU News, 04/05/09)

<http://www.sikunews.com/art.html?artid=6164&catid=3>

The downturn in the global economy is being felt in Southeast Alaska, a region of the state that has come to expect lots of summer visitors. After years of growth in the tourism industry, the outlook for the 2009 season is uncertain. The global economic downturn has cruise lines discounting heavily to fill the ships that bring the majority of visitors to Alaska.

CANADA

St. Lawrence Seaway celebrates 50 years (MarineLink, 04/01/09)

<http://marinelink.com/en-US/News/Article/330165.aspx>

The St. Lawrence Seaway celebrated its 50th anniversary on March 31. Inaugurated in 1959 by Queen Elizabeth II and President Eisenhower and proclaimed as one of the ten most outstanding Canadian engineering achievements of the past 100 years, the Seaway stands as evidence of an enduring asset. Since its inception, over 2.5 billion tonnes of cargo valued in excess of \$375b has been transported via the Seaway.

FINLAND

Proposal for new sea lanes in Gulf of Finland (Helsingin Sanomat, 04/06/09)

<http://www.hs.fi/english/article/Proposal+for+new+sea+lanes+in+Gulf+of+Finland/1135244984578>

Finland, Estonia and Russia are proposing changes to the system of sea lanes in the Gulf of Finland. The proposed routing would apply to an area where the passenger vessels operating between Helsinki and the Estonian capital Tallinn cross paths with shipping going in the east-west direction. The mid-sea intersection has been seen as a potential safety hazard, especially in the summer.

Decrease in cargo volume in first months of Vuosaari Harbour (Helsingin Sanomat, 04/01/09)

<http://www.hs.fi/english/article/Decrease+in+cargo+volume+in+first+months+of+Vuosaari+Harbour/1135244853325>

Business figures for the first two months of operation at Vuosaari Harbour in the east of Helsinki of this year indicate a decline of about a quarter compared with the corresponding time last year. The figures show that 1.34 million tonnes of unitized cargo came into the harbour in January and February, representing a decline of 28 per cent compared with the same period last year. The decline in exported goods was greater than that in imports.

REGION

“Only scrubbers will meet PM new limits”, says EGCSA (Maritime Global Net, 04/07/09)

<http://www.mglobal.com/news/dailystorydetails.cfm?storyid=9801&type=2>

The manufacturers of marine emissions abatement technology are making a claim that if borne out will have major implications for the bunker industry. The recently formed Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems Association (EGCSA) says that small particulate matter (PM) emitted from ships cannot be met by changing fuels alone. It claims that marine scrubbing technology can meet targets announced by the U.S. and Canada for the planned North American Emissions Control Areas (ECAs).

Cruise takes in polar bear region (The West Australian, 04/02/09)

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=8&ContentID=133876>

Sydney-based Aurora Expeditions said global warming was melting the polar bears' habitat, which meant the long-term future of the world's biggest land carnivore was grim. The company has scheduled seven expeditions to polar bear country this year.

Norwegians eye Shtokman LNG contracts (BarentsObserver, 04/02/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/norwegians-eye-shtokman-lng-contracts.4575688-116320.html>

A source in a Norwegian shipping company confirms that a meeting with the Shtokman developers has taken place and that the Norwegian shipping establishment is "very interested", the Scandinavian Oil-Gas Magazine reports. The source maintains however that the Norwegians will hardly be interested if the Shtokman Development only wants "the most-stripped-down of ships. The Shtokman Development AG will have to obtain a major number of LNG carriers to handle the huge 3.8 trillion cubic meter field, half of which is planned transformed into LNG.

U.S. and Canada ask for 200 mile blanket ECAs (Maritime Global Net, 04/01/09)

<http://www.mglobal.com/news/dailystorydetails.cfm?storyid=9783&type=2>

The U.S. and Canada have asked the IMO to create an emissions control area (ECA) around the two countries' coastline, extending 200 miles out to sea. Ships within the ECA will have to use fuel with no more than 1,000 parts per million sulfur beginning in 2015, or achieve the same result through abatement technology, and new ships must use advanced nitrous oxide emission control technologies beginning in 2016.

RUSSIA

Crisis toil on shelf study (BarentsObserver, 04/07/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/crisis-toil-on-shelf-study.4577377-116320.html>

Budget cutbacks may have a negative impact on Russia's study of the continental shelf in the Arctic. The financial crisis may have a negative impact on Russia's ambitions in the Arctic, says Anatoly Ledovskikh, head of the Federal Agency of sub-soil resources (Rosnedra).

Icebreaker "Lenin" to become hotel and museum (BarentsObserver, 04/03/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/icebreaker-lenin-to-become-hotel-and-museum.4576563-116321.html>

The world's first nuclear powered icebreaker, the *Lenin*, will be turned into a museum and luxury hotel in Murmansk. The rebuilding is supposed to be finished already this summer. The icebreaker was built in 1956 and worked the Northern Sea Route for over 30 years.

New ice-class bulk carrier for Murmansk Shipping Company (BarentsObserver, 04/02/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/new-ice-class-bulk-carrier-for-murmansk-shipping-company.4575801-116321.html>

Murmansk Shipping Company (MSCo) continues to renew its fleet. *Novaya Zemlya* is the fourth bulk carrier the company has bought from China. The vessels will transport bulk cargo from the ports in the Baltic, Barents and White Sea to British and European ports.

SCANDINAVIA

Iceland Coast Guard to lease cruiser to Norway? (IcelandReview, 04/02/09)

http://www.icelandreview.com/icelandreview/daily_news/?cat_id=28304&ew_0_a_id=322266

The Icelandic Coast Guard and its counterpart in Norway are currently discussing whether Iceland's new Coast Guard Cruiser, currently under construction in Chile, can be leased to Norway. Icelandic Coast Guard Georg Lárusson said it is not yet clear what the arrangement would be, but it would possibly be related to how supervisory territories would be divided and the Icelandic Coast Guard might rent a Norwegian cruiser in exchange.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

ALASKA/UNITED STATES

World's fastest broadband at \$20 per home (The New York Times, 04/03/09)

<http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/04/03/the-cost-to-offer-the-worlds-fastest-broadband-20-per-home/?emc=eta1>

Experience in Japan suggests that the major cable systems in the United States might be able to increase the speed of their broadband service by five to 10 times right away. They might not need to charge much more for it than they do now and they'd still make as much money. Competition, or the lack of it, goes a long way to explaining why the fees are higher in the United States.

How much more spectrum do we need? (The New York Times, 04/02/09)

<http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/04/02/how-much-more-spectrum-do-we-need/?emc=eta1>

If Congress approves his nomination to head the Federal Communications Commission, Mr. Genachowski's first major task will be to develop the national broadband strategy that is required under the new stimulus law. A lot of telecom experts are wondering whether those added frequencies will offer enough capacity. They note that a great deal of spectrum now allocated to various government and military uses might well be able to be converted to consumer broadband. Of course, this not only would require action by the F.C.C., but also a willingness by the current owner of the spectrum to give it up.

The Senate's cyber lightning rod (Forbes, 04/01/09)

http://www.forbes.com/2009/04/01/cybersecurity-government-google-technology-security-cybersecurity.html?partner=telecom_newsletter

A new Senate bill introduced is poised to extend federal cybersecurity regulations further into the private sector than ever before, and it is already sparking confusion and criticism among watchdog groups. The bill moves cybersecurity authority to an as-yet-unnamed cyber adviser who will report to the president. The wide-ranging measures also include sweeping new regulations to plug the vulnerabilities in both government and the private sector that could leave the nation open to cyber attacks or data theft.

DENMARK

Denmark rules the IT world (IceNews, 04/03/09)

<http://www.icenews.is/index.php/2009/04/03/denmark-reigns-the-it-world/>

Once again, Denmark has ranked first in the world when it comes to using Information Technology (IT), by the World Economic Forum's Global Information Technology Report for 2008-2009. The report rates nations on their readiness and competence concerning IT. This is the third year running that Denmark has taken the top spot, but this time it was a close shave with Sweden, who ranked a mere 0.01 overall score behind the Danes.

REGION

Cross-border broadband (BarentsObserver, 04/03/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/cross-border-broadband.4576442-116320.html>

The northernmost Norwegian county of Finnmark wants to create a joint broadband connection with the neighboring Russian Pechenga region. A request has already been sent to the Norwegian Foreign Ministry. While the Russians have laid broadband cables to the border town of Nikel, the Norwegians have cables stretched to Kirkenes. Regional colleges, hospitals and business now welcome the cross-border cable plans.

RUSSIA

Telenor officially served with claim to pay \$1.7bln to VimpelCom (Russia Development Gateway, 04/06/09)

http://www.russia-gateway.ru/content/NEWS/NewsItem_3677540/

Norwegian telecoms giant Telenor, which holds 29.9% of shares of Russian mobile operator VimpelCom, said it had been officially served with a claim to pay \$1.7 billion to VimpelCom.

Related article: [Telenor dismisses USD1.7 billion claim.](#)

SCANDINAVIA

Sweden: Internet use down after file-sharing law (Yahoo!News, 04/03/09)

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090403/ap_on_re_eu/eu_sweden_online_piracy

Based on the European Union's Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Directive, the new Swedish law makes it easier to prosecute file-sharers because it requires Internet Service Providers to disclose the Internet Protocol-addresses of suspected violators to copyright owners. Statistics from the Netnod Internet Exchange, an organization measuring Internet traffic, suggest that daily online activity dropped more than 40 percent after the law took effect April 1.

AVIATION

ALASKA/UNITED STATES

Audio: Alaska Delegation takes aim and new bypass mail increase (APRN, 04/06/09)

<http://aprn.org/2009/03/06/alaska-delegation-takes-aim-and-new-bypass-mail-increase/>

Alaska's Congressional Delegation is warning that the upcoming increase on postal rates will have devastating consequences in rural Alaska. Parcel post rates are going up across the

country on May 11th. That increase will be most dramatic for Bypass Mail Customers and will amount to a 50% increase for the largest packages.

Good news, bad news for general aviation (Aviation Today, 04/06/09)

http://www.aviationtoday.com/asw/topstories/Good-News-Bad-News-for-GA_31109.html

The AOPA Air Safety Foundation Joseph T. Nall Report has been published, reflecting general aviation accidents trends based on 2007 data. The number of accidents increased in 2007, which is worrisome, but the number of fatalities declined, as did the rate of fatal accidents.

A scramble to add air traffic controllers (The New York Times, 04/04/09)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/05/business/05airtraffic.html?ref=business>

Controllers must retire at 56, although they are allowed to retire earlier if they have 25 years of service (or 20 years if they are at least 50). Because of this retirement bubble, the F.A.A. is in the midst of a hiring surge that began in 2005; its Air Traffic Control Workforce plan has set a goal of hiring 17,000 controllers by 2017. Another factor driving hiring is a planned modernization of the air traffic control system. When controllers leave their posts to train on new systems, added personnel will be needed to fill their spots.

Have a safe trip (Juneau Empire, *registration required*, 04/02/09)

http://juneauempire.com/stories/040209/loc_424443384.shtml

Alaska's safety record has improved, due to simulator trainings, weather cams, better technology, more training and voluntary self-reporting by air carriers. Despite improvement, the dangers remain; hence this new Alaska-specific simulator, installed in 13 cities around the state by the Medallion Foundation in partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration. It melds elevation data with satellite pictures to create something that's pretty close to actually flying it.

REGION

Air route Murmansk-Bardufoss (BarentsObserver, 04/01/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/air-route-murmansk-bardufoss.4575404-116321.html>

Russian airline company Aeroflot Nord is ready to launch an air route between Murmansk and Bardufoss, Norway, if tour operators find enough willing costumers. Norwegian and Russian tour operators believe that the short flight from Murmansk and the spectacular scenery in Troms will attract many tourists from northern parts of Russia.

RUSSIA

Utair starts up flights to Murmansk (BarentsObserver, 04/03/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/utair-starts-up-flights-to-murmansk.4576404-116321.html>

Airline company Utair will start up daily flights between Murmansk and Moscow. The Utair flights will be based in the Vnukovo airport in Moscow. The flights start up at a time when passenger numbers in Murmansk are declining. Utair is one of the three biggest Russian airline companies with 150 aircrafts and 200 helicopters.

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

Whole-body scans pass first airport tests (The New York Times, 04/07/09)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/07/business/07road.html?ref=technology>

In a shift, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration plans to replace the walk-through metal detectors at airport checkpoints with whole-body imaging machines — the kind that provide an image of the naked body. Robin Kane, the agency's acting chief technology officer, said that the initial results from pilot tests at some checkpoints at 19 airports in the United States had been so good that the idea of using the machines as the standard checkpoint detectors made sense. The plan now is that all passengers will "go through the whole-body imager instead of the walk-through metal detector," he said.

OTHER AREAS OF GENERAL INTEREST

ALASKA/UNITED STATES

Drift River oil moved; alert level lowered (Anchorage Daily News, 04/07/09)

<http://www.adn.com/volcano/story/750610.html>

The tanker *Seabulk Arctic* took on 3.7 million gallons of crude oil from the Drift River terminal Monday, reducing the potential magnitude of an oil spill should nearby Redoubt volcano generate a catastrophic flood.

CANADA

Ignatieff wants North Pole to be international park (CBC News, 04/07/09)

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/north/story/2009/04/07/tech-090407-north-pole-park.html>

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff said he agrees with many of the military tactics Prime Minister Stephen Harper has employed to assert Canada's sovereignty over the north, including military patrols, icebreakers and the Canadian Rangers. But global diplomacy needs to be a much bigger part of the country's plan, according to him. "One of the proposals I've read about recently which I strongly support is that I think Canada could be part of an international agreement to make the North Pole, the whole area of the North Pole, an international public park for the world," he said.

Kivalliq-Manitoba road study nears completion (Nunatsiaq News, 04/03/09)

http://www.nunatsiaq.com/news/nunavut/90403_2049.html

A business plan pitching an all-weather road from the Kivalliq to northern Manitoba should be ready within two months. The 1,200-kilometre road would link into the existing Manitoba highway system at Gillam, roughly 250 km south of Churchill. The Manitoba port town, plus Arviat, Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet would connect to the highway by feeder routes. Alan Johnson, director of transportation planning for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation says that the business plan would tout mining, tourism and hydroelectric opportunities in the region.

Strahl announces funding to rebuild, refurbish Arctic research centres (The Canadian Press, 04/01/09)

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5i3e3qbAHdqcNbO-NfOJZZUAh2rJg>

Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl has identified about \$55 million in funding to rebuild and refurbish 20 Arctic research centres from Yukon to Newfoundland and Labrador. The money comes from the \$85 million announced in the last budget for such facilities, which will also include a new, state-of-the-art facility in one of three Nunavut communities. A study is underway to determine which of the communities - Cambridge Bay, Pond Inlet and Resolute - would be the best location for the facility. *Related article: [Tories promise \\$27-million for Nunavut research projects](#).*

UK agrees deal with Canada to share polar facilities (Planet Earth, 03/31/09)

<http://planetearth.nerc.ac.uk/news/story.aspx?id=367>

The first steps of polar research agreement between UK and Canada have been in agreeing to greater access to both Antarctica and the Arctic and the essential infrastructure - such as field stations, polar observatories, ski-equipped aircraft, icebreakers and snow vehicles. The UK is not an Arctic Rim state and has no territories in the region, but it does have a research facility at Ny-Ålesund on the Norwegian island Svalbard in the Arctic. Canada on the other hand is a signatory to the Antarctic Treaty but has no Antarctic research facility.

DENMARK

Support for Arctic research (Sermitsiaq, 04/02/09)

<http://sermitsiaq.gl/kultur/article80355.ece?lang=EN>

The Rock Foundation has awarded \$1.5 million (8.5 million Danish kroner) to a project at the National Museum in Denmark that centres on Arctic immigration 4,500 years ago. The Carpenter-Melgaard Endowment will be used for work centring on the artifacts and research material collected by the famous Danish Arctic researcher, Jørgen Meldgaard.

Danish government shaky in Arctic Council warm up (Sermitsiaq, 03/31/09)

<http://sermitsiaq.gl/politik/article80224.ece?lang=EN>

A conference in the Danish parliament to focus on new challenges and opportunities for cooperation in the Arctic has exposed what critics say is the Danish government's lack of interest in the region. The conference was attended by researchers, military representatives and members of the Danish, Greenlandic and Faroese parliaments; and was seen as preparation for the Danish chairmanship of the Arctic Council, covering all countries in the North Pole, for the coming two years.

NORWAY

Oil worth billions outside Norway's Arctic coast (BarentsObserver, 04/07/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/oil-worth-billions-outside-norways-arctic-coast.4577426-116321.html>

Seven billion barrels of oil equivalents are probably believed to be under the continental shelf of northern Norway. The oil industry and the political opposition parties are now stepping up pressure on government to extract the resources.

Norway wants Svalbard on UNESCO's World Heritage List (BarentsObserver, 04/03/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/norway-wants-svalbard-on-unescos-world-heritage-list.4576470-16174.html>

In its white paper to Stortinget, the Norwegian parliament, the Norwegian Government will go in for a nomination for Svalbard to the prestigious World Heritage List. Svalbard has been on the tentative list for nomination for two years. An application for nomination will be ready earliest at the end of 2012, and will be considered by UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in 2014. Seven places in Norway are already on the World Heritage List.

REGION

Finding the North Pole on thin ice (NPR, 04/04/09)

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=102751874>

The goal of the Catlin Arctic Survey, a British expedition to the North Pole, is to collect data to help scientists determine how fast the sea ice is disappearing. The polar explorers are using equipment ranging from a mobile radar unit to good, old-fashioned clipboards and drills to record accurate measurements of ice thickness. *(Audio link included)*

Sovereignty of Hans Island remains disputed (Sermitsiaq, 04/02/09)

<http://sermitsiaq.gl/politik/article80372.ece?lang=EN>

The small and uninhabited Hans Island that lies between northern Greenland and Canada remains a disputed territory, with both Denmark and Canada laying claim to sovereignty over the barren knoll.

Satellite snow maps help reindeer herders adapt to a changing Arctic (Insciences Organisation, 04/01/09)

http://insciences.org/article.php?article_id=3929

Arctic reindeer herders are facing the challenges of adapting to climate change as a warmer Arctic climate makes it harder for herds to find food and navigate. To help them adapt, the ESA-backed Polar View initiative is providing them with satellite-based snow maps. In addition to climate change, reindeer herders also have to face a loss of pastures due to infrastructure development, such as roads, hydroelectric power dams and cabin resorts. In the future, ICR and Polar View may partner again to monitor the different forms of land use change over time.

RUSSIA

No Russian militarization in Arctic (BarentsObserver, 04/03/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/no-russian-militarization-in-arctic.4576566-116320.html>

Russia does not intend to build Arctic military bases or establish an Arctic military district. We are not talking about a Russian militarization of the Arctic, a representative of the Russian Security Council says. A new strategy paper called "Principles for Russian politics in the Arctic in the period to 2020 and in a further perspective" outlines an enhanced military presence in the

Arctic. As highlighted by the Security Council representative, the document rather emphasizes the development of Arctic border infrastructure and places the FSB in the main position. Natural resource development is central in the paper.

SWEDEN

Europe's largest wind farm slated for northern Sweden (SIKU News, 04/07/09)

<http://www.sikunews.com/art.html?artid=6168&catid=10>

Sweden will play host to Europe's largest wind farm after a northern county gave its seal of approval to a major new energy project, reports the local. If the Swedish government gives its green light as well, a total of 1,101 wind turbines will be built in northern Sweden at an estimated cost of 55 billion kronor (\$6.9 billion), the Norrbotten county administrative board said in a statement. *Related link: [The biggest wind park in Europe.](#)*

UNCLOS (UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA)

U.S. ocean panel urges federal action to protect coasts, marine resources (The New York Times, 04/07/09)

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2009/04/07/07greenwire-panel-urges-federal-action-to-protect-coasts-m-10461.html>

A blue-ribbon panel is urging Congress and the Obama administration today to toughen federal coastal protections in the face of rising climate threats and increased pressure from offshore energy producers. The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative outlined a short-term agenda calling for a new White House-level ocean policy coordinator and the long-stalled ratification of the Law of the Sea treaty.

Arctic jockeying heats up on centennial of Peary's trek (Ottawa Citizen, 04/05/09)

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/Technology/Arctic+jockeying+heats+centennial+Peary+trek/1467318/story.html>

As the world marks the 100th anniversary Monday of Robert Peary's disputed but historic expedition to the North Pole, the long-running controversy over whether the U.S. explorer actually reached "90 North" on April 6, 1909, has given way to far more significant debates about the Earth's icebound Arctic cap - including concerns over Canada's own grasp for undersea territory at the top of the world.

FISHERIES

Icelandic government's ideas for fishing quota lapse criticized (IcelandReview, 04/07/09)

http://www.icelandreview.com/icelandreview/daily_news/?cat_id=16539&ew_0_a_id=322471

Ideas by the government parties, the Social Democrats and the Left-Greens, on an annual five percent lapse on fishing allowances in an effort to reorganize the quota system, have come under fire among companies involved in the fishing industry.

Murmansk Oblast governor suggests border crossing point near Liinakhamari

(BarentsObserver, 04/07/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/governor-suggests-border-crossing-point-near-liinakhamari.4577430-16179.html>

Murmansk Oblast Governor Dmitry Dmitriyenko suggests establishing a border crossing point at sea near Liinakhamari on the Barents Sea coast. The two fish farms Russian Salmon and Gigante Pechnga on the Barents Sea coast cultivate nearly a million salmon and produce more than 3000 tons of fish a year. The two firms plan to install another 14 net cages and import several millions of smolt and other equipment from abroad. Border and custom formalities can only be done in the Port of Murmansk, 120 nautical miles from the farms.

Alaska fisheries council votes for salmon bycatch cap (Anchorage Daily News, 04/06/09)

<http://www.adn.com/money/industries/fishing/story/750841.html>

A powerful council that oversees the massive pollock fishing industry in the Bering Sea voted to place an unprecedented cap on the number of salmon that pollock fishermen accidentally kill each year.

Murmansk Fishery Port doubled cargo turnover (BarentsObserver, 04/06/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/murmansk-fishery-port-doubled-cargo-turnover.4577129-116321.html>

Murmansk Fishery Port seems to cope with the increased amounts of fish deliveries. The port has doubled turnover since the introduction of the law demanding that all fish caught in Russian economic zone shall be delivered in Russian ports.

EU criticizes Iceland's mackerel fishing (IcelandReview, 04/03/09)

http://www.icelandreview.com/icelandreview/daily_news/?cat_id=28304&ew_0_a_id=322330

The European Commission declared Iceland's plans to increase mackerel fishing in contradiction of global agreements to protect fish stocks that have suffered from overfishing, referring to Iceland's unilateral 112,000-ton mackerel quota. "We have deliberately been kept out of the management of these stocks," said Hrefna Karlsdóttir, Iceland's permanent secretary at the Fisheries Ministry. "We have therefore not recognized the agreements reached within the northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission and are not bound by them."

Baltic Sea fish more contaminated than imported fish (Helsingin Sanomat, 04/02/09)

<http://www.hs.fi/english/article/Baltic+Sea+fish+more+contaminated+than+imported+fish/1135244890918>

According to a recent report submitted by the Finnish Food Safety Authority (EVIRA), fish in the Baltic Sea contain a higher level of toxic tin compounds compared with many species of imported fish. EVIRA examined some 50 samples of the fish and seafood imported into Finland.

Herring, still struggling after Exxon Valdez spill, may get help (The Cordova Times, 04/02/09)

<http://www.thecordovatimes.com/news/show/5478>

Prince William Sound herring stocks crashed in the years following the Exxon Valdez oil spill and never fully recovered. Now, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council and a working group of scientists, fishermen and others are trying to restore the herring to their pre-spill numbers. The effort could revive a once-vibrant fishery and help other animals whose numbers remain low.

CLIMATE CHANGE

New data show rapid Arctic ice decline (The Washington Post, 04/07/09)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2009/04/07/ST2009040700783.html>

Satellite data released by NASA and the National Snow and Ice Data Center show that the maximum extent of the 2008-2009 winter sea ice cover was the fifth-lowest since researchers began collecting such information 30 years ago. *Related links: [Arctic winter ice is smaller, thinner, scientists say](#); [NASA satellite shows Arctic sea on thin ice – literally](#); related commentary: [A sudden chill](#).*

U.S., Norway discussed climate change, High North (BarentsObserver, 04/07/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/usa-norway-discussed-climate-change-high-north.4577249-116320.html>

Climate change and the High North were high on the agenda when Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre yesterday met with US. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. “We have a joint focus on the High North,” Minister Støre said after the meeting. The meeting was the first bilateral meeting between the two foreign ministers.

Climate damaging to Nordic cultural heritage (Sermitsiaq, 04/06/09)

<http://sermitsiaq.gl/klima/article80782.ece?lang=EN>

Finding a way to prevent climate change from ruining culturally important heritage sites is the reason behind a Nordic project called “The effects of climate change on cultural artifacts and cultural environments,” led by the Norwegian State Archive. When glaciers melt, humidity increases, temperatures rise and strong winds blow over the landscape there is a knock-on effect on protected buildings, monuments and cultural environments.

FROM THE INSTITUTE OF THE NORTH

Institute of the North produces film, calls on youth to lead Alaska (Alaska Journal of Commerce, 04/03/09)

http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/040309/loc_news003.shtml

Former Gov. Walter J. Hickel's Institute of the North has thrown out the gauntlet to Alaska's youth to step forward and help lead the state into the future. "The people of Alaska own the

land," Hickel tells Alaska's youth, in a new film, *You Own Alaska!* "We are an owner state. We own it collectively." Hickel said the film's goal is to encourage young Alaska residents to get more involved in policy issues, especially involving commonly owned natural resources, which provide the majority of the state revenues and Alaska Permanent Fund. "We have got to listen to the young," he said.

Hickel film sells youth on “owning” Alaska (The Arctic Sounder, 04/02/09)

<http://www.thearcticsounder.com/news/show/5443>

Former Gov. Walter Hickel and his Anchorage-based think tank launched a new film, which celebrates Alaska’s can-do spirit and invites young leaders to take the state forward during its next 50 years. “My hope is that ‘You Own Alaska!’ will inspire young people to take ownership in our state and dedicate themselves to guiding and leading Alaska,” he said.

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