

Department of Political Science

**DRAWING BOUNDARIES IN THE BEAUFORT
SEA: DIFFERENT VISIONS/DIFFERENT NEEDS**

Methods & Models for Governing Northern Borders,
The Beaufort Sea:

Borders on the North

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**CENTRE FOR MILITARY
AND STRATEGIC STUDIES**



Borders in the North

- Development and Meaning of Borders in the North are occurring in an transforming environment
- Allows for an examination of differing process and different “ borders”
- Who gets to decide and what does it mean?

Different Processes

- Traditional/Westphalian border making
- Indigenous People/Land Claims
- Ecosystem/scientific

Elements

- Differing Epistemological Assumptions
- Who makes the Decision
- Purpose of the Decision

The Moving Parts

- Westphalian/Traditional
 - Northwest Passage
 - Beaufort Sea Boundary Delamination
 - Continental Shelf
- Indigenous Peoples
 - 1984 Western Inuvialuit Land Claim Agreement
- Ecosystem/Science
 - Beaufort Sea Large Ocean Management Area
 - US Commercial Fishing Moratorium

Continental Shelf

Beaufort Sea
Beaufort Sea Large Ocean
Management
Area

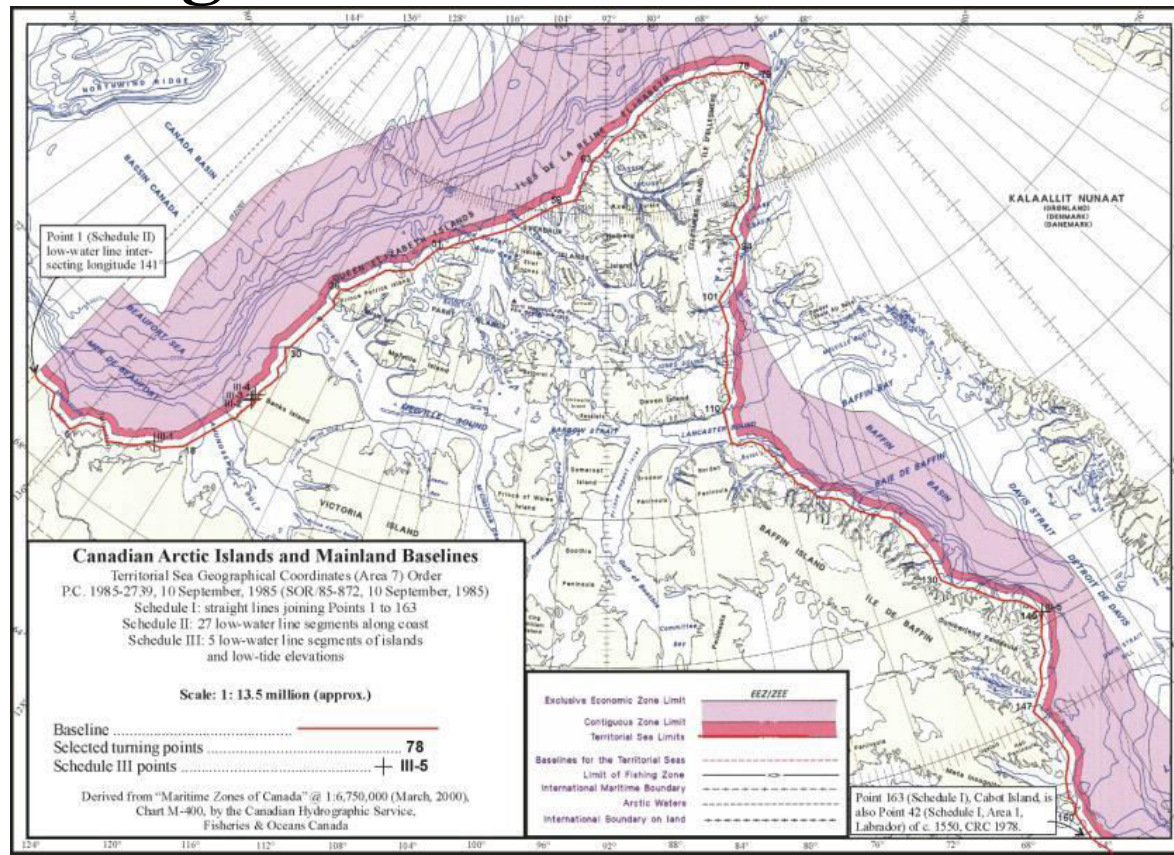
1984 Western Arctic
Inuvialuit Agreement NWP



Westphalian: The NWP



- Canadian position – **Internal Waters**
- US/(EU position) – **Strait used for International Navigation**
- Issue is over **Control of Trans-Polar Shipping**



Westphalian: Beaufort Sea

- 1825 St. Petersburg Treaty – UK/Russia
- Has been “managed” by Canada and US
- Overlaps with numerous issues of importance outside of Arctic
- Talks began between US-Canada summer 2011
- Impacts of Norway/Russia settlement
- Determine who gets Resources

Beaufort Sea Dispute Canada - US



Westphalian: Extended Continental Shelf

- UNCLOS article 76
 - finished mid – 1970s/officially 1982
- Sovereign rights over soil and subsoil (oil and gas)
- Russia 2007+; Canada 2013; Denmark 2014; US ?
- Must resolve differences peacefully
- Ilulissat Declaration May 2008

Maritime jurisdiction & boundaries in the Arctic

www.dur.ac.uk/ibru/resources/arctic



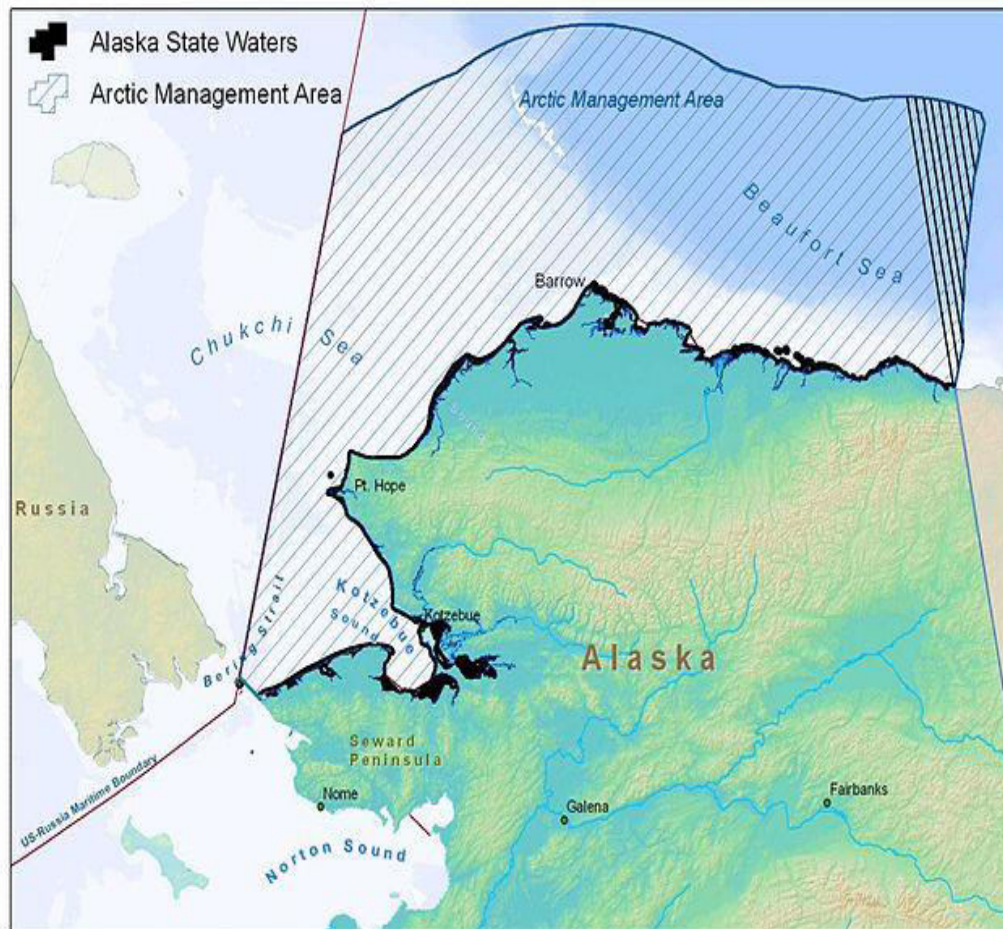
Indigenous Peoples: 1984 Western Arctic Inuvialuit Agreement



Ecosystem/Science

US 2009 Commercial Fishing Moratorium

Beaufort Sea Large Ocean Management Area



Conclusion

- Entire Arctic is in a point of Transformation
- Different Border Creation Processes at play
- Different Actors/Different Interests
- Reconciling Different interests – How will this be done?