

## **Abstract**

Presentation prepared by CAPT/Prof. Alexander Skaridov explores whether there is a need for joint efforts in strengthening and binding shipping regulations for the safety of navigation and protection of the Arctic marine environment in the areas of Bering Strait before the expected increasing of vessel traffic.

The various maritime, geopolitical and legal issues regarding the regime of the Arctic Ice-covered and regulations for ships operating in Arctic Ice-covered waters used to be analyzed and discussed at least 20 years. Although currently there are no reasons to believe that the Arctic legal regime will be updated in the measurable future to meet all navigational challenges.

In the same time, it's evident that in the nearest future Arctic merchant navigation activity will grow regardless of "global warming" and heaviness of the ice cover. In this case the increasing of the maritime cargo flow, especially in the narrow waters could have the increasing impact on the safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment.

Among precautionary measures to ensure the safety of navigation the author discuss the possibility of establishing navigation control systems and traffic separation zones in the Bering Strait and adjacent areas as the most vulnerable part for EW passage.