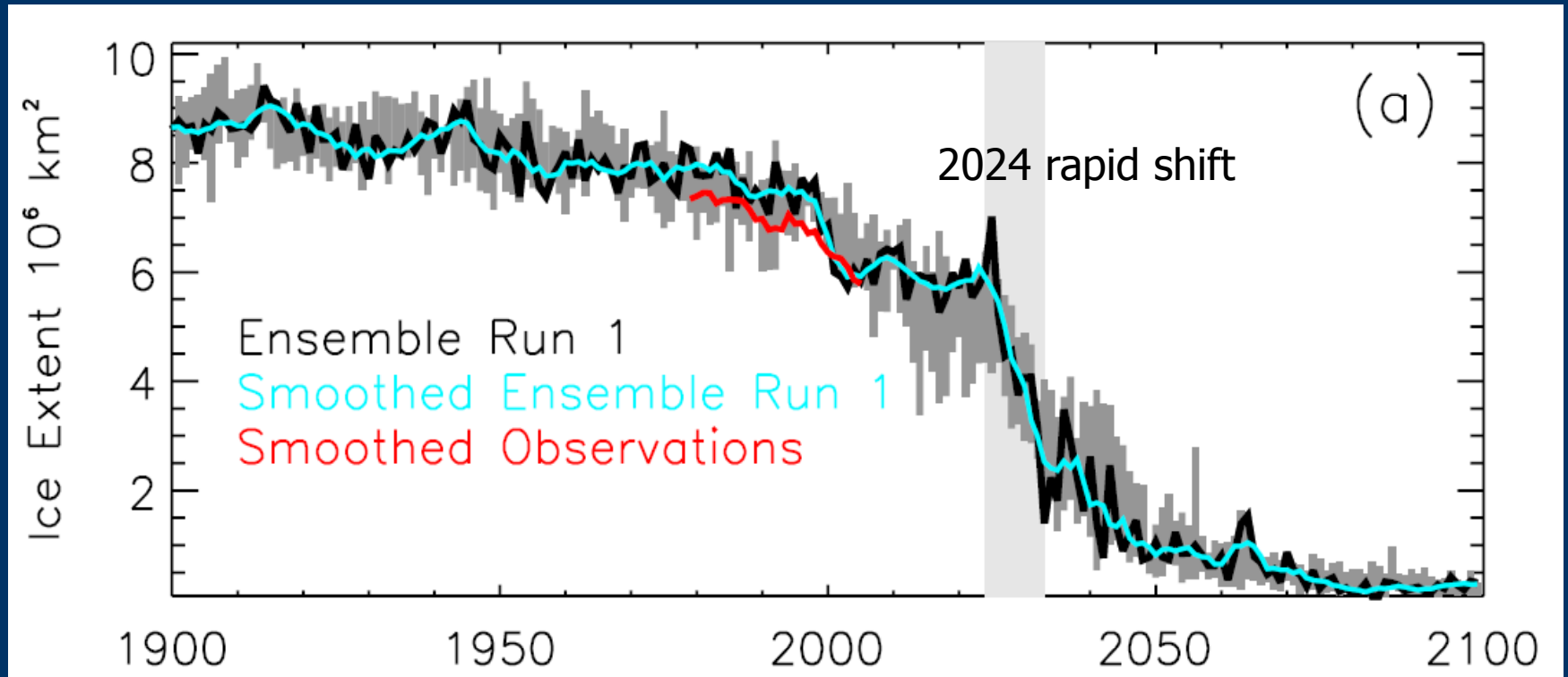


Future abrupt reductions in the summer Arctic sea ice

Marika M. Holland, Cecilia M. Bitz, and Bruno Tremblay

GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH LETTERS, VOL. 33, 2006



- Recent simulations show that abrupt retreat of sea ice is possible
- Near ice-free Septembers in 2040-2060 - system responds in a non-linear way

Potential Arctic Transit Routes



Northern Sea Route



Northwest Passage

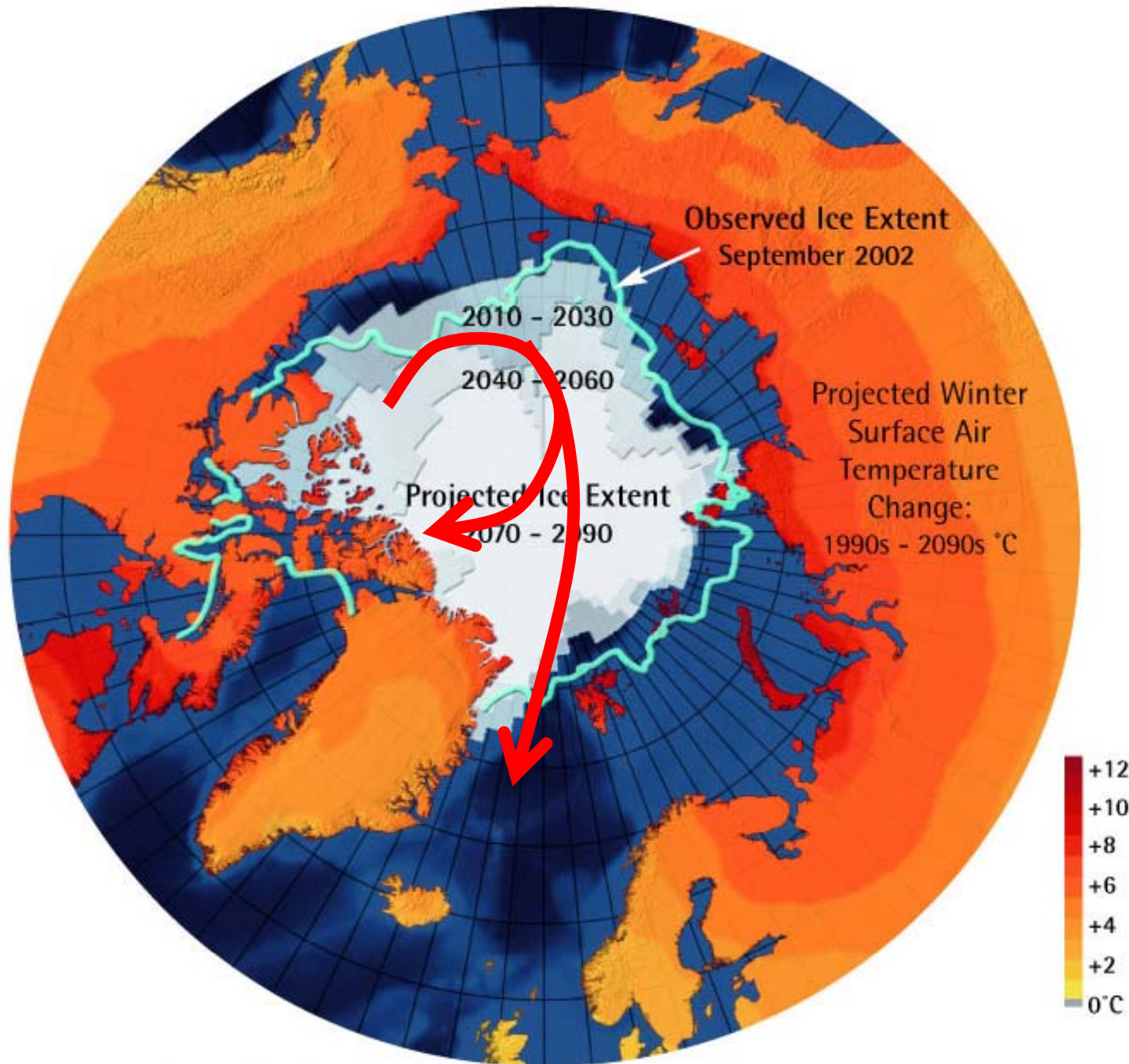


TransPolar Route



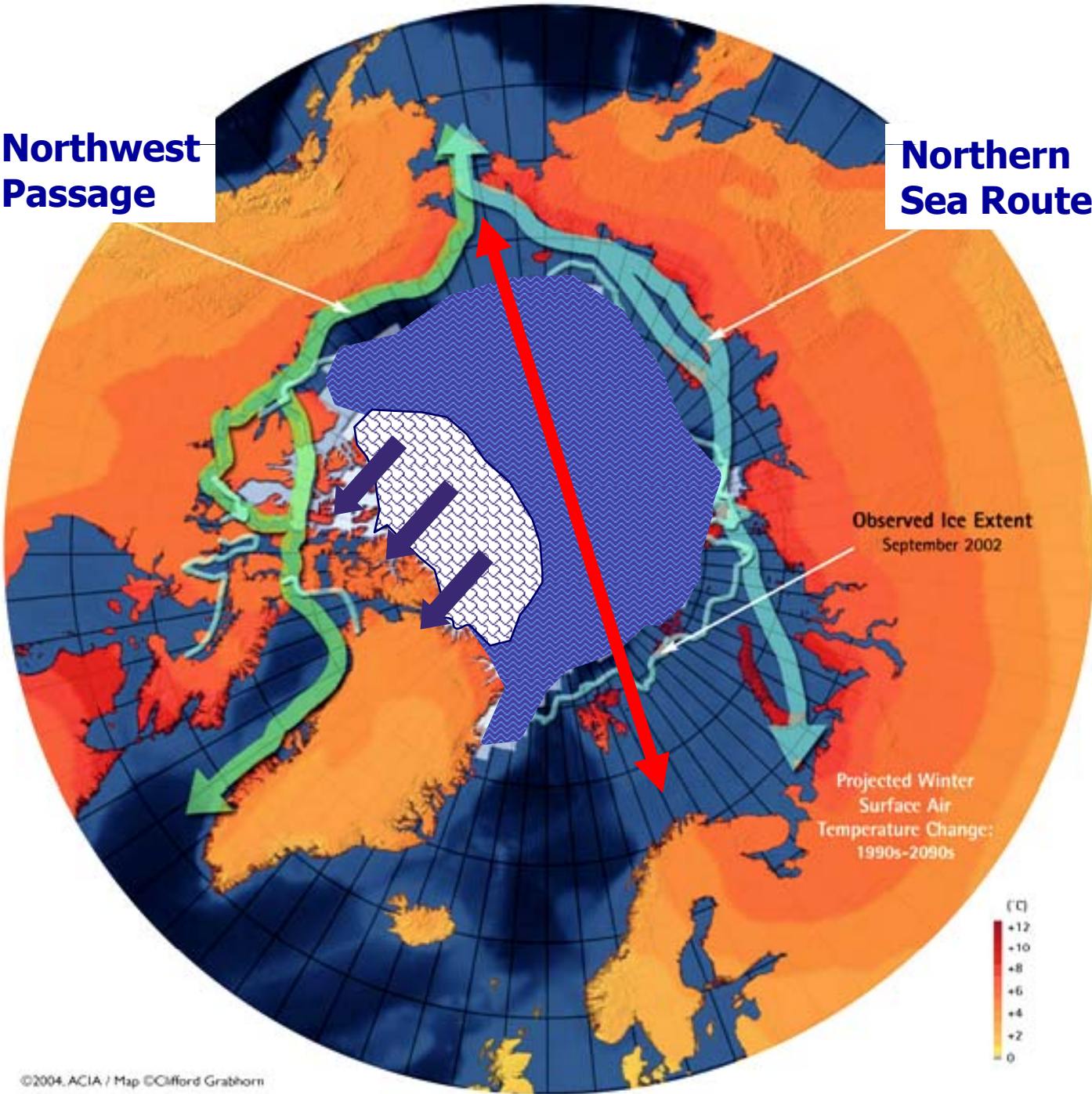
All routes represents significant reductions in distance between European and Asian destinations

Climate Model projections of ice extent



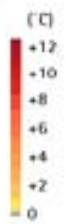
**Northwest
Passage**

**Northern
Sea Route**



Observed Ice Extent
September 2002

Projected Winter
Surface Air
Temperature Change:
1990s-2090s

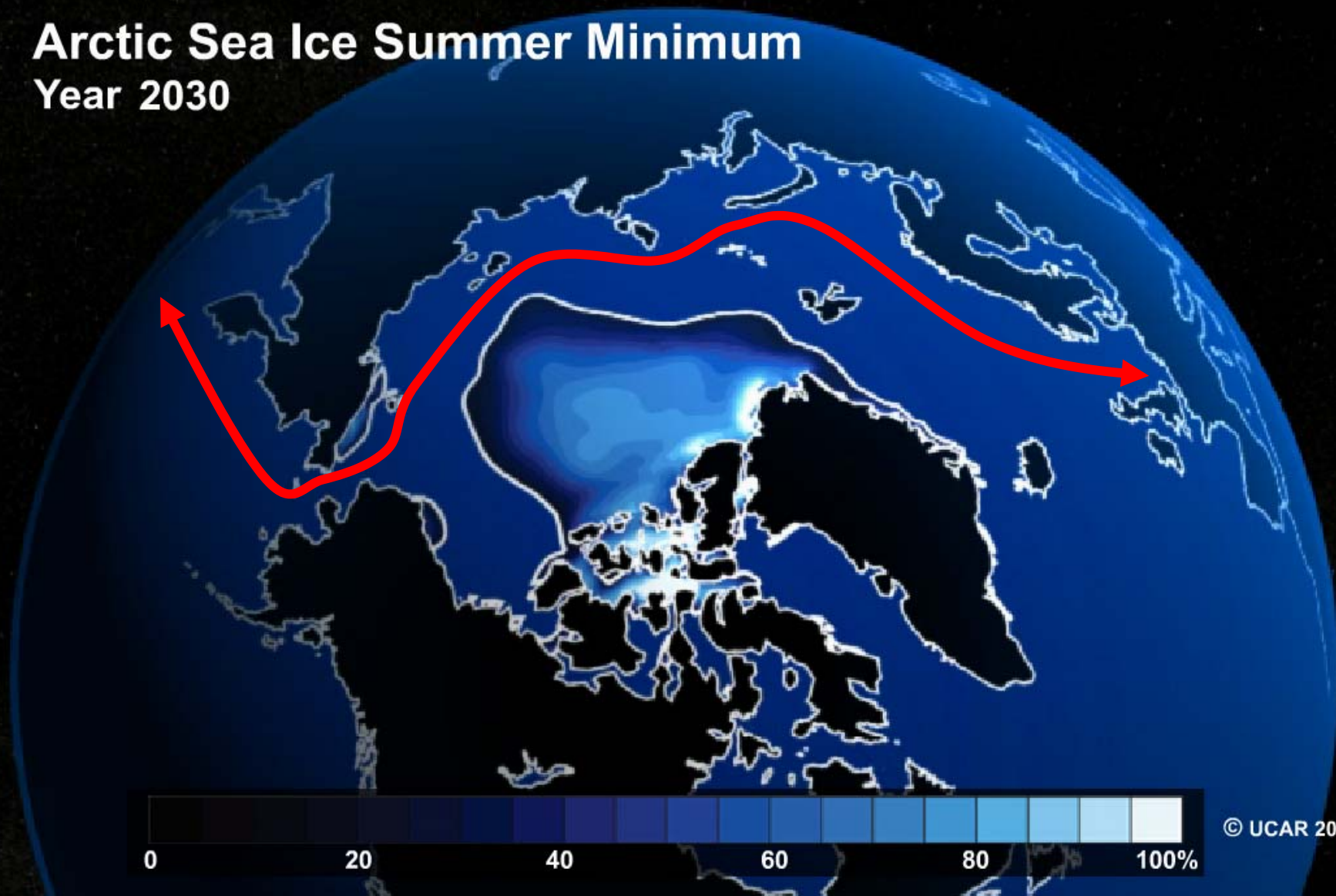


Opening of the
Northern Sea
Route and the
Canadian
Northwest
Arctic
Archipelago by
prevailing
circulation
opening direct
trans-polar
route

Arctic Ocean
ice is forced
through the
Archipelago to
the NW
Passage

Northern Sea Route

Arctic Sea Ice Summer Minimum
Year 2030



Transpolar Shipping Route

Arctic Sea Ice Summer Minimum
Year 2049

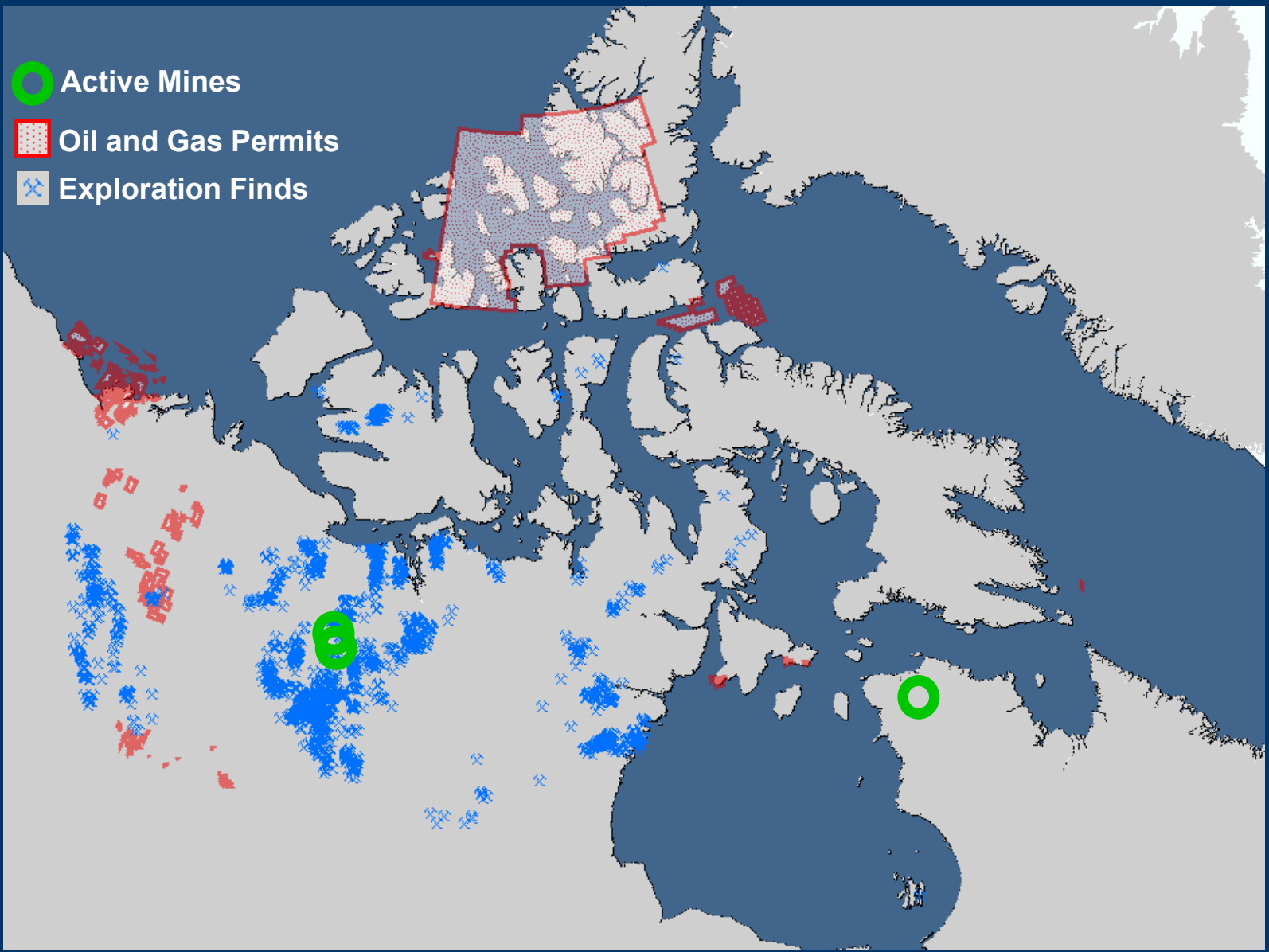


Implications for the Canadian Arctic and the Northwest Passage

- Last ice to melt will be in the Canadian Arctic
- Multi-year ice will linger longest in the Northwest Passage and high inter-annual variability will continue
- Northern Sea Route and Transpolar route will open first and be more reliable, attractive ocean transit route

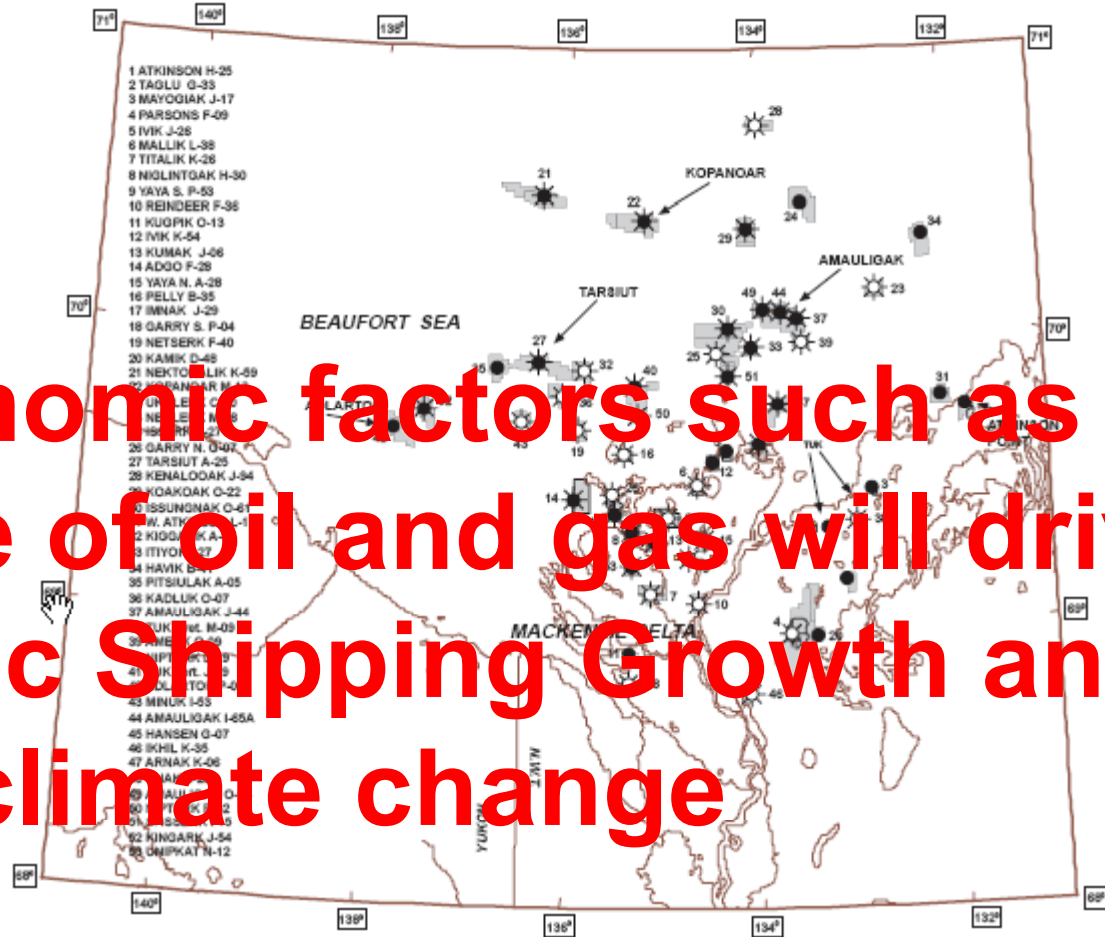


The Arctic contains vast mineral deposits, 10 per cent of Canada's remaining crude oil reserves, and 23 per cent our gas reserves



Increased shipping expected in the Beaufort Sea

Beaufort Sea - Mackenzie Delta Significant Discoveries



Economic factors such as the price of oil and gas will drive Arctic Shipping Growth and not climate change

| | Gas ☼ | Oil ● | Oil and Gas ★ | Total |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| Oil and Gas Discoveries | | | | |
| Beaufort Sea | 8 | 4 | 14 | 26 |
| Mackenzie Delta | 12 | 9 | 6 | 27 |
| Total | 20 | 13 | 20 | 53 |

Cruise ship traffic is increasing steadily in Canada's Arctic



In Summary

- There has been a significant, continuing decrease in the extent of sea ice in the North and the Canadian Arctic
- “Shipping season” in the Canadian Arctic will lengthen by 3-4 months by the end of the century
- There will continue to be extreme inter-annual variability in ice conditions.
- Still considerable uncertainty when ice conditions in the Northwest Passage will permit regular passages
- The Russian Northern Sea Route will be the first to open
- There will be unanticipated impacts



Final Words

- As today, most of future shipping in Canada's Arctic will be destination not transit trips
- Ice regime in Hudson Bay could approximate current Gulf of St Lawrence conditions by mid-century – Port of Churchill could benefit
- Shipping will increase in Canada's Arctic in support of development of non-renewable resources
- Multi-year ice and inter-annual variability will continue to challenge shipping in Canada's Arctic

