

Position Statement:**International Maritime Organization (IMO) on the Northern Sea Route (NSR)****In short:**

IMO promotes a balanced approach to NSR development, ensuring compliance with international safety and environmental standards. We urge all stakeholders to collaborate in shaping a safe, sustainable, and well-regulated Arctic shipping future.

Services & Revenue Sources

IMO provides regulatory frameworks like the Polar Code, technical guidance, safety protocols, global coordination for pollution control, and seafarer training. It is funded by member state contributions, international partnerships, and safety certification fees.

Key Stakeholders	Current Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arctic and non-Arctic member states• Shipping companies, port authorities, and regulatory bodies• Environmental organizations and Indigenous communities• International bodies such as the Arctic Council and UN agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arctic Council (PAME working group)• International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) for regulatory compliance• WWF, Greenpeace, and research institutions on sustainability measures

Key Challenges & Needs

The NSR's increased traffic demands stronger oversight on:

- Regulatory compliance with the Polar Code
- Environmental protection, limiting spills, emissions, and invasive species
- Maritime safety, improving navigation and search-and-rescue infrastructure
- Transparent governance, ensuring fair and predictable shipping regulations

Past Initiatives

- Adoption of the Polar Code (2017) for Arctic shipping
- Emission Control Measures to reduce environmental impact
- Collaboration with Arctic states and Indigenous communities
- Strengthening search-and-rescue agreements

Stakeholder Expectations

- Arctic states: Uphold IMO regulations and environmental safeguards
- Shipping operators: Adhere to IMO's safety and sustainability policies
- Environmental groups: Constructively shape science-based policies
- Indigenous communities: Participate in decision-making for sustainable development