



NAVIGATING RESEARCH REQUESTS

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IRSO Vancouver 2024

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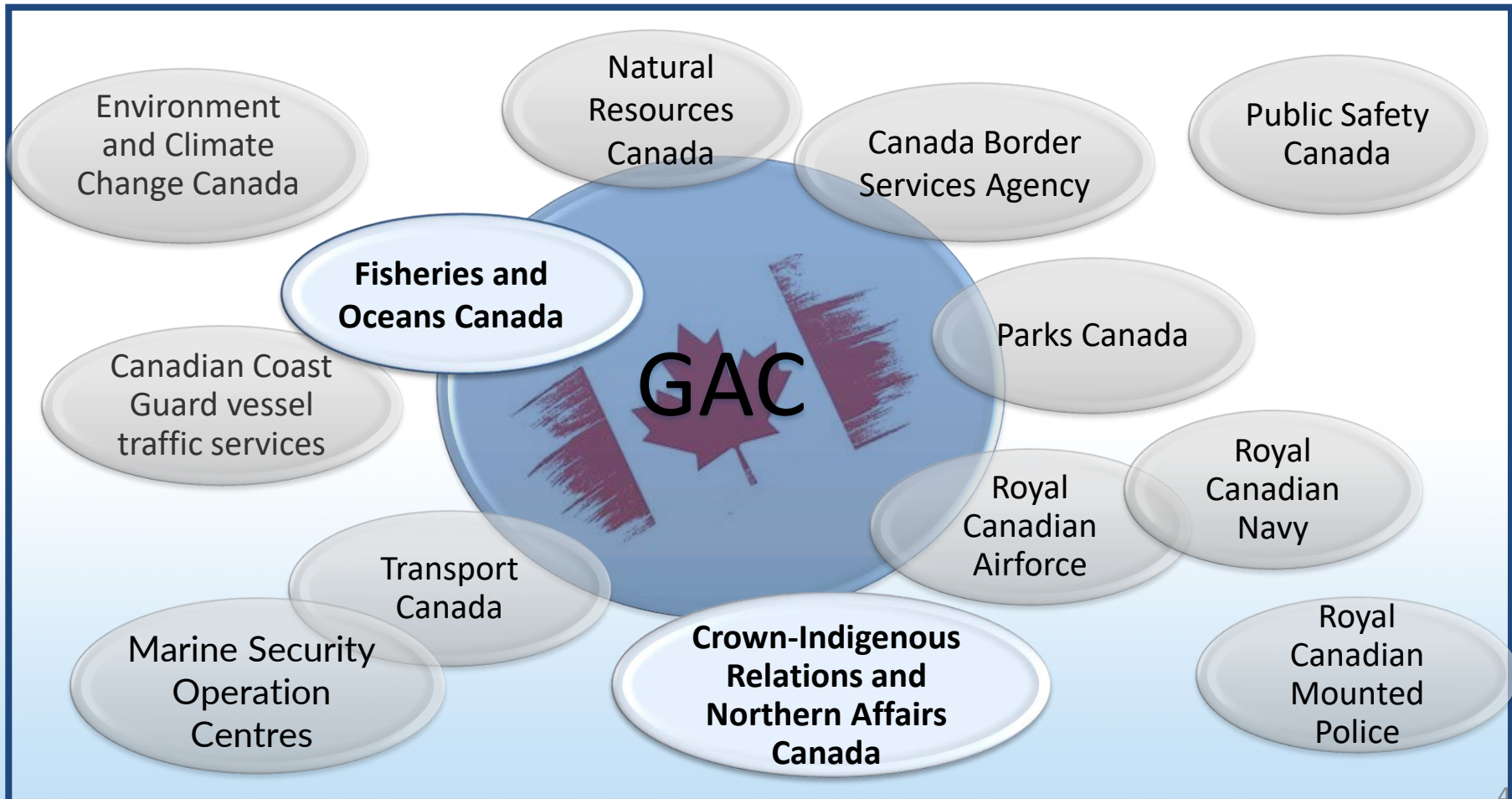
- GAC's Security and Defence Relations Division (IGR) administers requests for MSR projects in waters under Canada's sovereignty or jurisdiction, through a state-to-state approval process.
- Canada's MSR regulatory regime is based on the domestic implementation of the MSR regulations set out in Part XIII of the [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea \(UNCLOS\)](#).
- Researchers interested in conducting MSR in Canada must submit an application (UN standard Form A), through their diplomatic mission accredited to Canada, through Global Affairs Canada.
- Applications must be submitted 6 months (180 days) prior to the commencement of research activities, or vessel entry into waters under Canadian jurisdiction or sovereignty, whichever comes first.
- MSRs can be conducted by using aircrafts (e.g. to assess sea ice conditions, drop buoys, etc.) or any type of marine vessel (including pontoons and kayaks).

Who requests MSR consent in Canada

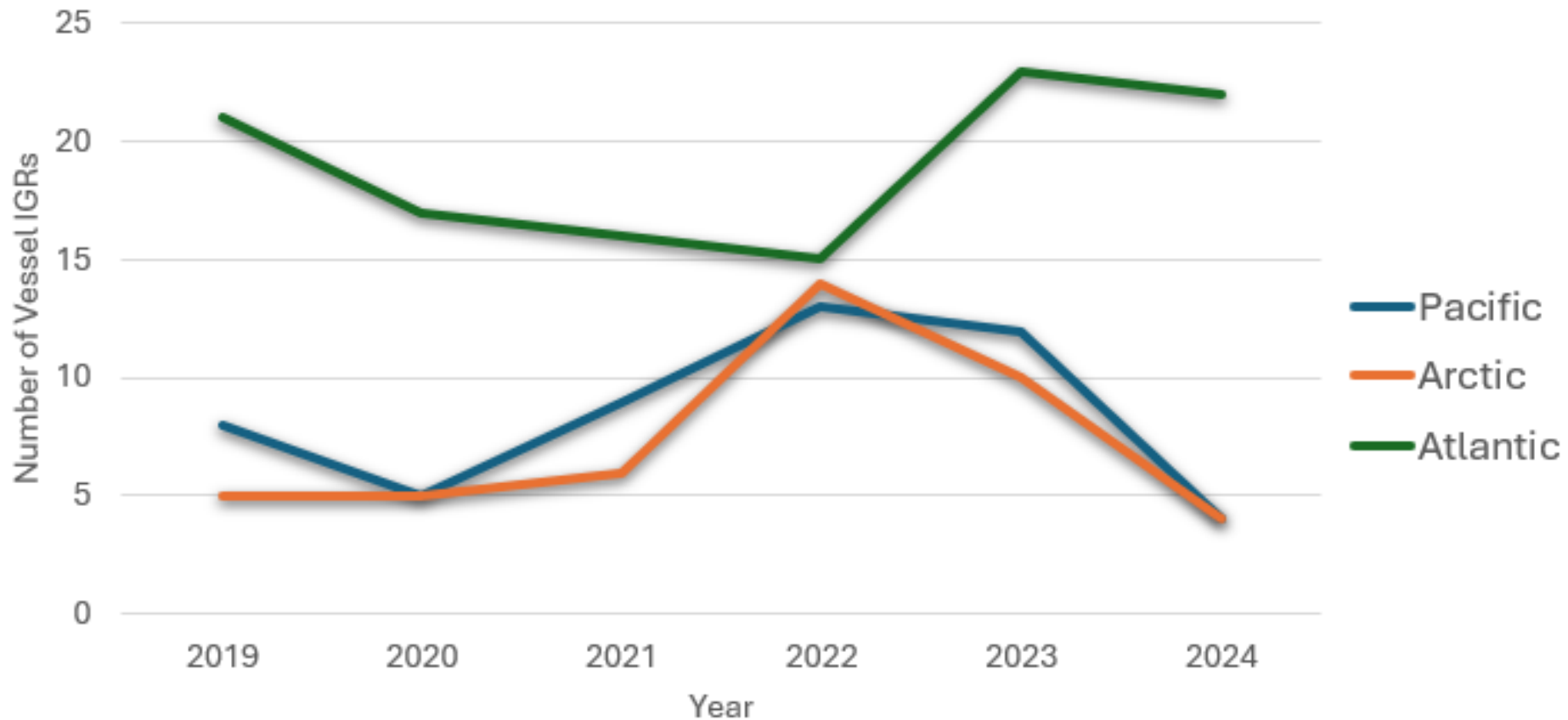
- The State representing the chief scientist performing marine scientific research in waters under Canada's sovereignty or jurisdiction requests MSR consent.
- Canada uses the nationality of the chief scientist or institution conducting the research as the flag state of the vessel.
 - For example:
 - ✓ if the chief scientist/sponsoring institution is Swiss, then the request should be made by the Government of Switzerland.
 - ✓ If a Swiss researcher has chartered a French vessel, the request would still come from Switzerland.

GAC's approval process involves consultations and distribution of MSR requests to many government departments and agencies

Global Affairs Canada receives and responds to international marine scientific research requests. The GAC Minister holds the mandate to 'approve or deny' requests.



MSR vessel requests in Canada

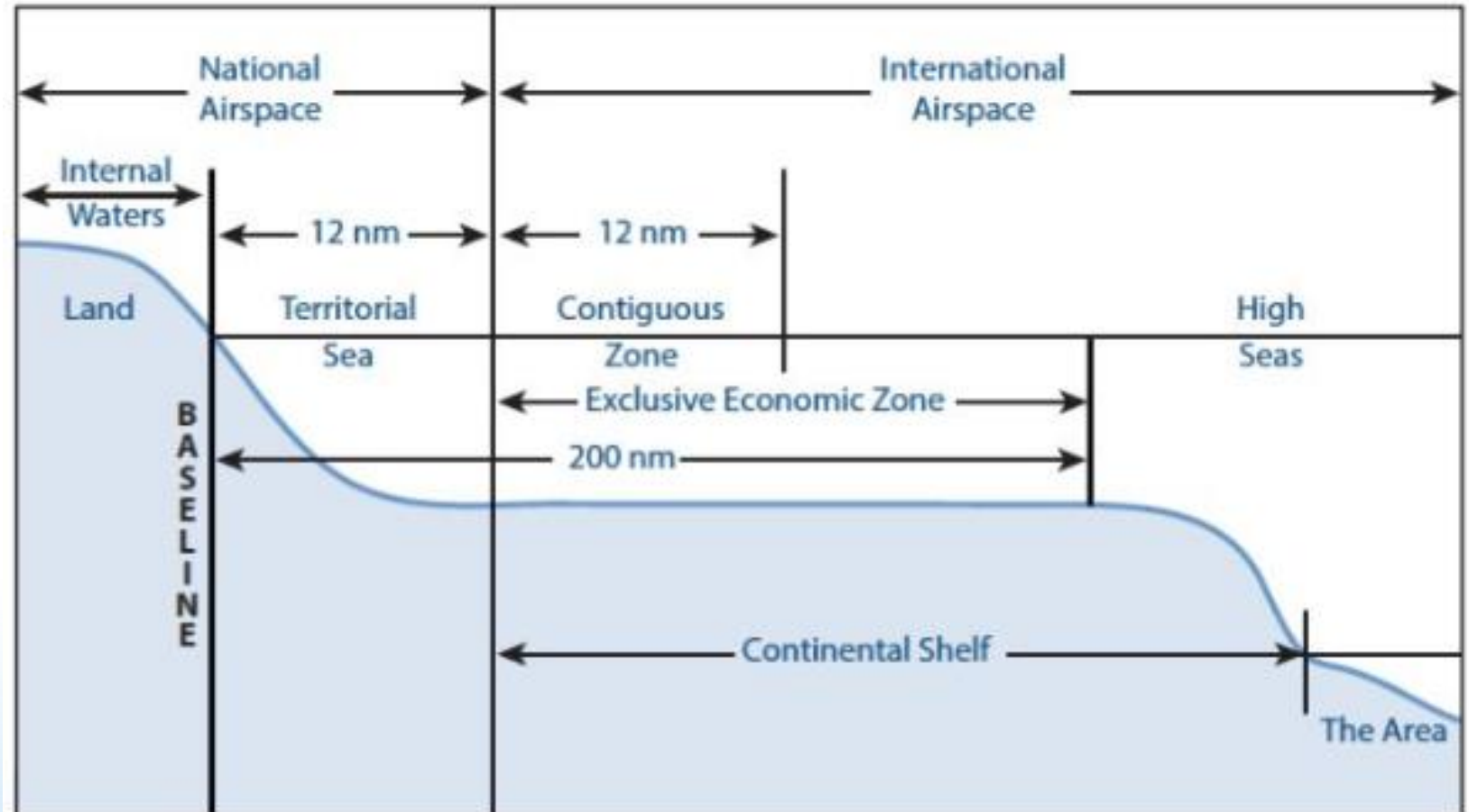


UNCLOS

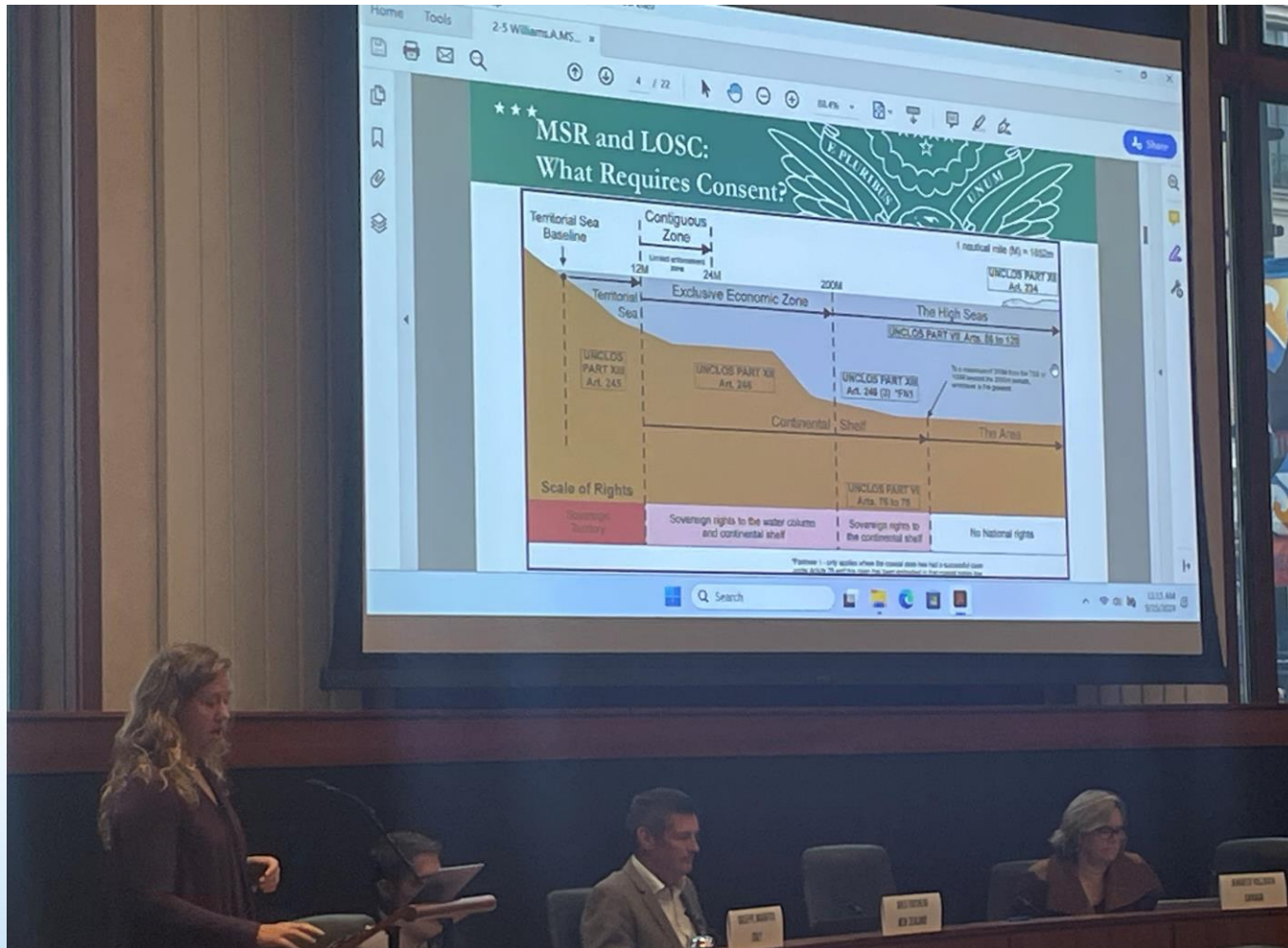
UNCLOS 1982, also known as **Law of the Sea** divides marine areas into **five** main zones namely- **Internal Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the High Seas.**

- UNCLOS is the only international convention which stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces.
- It provides the backbone for offshore governance by coastal states and those navigating the oceans, including specific guidance for states' rights and responsibilities in the five concentric zones.
- Under Part XIII of UNCLOS, coastal states have the right to regulate, authorize and conduct marine scientific research in the areas under their jurisdiction. Here, those areas are the EEZ and the seabed on any part of the continental shelf beyond the EEZ.
- The process for regulation under UNCLOS is set out in a very high level way; each state interprets the rules to come up with more detailed policies for implementing the letter and spirit of the law.

UNCLOS Zones



UNCLOS Zones



UNCLOS (2)

One element of this process that is clear is that the applications are transmitted between governments through diplomatic channels.

Global Affairs Canada maintains a web page with information on how to make an application: https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_developpement-enjeux_developpement/environmental_protection-protection_environnement/research-recherches.aspx?lang=eng

There are limited enumerated circumstances where scientific research may be rejected by the coastal state; the mandate under the Convention is to cooperate.

DFO's MSR Responsibilities

- DFO alone has the responsibility for assessing the marine scientific merits of all MSR applications under the *Department of Fisheries and Oceans Act* <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/F-15> and other relevant legislation i.e., the *OCEANS ACT*.
- **MSR Policy:** DFO's authority for MSR is established under the *Oceans Act* (s. 14 and 44):
 - *Canada has jurisdiction over MSR in their EEZ (s. 14)*
 - *Minister may apply conditions, requiring data from MSR operations and may establish guidelines for conducting MSR (s. 44)*
- **MSR Applications:** DFO is a review agency for MSR applications into Canada and regularly submits applications for DFO missions to other foreign states (via GAC):
 - Internally, the responsibility for the coordination of MSR applications is led by the Assets and Infrastructure team within the Ocean and Regulatory Science Directorate in headquarters.
 - Each DFO region has identified points of contact who receive, review and provide mitigation measures, support and/or issue licensing for MSR applications
 - Reviews include examining work in and around MPAs, requirements for fishing licenses, activities that could impact marine mammals, etc.

Arctic Approval Requirements

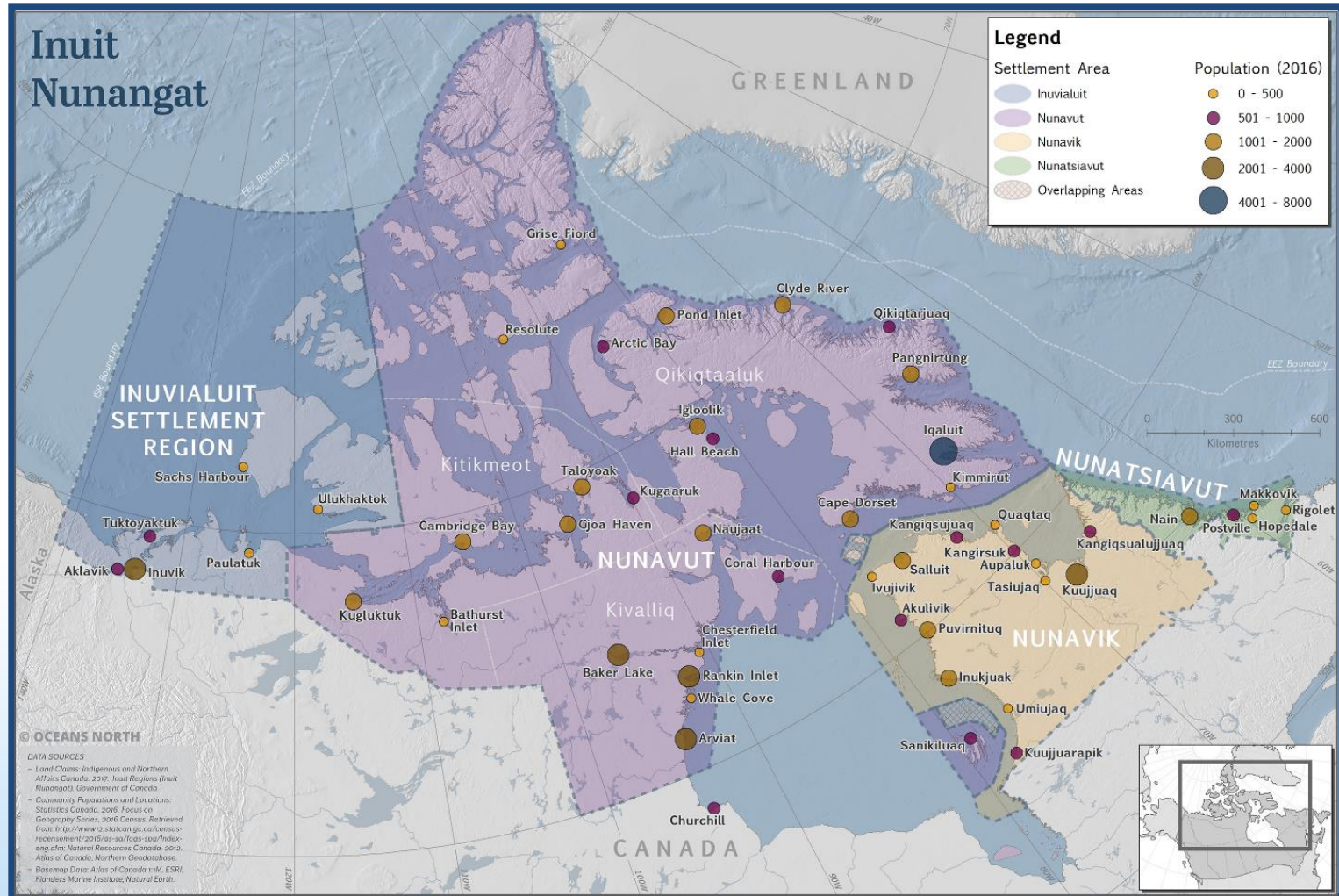
- There are 4 separate and distinct land claim agreements that apply across the Inuit Nunangat region.
- In accordance with most of these land claim agreements, ***no federal license or authorization may be issued until the Territorial regulatory approvals are complete; however,*** the Government of Canada has no authority or influence over these processes.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure they have confirmed the specific requirements and obtained all necessary approvals for their project.

- Applicants are encouraged to reach out to each applicable land claim region (in addition to any others) early in their project planning process, as some of these processes require 9+ months of lead time.
 - Please do not wait to have your MSR application approved.
 - It is recommended to include application process reference numbers to your MSR application (if possible).

Inuit Nunangat, the Inuit homelands in Canada, including boundaries of Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Nunavut, Nunavik, and Nunatsiavut. Note overlapping boundaries between Nunavut and Nunavik

(<https://www.oceansnorth.org/en/canada-arctic-marine-atlas/>).





*Strategic alliance of assets,
infrastructure and research
to help foster knowledge
and understanding.*

GSC Marine Science Research Interests

- 1. Geological and Geophysical Surveys:** bathymetric data, seafloor mapping (seabed geology, seabed processes)
- 2. Climate adaptation and conservation:** Sensitivity of coastal regions to climate change (sea-level change), monitoring impact of human activities (offshore drilling, mining), **mitigation strategies**
- 3. Marine Hazard Assessments:** submarine landslides, earthquake activity, and tsunamis (assessing the potential risks and vulnerabilities, helping to inform coastal planning and disaster management)
- 4. Resource extraction:** resource development potential (**mineral and energy resources**)
- 5. Indigenous partnerships:** Exchange ideas and **share information**, involve **members in fieldwork**



2025/26 Excitement!

The Norwegian One Ocean Expedition - Statsraad Lehmkuhl tall ship will set sail in April 2025 for a 12-month expedition.

They are exceptionally excited to follow in Roald Amundsen's footsteps (Norwegian explorer of polar regions) and sail through the legendary and challenging Canadian Northwest Passage in the Arctic, on the voyage from the Atlantic to Pacific oceans. www.oneoceanexpedition.com

The crew on this leg will consist of Norwegian and international students from The Arctic University of Norway.

Many Canadian government departments will be involved with this particular approval process including various Inuit homelands in Canada and Canadian Coast Guard vessel traffic services to provide escort assistance through difficult waters.





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du Canada

Canada



Questions?

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