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A CONCEPT:

**An ARCTIC OCEAN
EMERGENCY LIASON
OFFICE**

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THE NEW ARCTIC

- **Climate change being observed most dramatically in the Arctic**
- **Significant geographical/fossil fuel/economic advantages exist, plus potential presence of fossil fuel resources are drawing world-wide interest and action to exploit**
- **Increasing accessibility via land, sea and air**
- **Increasing human presence and activity**

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

- Arctic development raises the probability of various accidents and casualties
- People are generally unprepared and untrained for the Arctic
- Arctic emergency response resources and expertise are limited
- Emergency responses resources are also often widely disbursed:
 - Randomly throughout the Arctic
 - Often far to the South
- Individual Arctic expertise often covers the entire Arctic area
 - An event-specific expert may well fill that role in several countries, not just his own (recall 'Red' Adair, the Texan who put out oil well fires in Kuwait)

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WHAT CAN HAPPEN?

- **CASUALTIES.....which are difficult to combat in the Arctic**
 - Man Overboard/ Search and Rescue
 - Serious Illness or Injury
 - Shipboard Propulsion Failure
 - Shipboard Fire/ Flooding
 - Collision/ Grounding at Sea
 - Individual(s) lost on tundra or in the hills
- **As we learned in the EXXON VALDEZ spill, Proper response must be:**
 - Prepared, timely and knowledgeable

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EXAMPLE:

SIGNIFICANT OIL SPILL IN ICE

- Correct response now limited by research, plus few skilled personnel and limited material resources
- In such a spill, who loses?
 1. The Environment
 2. The Public
 3. The Host Nation (and perhaps other states)
 4. All the Oil Companies
 5. The Global Economy

...i.e., EVERYBODY!

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THE REACTION:

- **What will be the aftermath of a serious casualty in the Arctic, if the response is slow, poorly coordinated and / or ineffective?**
 - - Arctic development could well cease for a generation**

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THE ILULISSAT DECLARATION OF

28 MAY 2008

- **The 5 Arctic Coastal States agreed to work cooperatively in the Arctic under existing international framework**
- **They pledged to manage and protect the Arctic Ecosystem and Environment responsibly in face of:**
 - **Increased Economic Activity**
 - **Increased Terrorism**
 - **Increased Resource Development**
 - **Increased Research**
- **They committed to strengthen casualty / accident response capability**

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THE SOLUTION?

An
Arctic Ocean
Emergency Liaison
Office
(AELO)

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ARCTIC OCEAN EMERGENCY LIASION OFFICE CONCEPT

- **Located in any Arctic Littoral country with excellent high-latitude international communications**
 - Satellites
 - HF to UHF Radio
 - Telephones
 - Computer connectivity
- **International staffing, 24/7**
- **Knowledge of international Arctic resources: experts, material readiness, capability and location**
- **A liaison/information office – NOT a management office**
- **An Arctic Ocean 911 Dispatcher**

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IS THERE PRECEDENT?

YES!

- **Loss of Russian submarine Kursk inspired the International Submarine Emergency Rescue Liaison Office (ISMERLO)**
- **International manning in Norfolk, VA**
- **First real action was to enable the rescue of the Russian "MIR" submersible off Petropavlsk in Summer 2004 (Four countries involved: RU/UK/US/JA)**
- **Oil companies near Singapore/Straits of Malacca have a somewhat similar centers, but with a single focus**

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THE APPROACH?

- The **ARCTIC COUNCIL** should consider the issue
- Adaptable to mission of Emergency Preparation Prevention and Response (EPPR) Working Group and appropriate for its investigation
- **THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW, NOT AFTER THE FIRST ACCIDENT**

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THE COST?

- Cost shared by those who stand to lose from a maritime casualty:
 - Arctic Nations
 - Ship Owners
 - Oil And Gas Companies
 - Arctic NGOs
 - Local Governments
 - Fees on Users of the Ocean and Land
 - Environmental Groups (You Bet!)
- Cost would be small compared to the safety value added
- The AELO would be a low cost insurance policy for all who are interested in the Arctic