North Pole may belong to Denmark, early mapping data suggests: scientist

Preliminary results from scientific mapping of the Arctic seabed indicate that the North Pole likely falls within Denmark's boundaries, a Canadian scientist says.

No country currently has sovereign rights over the North Pole, though Russia has tried to lay claim to it in recent years.

Five coastal northern nations, including Canada, the United States and Russia, are currently mapping the Arctic seabed in the hopes of bolstering their efforts to extend sovereign claims on Arctic coastal areas under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Countries that extend their Arctic claims under the international treaty would tap into vast marine areas, potentially rich with oil and gas resources. Canada signed UNCLOS in 2003, and has been working with the U.S. and Denmark to map parts of the Arctic seabed.

Early data from those mapping efforts show that Denmark, via Greenland, may be able to claim the North Pole as its own, said Ron McNab, a retired researcher from the Geological Survey of Canada.

"Preliminary work has shown — and this is, again, is very preliminary — that Denmark would actually have the strongest claim to encompass the North Pole within its region," McNab, who most recently served on the board of the Canadian Polar Commission, told CBC News in an interview.

"I used to tell my Danish friends, 'So, Santa Claus is a Dane.'"

Russia drew the ire of Canada and other countries in 2007 by planting a flag at the North Pole. It plans to submit a claim on a part of the seabed that would include the North Pole.

But it may not really matter which country can lay claim to the North Pole, said Michael Byers, the Canada Research Chair in global politics and international law at the University of British Columbia.

"Because the North Pole is so far away, and the prospect of significant hydrocarbon reserves at the North Pole are so insignificant … the only value is symbolic," Byers said.

The North Pole is currently administered by the United Nations International Seabed Authority, located in Kingston, Jamaica. However, not everybody agrees that the body has any authority there.

End of Story Content
Well GinaMakai if you didn't know it was a Brit that allowed the sale of Alaska to the USA it was a 4 Person Panel and the Brit was the deciding factor that sided with the US.

ginamakai - With my logic, Alaska is part of the USA - from however and whenever it happened - 49th state and all that.

I agree it is funny how land and water is captured and owned by some king or government. Queen Victoria ruled half the world and never left her little emerald island.

Anyway my point is that the USA is there - they are armed - and they will take their slice of the polar pizza (when it gets delivered) and hopefully we can all get along.

dave Myhill ~~~ Am I allowed to make another comment, or one is my limit? CBC??
Harritage ~~~Within your logic (USA (through Alaska)) should not get any of the North Pole, since Czar Nicholas sold the land to the USA, not the seabed. Furthermore it wasn't really sold but taken as a collateral for monies borrowed. It was to corner Canada in the west side. It should not be owned by the USA!! It is though, and the Brits should have bought it up for themselves (Canada).

HECTOR72
2009/07/27 at 4:26 AM ET

It's kind of funny that the people who accuse the government of selling off our country and our resources would prefer to just them away.

Rating
-1

End of Story Social Media

Related News Content

Stay Connected with CBC News

• Mobile
• Facebook
• Podcasts
• Twitter
• Alerts
• Newsletter
More inspections ordered for pipeline that leaked
Plains Midstream Canada must conduct more inspections of its Rainbow pipeline before it is allowed to resume operations, Alberta's energy regulator announced Tuesday. more »

Denali abandons Alaska pipeline project
One of two companies planning to build major natural gas pipelines in Alaska has dropped its bid, saying that it didn't get the agreements necessary to justify continuing. more »

Yellowknife trail knifing suspects sought
Yellowknife RCMP are looking for two people who were involved in a knifing incident on a popular walking trail on Monday. more »

Denmark plans to stake claim to North Pole
Denmark plans to lay claim to the North Pole and other areas in the Arctic, where melting ice is uncovering new shipping routes, fishing grounds and drilling opportunities for oil and gas. more »

Igloolik man charged after shots fired
An Igloolik, Nunavut, man has been charged after shots were fired in the community over the weekend. more »
Top News Headlines

B.C. journalist released from Iran

Dorothy Parvaz, a B.C. journalist who was detained on her way to cover anti-government uprisings in Syria and was deported to Iran, has been freed, family members say.

Canadians secretly added to U.S. security list: WikiLeaks

Despite the experience with Maher Arar, CSIS continues to pass along to the U.S. the names of Canadians suspected of being security risks, WikiLeaks cables reveal. Neil Macdonald reports.

Baird to get Foreign Affairs in cabinet shuffle

Prime Minister Stephen Harper will unveil his cabinet Wednesday, giving new jobs to at least six members of his majority government caucus, and naming John Baird to another key role.

Slave Lake evacuees complain of little warning

Residents of Slave Lake, Alta., raised questions Tuesday about how little warning they had of the rapidly approaching wildfire that destroyed 40 per cent of their town.

Queen to visit Irish massacre site

Queen Elizabeth will continue her groundbreaking Irish trip with visits to a massacre site, a war memorial and the Guinness Storehouse.

Google Ads

Select Dell Vostro™ and Latitude™ systems are available with the 2nd Generation Intel® Core™ i3 processor.
## Don't Miss

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAP</th>
<th>A GOOD DEATH</th>
<th>PHOTO GALLERY</th>
<th>PHOTOS</th>
<th>DAN MISI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wildfires sweep across northern Alberta</strong></td>
<td><strong>About this series</strong></td>
<td><strong>Manitoba dike breach</strong></td>
<td><strong>Slave Lake, Alta. ravaged by wildfire</strong></td>
<td><strong>Disaster-digital life</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>