

The New York Times

Green

A Blog About Energy and the Environment

MAY 12, 2011, 5:49 PM

On Our Radar: Nations Race to 'Carve Up' Arctic

By *JOHN COLLINS RUDOLF*

Melting ice on the western coast of Greenland.

A stream of [leaked diplomatic cables](#) reveal a race by Arctic nations to “carve up” the region, as melting ice, driven by climate change, opens up potentially vast natural resource reserves, including billions of barrels of oil. The cables cite warlike language from Russian officials, who have aggressively asserted claims over large swaths of the Arctic seafloor. [BBC]

More than 120,000 metric tons of oil pollutants and hundreds of tons of heavy metals are [dumped every year](#) into the Caspian Sea, the world’s largest inland sea, an Iranian ecological expert warns. “In terms of pollution, the Caspian Sea is in critical condition,” he says. [Agence France-Presse]

Shipping on a stretch of China’s Yangtze River has been [shut down](#) because of low water levels from a lingering drought, the China Daily newspaper reports. The drought has caused levels at the massive Three Gorges Dam to fall to their lowest point since the dam became operational in 2003. [Reuters]

Copyright 2011 The New York Times Company | [Privacy Policy](#) | [NYTimes.com](#) 620 Eighth Avenue New York, NY 10018