

B11-O13

THE MAIN OUTCOMES OF SESSIONS B11 “NAVIGATION AND FISHERIES IN THE ARCTIC: PROSPECTS, PROBLEMS AND INTERNATIONAL POLICIES”

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The present session was conceived with an expectation that the trend of the current climate change is very likely to continue for a substantial duration in the future. The expected changes in the Arctic are something that human civilization has never experienced. The Arctic is already under the development in various ways, and its rate increased rapidly. The session brought together the prospects and experiences from the fields of sea ice science, ship building, navigation techniques, communication problems, the issues of safety, search and rescue, fisheries, other economic developments and environmental preservation needs. There are so many diverse issues, but one acute problem that has become clear is the urgent need for promoting the research on marine ecology, and especially in the Central Arctic Ocean, before the natural balance will be artificially destabilized. For the safe navigation, internationally coordinated training of ice navigation and the ice information and forecasts with various time horizons are recognized as urgently necessary. Further, new international judicial framework is necessary to regulate the safe operation and to rule certain outcomes, such as international disputes. To this end, the earlier experiences gained in the Antarctic following the Antarctic Treaty may provide a useful direction.