



--- Public Evening Talk ---

UNCLOS: Beyond 200 Nautical Miles in the Arctic Ocean

Dienstag 18. März 19:00
Universität Bremen

As part of the "10th International Conference on Arctic Margins (ICAM-X)", a public evening lecture will take place on Tuesday, 18 March 2025 at 19:00 in the large lecture hall (HS 2010) in the lecture hall building ("Keksdose") of the University of Bremen.



The theme is highly topical as it addresses the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); Article 76, which defines the term "continental shelf", an issue of prime political interest for Arctic countries.

During the last decades, the Arctic has become the epicenter of climate warming and at the same time a hotspot of economic and geopolitical interests. Motivated by economic opportunities that involve commercial shipping, oil and gas development, mining, fisheries and

tourism, both Arctic and global actors show increasing interest in the Arctic region - with respective need for coordination, cooperation, and regulation.

The Arctic is governed by both domestic and international laws and policies. Science plays an important role in shaping the various regulations and recommendations in treaties and soft-law. An example of how science is used for decision-making is the “Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf” which facilitates the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Article 76. This convention allows for States to exercise sovereignty over the seabed beyond their 200 nautical mile limit (Exclusive Economic Zone), if their continental shelf extends that far.

Five coastal States border the Arctic Ocean and because of its circular geography and extensively elevated features, their continental shelves extend towards each other creating amongst the largest overlap areas in the World. In addition, the remoteness, difficult operational conditions, financial burden and limited capability in the Arctic of any one State has led to a high degree of collaboration amongst the Arctic coastal States and with other States that have Arctic exploration interests and capabilities. This collaboration has led to immense benefits of significant new scientific understanding of the Arctic basins.

This presentation shall explain some of the complexities of article 76 in context of the Arctic, discuss the current status of continental shelf jurisdiction, and elucidate some of the rights and responsibilities of States with respect to the continental shelf.

The Invited Speaker: Prof. Dr. David Cole Mosher

Prof. Dr. David Mosher is an emeritus research scientist with the Geological Survey of Canada and Commissioner with the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf at UN headquarters in New York since 2017.

The Conference: ICAM at a glance:

The International Conference on Arctic Margins (ICAM) is a forum for scientists who study the Arctic Ocean and adjacent landmasses. It was founded in 1991 to promote international scientific cooperation and collaboration in Arctic research. The scientific themes include Earth Sciences, Bio- and Cryosphere, all topics relevant to society, as well as studies that are related to Article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). For some years now, a special focus is also on topics related to recent climate change, as this affects Arctic environments and Arctic nations much more than the global average.

Website: www.icam-x.org