

The Economic Benefits of Hydrography

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SUMMARY

Remote communities in the Canadian Arctic are accessed and re-supplied by air and by sea. The latter mode of transportation presents a more cost-effective solution and in recent years, an extended navigation season has seen an increase in both cargo and passenger vessel traffic. Traditionally, communities in the Western Canadian Arctic have been resupplied by barge and tug however deep draft ocean-going vessels are now starting to compete for service to these same communities. The cost savings realised from deep draft vessel re-supply are significant and modern hydrographic surveys are an enabling factor for deep draft access to Arctic trade routes, for both cargo and passenger liners, especially where under keel clearance is a concern. This paper will endeavour to illustrate the economic benefits of hydrography in the Canadian Arctic.

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