



CMTS U.S. ARCTIC MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM DRAFT REPORT OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment: The draft report, entitled "[Arctic Marine Transportation System: Overview and Priorities for Action](#)," is now available for review and comment until **April 22, 2013**. The Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) draft document is available on the CMTS website (www.cmts.gov) by clicking the link above or the icon to the right. **Substantive comments and/or questions regarding the draft report should be submitted to ArcticMTS@cmts.gov.**

The CMTS is particularly interested in your views on the importance of the proposed recommendations, including improvements to MTS informational infrastructure and response services and to ensure that information in the draft report, particularly the individual MTS issue papers under Chapter 3, is correct and complete.

Comments will also be received via two moderated phone calls:

- **All Stakeholders: Wednesday, March 27, 2013, 3:00–4:30 p.m. Eastern Time (Please RSVP ArcticMTS@cmts.gov to receive call-in information)**
- **Alaska Tribal Representatives: Friday, April 5, 2013, 1:00–2:30 p.m. Eastern Time (Further information will be provided directly to Alaskan Tribes via Federal Tribal Liaisons though questions or comments regarding the April 5 phone call to ArcticMTS@cmts.gov are most welcome.)**

Changing Arctic: It is recognized that with the U.S. Arctic experiencing record loss of sea ice and related environmental changes during the summer months, there is a growing need to address marine transportation issues in the U.S. Arctic. Increasing accessibility to navigation routes, the interest in resource development, and the need to protect and sustain subsistence lifestyles and the requirements of Alaskan Tribes, call for the Federal Government to take an active and integrated approach to vessel traffic in the Arctic.

Directives: Congress directed the CMTS under U.S. Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010, *SEC. 307. ARCTIC MARINE SHIPPING ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTATION*, to coordinate domestic transportation policies in the U.S. Arctic necessary to insure safe and secure maritime shipping. This directive is in line with the CMTS mission to improve Federal marine transportation coordination and policies. In response, the CMTS Arctic Maritime Shipping Integrated Action Team conducted a comprehensive review of Federal policies and practices related to a U.S. Arctic Marine Transportation System (MTS). This review led to the development of the draft report, "U.S. Arctic Marine Transportation System: Overview and Priorities for Action".

The CMTS draft report is the first multi-agency, sector-specific, systematic review of federal U.S. Arctic marine transportation policies, programs, and services. The report, once approved, is intended to inform Federal agency and Administration efforts in defining priorities regarding the U.S. Arctic MTS.



Click the icon to open the report

Note: For a more accessible copy of the report, click [here](#).

Draft Report Summary:

- Identifies existing Arctic MTS policies;
- Assesses present and projected uses of the Arctic, and the implications for the United States and a U.S. Arctic MTS;
- Describes the essential elements of a safe, secure, and environmentally sustainable U.S. Arctic MTS
- Details components needed to protect maritime commerce, indigenous peoples and communities, and the environment as outlined in U.S. Arctic Region Policy and applicable law;
- Evaluates the current condition of the U.S. Arctic MTS, including physical and information infrastructure and human capital; and
- Recommends priority areas for action, both in the near and longer term