

Melting ice triggers race for Arctic riches

Frontiers among the five Arctic states – Russia, the U.S., Norway, Denmark and Canada – are disputed but nations have never attempted to resolve disagreements because of impassable frozen seas. Now global warming is bringing previously unattainable oil and gas fields within reach

1 North Pole: Aug 2 – Russia plants flag on seabed, 4,000m beneath surface as part of its claims for oil and gas reserves

2 Lomonosov Ridge: Russia argues that underwater feature is extension of its continental territory under **UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos)**



3 Russian claimed territory: Under Unclos Russia, Canada and Denmark are lodging claims to extend their seabed exploitation rights beyond standard 200 nautical miles offshore limit. U.S. has refused to ratify Unclos

4 Barents Sea: Russian-claimed territory – opposed by Norway

5 Denmark: Plans to claim more Arctic territory off Greenland coast

6 Baffin Island: Aug 10 – Canada's Premier **Stephen Harper** announces \$3.1-billion fleet of eight ice-reinforced Arctic patrol vessels, new deep-water seaport on Baffin Island and military base on Cornwallis Island

7 Northwest Passage: Canada claims authority over shipping route – U.S. insists it is international waterway