

# Arctic shipping prepares for record year

A record number of ships are set to sail the Northern Sea Route along Russia's Arctic coast this year, as melting sea ice brings about a revolution in trade between Europe and East Asia

## Northern Sea Route (NSR)

Normally navigable without assistance from icebreakers for between two and four months each year. Open for five months in 2012 due to lack of sea ice

Rotterdam, Netherlands

Suez Canal

## Southern route

Traditional shipping route between Asia and Europe

## Rotterdam to Yokohama

Takes 33 days to sail distance of 20,700km via Suez Canal. Using NSR, distance is 13,600km, taking just 20 days and cutting fuel costs and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

## Increase in cargo

Around 1.25m tonnes of cargo traversed NSR in 2012 (compared to Suez Canal's 740m tonnes). Figure predicted to rise to 1.5m tonnes this year and 40m tonnes by 2021



## Number of vessels sailing whole of Northern Sea Route

\*Permissions to sail NSR as of July 19

