

EXPERT TEAM ON SEA ICE – FIFTH SESSION

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STEERING GROUP FOR THE PROJECT  
GLOBAL DIGITAL SEA ICE DATA BANK (GDSIDB) –  
THIRTEENTH SESSION

OTTAWA, CANADA, 25 TO 28 MARCH 2014

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## **REGIONAL REPORT FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN ICE SERVICE (NAIS)**

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### **Summary and Purpose of Document**

This document provides a summary update of activities of the North American Ice Service (NAIS)

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### **ACTION PROPOSED**

The Team is invited to:

(a) review and advise on the activities of the NAIS.

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### **References:**

NAIS website: <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=NAIceService>

## DISCUSSION

### Update on Activities of the North American Ice Service

1. **Introduction:** The North American Ice Service (NAIS) is a partnership between the Canadian Ice Service (CIS), the International Ice Patrol (IIP) and the U.S. National Ice Center (NIC). The mission is to leverage the strengths of each organization to monitor areas of common interest and provide the highest quality, timely and accurate ice analysis, in order to meet the needs of the maritime interests of the United States and Canadian governments in support of:
    - Safe and efficient maritime operations;
    - Weather and environmental modelling;
    - National and environmental security;
    - Research and climate understanding; and
    - International treaty obligations
  2. **Operational Support:** Throughout the intercessional period, the NAIS provided ice information for the Great Lakes, Alaska and the waters South East of Newfoundland. Products included: daily Ice and iceberg charts and bulletins, 30-day ice forecasts, Seasonal Outlooks and Seasonal Summaries. These products are produced jointly; either sharing production of the different parts of the product or alternating during the week or during the year. In support of these products, satellite imagery is shared to the maximum extent possible.
  3. **Data Sources:** RADARSAT-2 data is shared between the NIC and the CIS over the Great Lakes. Both centers use US satellites such as NOAA AVHRR, Modis and VIIRS. Ship reports of ice conditions or icebergs are shared. Information about icebergs detected from RADARSAT-2 is shared between the three centers.
  4. **Information Technology:** Both the IIP and the CIS use the Berg Analysis and Prediction System (BAPS) for managing the iceberg database, modeling their forecast movement and chart production. BAPS is in the final stages of being updated to be able to use Windows 7.
  5. **Climatology:** Since January 2006, all current CIS charts are available in Sigrid-3 format and the regional products are provided to the U. S. National Snow and Ice Data Center in real time. Iceberg climatology is available through the IIP.
  6. **Training:** Training activities are limited but when possible, are shared within the NAIS.
  7. **Science:** Iceberg modeling –the International Ice Patrol is evaluating a different iceberg model for operational use.
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