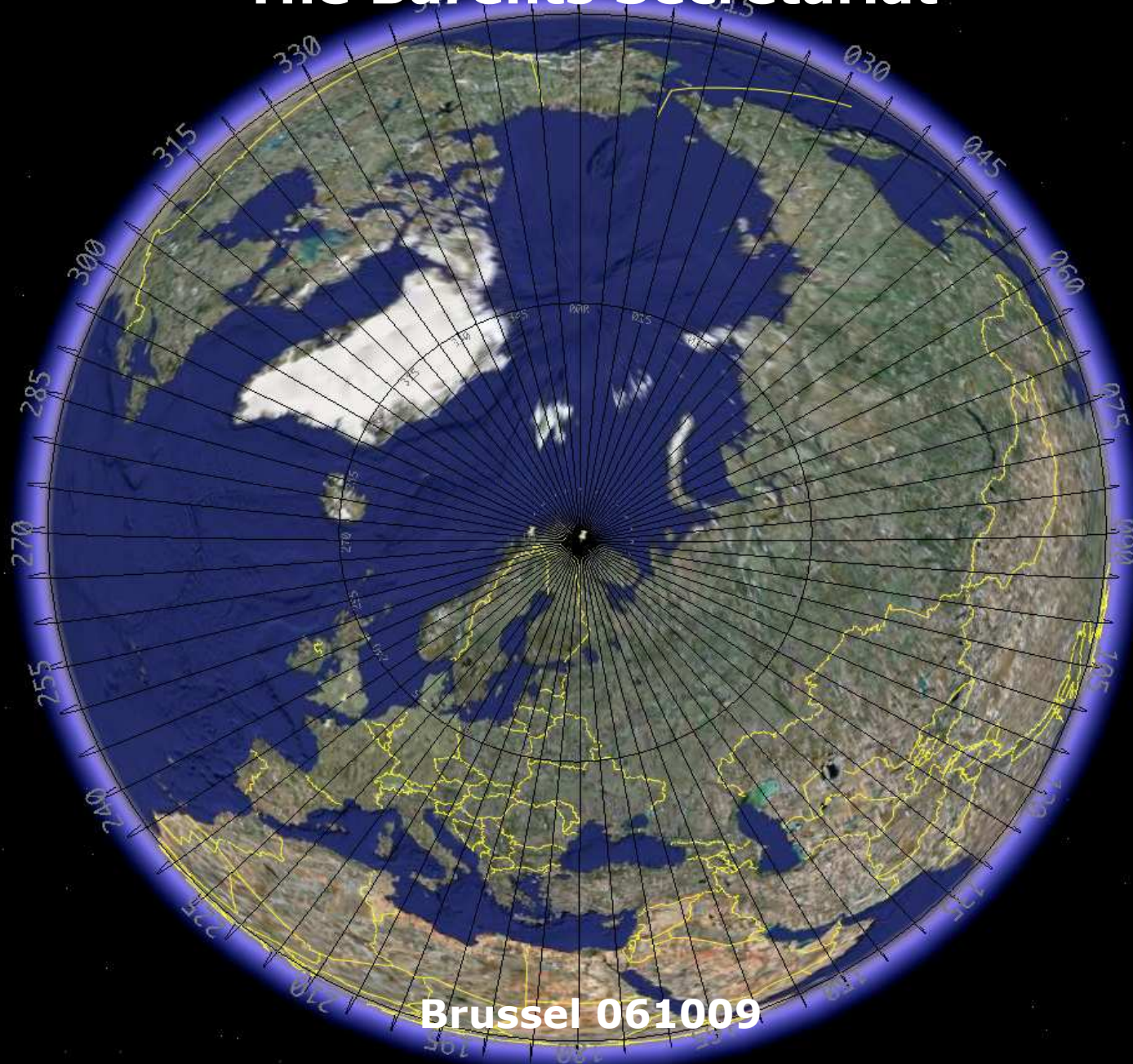




The Barents Cooperation - Region Building and New Challenges in the High North

Brussel 061009 Rune Rafaelsen

The Barents Secretariat





Structure

- Owned by Nordland, Troms and Finnmark Counties
- Offices in Kirkenes, Murmansk, Arkhangelsk and Naryan-Mar
- Project grants from Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Partner programmes with other ministries.



The success of the Barents cooperation

- 16 years of cooperation
- 3200 projects financed
- 45 million EUR granted

2008

- 170 projects funded



The Barents Region from a Russian Perspective



Common features of the Barents Region

- peripheral localisation
- sparse population and large area
- many ethnic minorities
- delayed start of industrialisation followed by a rapid industrialisation process
- immigration of large groups of the nation's majority people in the area
- radicalisation of the work force and polarisation between radical and traditional groups
- a kind of “polar romanticism” which a lot of modernising actors held regarding the northern dimension of each nation state
- post-modern efforts to strengthen the higher education
- revitalisation process which many of the national minorities went through during the last part of the 20th century



The Barents Cooperation

- Soft Security
- Regional foreign policy
- People-to-people cooperation

Barents Cooperation

- Russian Regions in a east – west context
- Increased Knowledge about Russia
- Regional Cooperation
- Democracy





Areas of priority

- Culture
- Competence
- Indigenous peoples
- Business
- Environment

- Health
- Youth

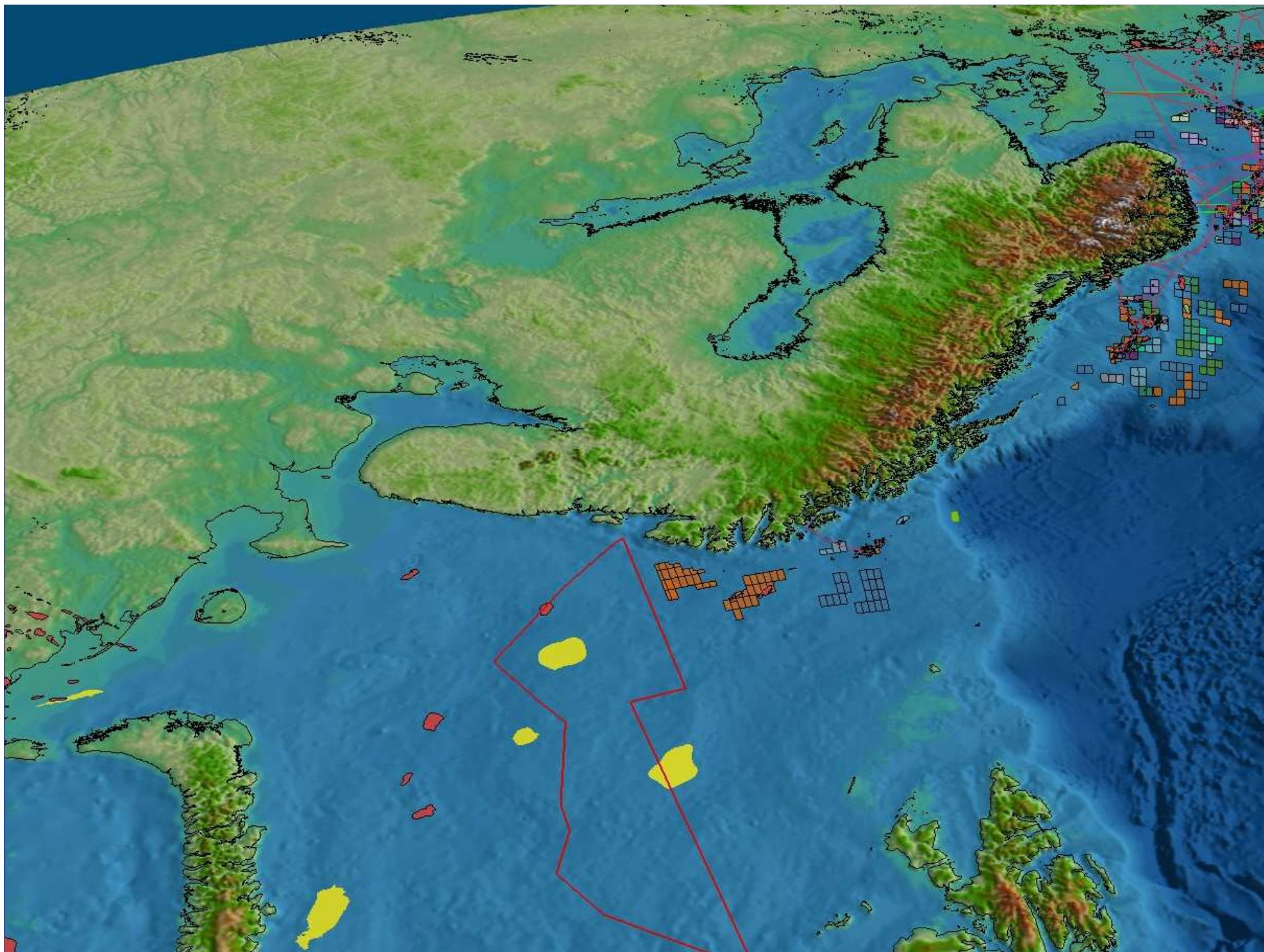
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The Arctic cod stocks have not been this big since 1948. The reason is climate change which brings warmer water into the Norwegian and Barents Seas.

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The first of three coastguard vessels of the Barents Sea class was taken into operation this weekend. The vessel is an ice strengthened multi-purpose vessel which can be used both as a tugboat to assist bigger boats in addition to fish-inspection in Norway's Arctic waters.

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Spotlights



New spy-sub operates in northern waters

Russia's top-secret special purpose submarine, B-90 Sarov, is reportedly operating in northern waters from the Northern Fleets bases on the Kola Peninsula.

