

2019 continues to show very low extent of sea ice, rivaling the record set in 2012. This is mainly driven by the extremely early breakup in the western Arctic. The majority of the Northwest Passage is currently free of ice and a perennial “problem area”- Larsen Sound - is breaking up nicely and ahead of schedule. Breakup in Prince Regent Sound, which we plan to transit from Lancaster Sound to Fort Ross, is lagging, but if we cannot transit through this area then we can use alternate routes. There is still ca. 10 days until we reach this area and a lot can change for the positive in that time. Possible changes like this are standard operating procedure in the Northwest Passage!

Also, we would like to inform the guests travelling on MS Roald Amundsen that we will not be able to land at Point Barrow as planned due to updated US regulations for operating with zodiacs/tender boats from non-US countries. We are working on alternatives for Point Barrow and this will of course not change the overall planned voyage.