

As many of you have probably experienced, 2019 has been a warm year! In the Canadian Arctic, communities have seen record warm temperatures (although temperatures are predicted to be about normal for the Central Arctic in the upcoming month). The amount of sea ice in the Canadian Arctic is on track to break the record minimum seen in 2012. Sea ice breakup in many places in Arctic Canada is significantly ahead of schedule. A sea ice “pinch-point” in the Northwest Passage is Larsen Sound, but we are getting some positive indications of earlier than normal breakup in the surrounding area.

With this in mind, and of course also considering the uncertainty inherent in predicting environmental conditions, Hurtigruten is cautiously optimistic that our ships, MS Fram and MS Roald Amundsen, will be successful in sailing through the Northwest Passage this summer.

We will continue our assessment of Canadian Arctic sea ice and update you again early in week of 11 August.