

Little Fish, Big Pond: Icelandic Interests and Influence in Arctic Governance

On pretty much any measure of international comparison, Iceland is a little fish. Nevertheless, its geographical location next to the Big Pond that is the Arctic Ocean has put it in a position of influence in a region of growing international importance.

In this paper, we explore Iceland's influence in the Arctic region based on international relations considerations such as its political alliances; and based on international law: Iceland's rights and responsibilities.

The paper presents the Arctic Council and Iceland's role within it before turning to issues that are governed outside of the Arctic Council system, in particular, Arctic fisheries and maritime boundaries. The paper explains Iceland's approach to Arctic cooperation in light of its published policy documents and explores the tools available to Iceland to defend its interests.

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