

I am involved in a Russian/Norwegian collaborative project that is beginning in the new Fram Arctic Laboratory at AARI, to characterise ice conditions through the 20th Century along the Fram drift track. (The Fram drift was 1893-96.) Included in this work will be consideration of where else the Fram could have been carried under different conditions, and also where might one start from if one wanted to repeat such a drift and actually hit the North Pole.

So, the suggestion is to attempt to carry out a transpolar drift, freezing a ship in the ice in late 2006(?). The ship would provide the base for science - meteorology, oceanography, sea-ice studies, atmospheric chemistry, radiation studies, biology in and below the ice, satellite calibration and evaluation, etc. etc.

It could be staffed by young scientists from a variety of countries, with an open application procedure, and could also be a base for communication with the general public through live and interactive broadcasting of documentary and educational programmes etc. etc.

I have no definite suggestions for a ship, but note that there are new vessels being planned now and for IPY. Perhaps this will free up an older vessel that could be used.

Perhaps this has all been said by Jan Lieser et al. (TRANS-POLAR@IPY), but I put it here briefly in case not.