



Commanding Officer

Captain Lawson W. Brigham, USCG

On September 9, 1994, POLAR SEA accompanied CCGS LOUIS S. ST-LAURENT to the CCG base in Halifax Harbor. After rendering a final salute to our Canadian colleagues, POLAR SEA proceeded independently on a return transit to homeport Seattle, Washington via Boston, Massachusetts and the Panama Canal.

As we took our leave, we reflected back on the spirit of international cooperation between the men and women making up the crews and scientific parties on both ships. Beginning in Victoria, British Columbia on July 17, 1994, this extraordinary voyage took the two icebreakers across the Arctic Basin through 2,300 miles of difficult ice. Both icebreakers entered the Arctic ice pack from the Pacific on July 26, 1994 at 69° 52.2'N, 168° 45.6' W. Taking the toughest route in the interest of science, we crossed the Arctic Ocean via the North Pole and exited the ice near Svalbard on August 30, 1994 at 80° 03.4'N, 009° 12.5'E. This was the first transit of the Central Arctic Basin from the Pacific to the Atlantic by surface ships of any nation. Most importantly, the scientific data accumulated by the scientific party throughout this journey will help us gain new understanding of the role the Arctic Ocean plays in global environmental change.

Captain Philip Grandy and I take great pride in announcing to our respective Coast Guards and our nations this highly successful and historic expedition across "The Top of the World."

I thank POLAR SEA's distinguished crew and scientific party for their boundless energy, endless patience and extraordinary sense of adventure. There could be no finer team with which to make polar history!! My sincere thanks and great respect go to each individual aboard.

very respectfully,

- Captain Lawson W. Brigham

