“The navigation of the Polar seas, which is peculiar, requires in a particular manner, an extensive knowledge of the nature, properties and usual motions of the ice, and it can only be performed to the best advantage by those WHO HAVE A LONG EXPERIENCE with working a ship in icy conditions”

William Scoresby, 1820
“It takes as long to train an Ice Master as it does a brain surgeon”

Ulf Ryder, Stena Seabulk, 2005
Experience Matters

Global footprint – Arctic and Antarctic Operations

STCW Master Mariner

CoP Polar Waters Advanced

Nautical Institute Ice Navigator Level 2

Years of experience in ice
Polar Code and STCW

Certificate of Proficiency in Polar Waters Training
• No practical in ice experience required, only 30 days in Polar Waters

• No assurance of competence in ice operations

• Very limited simulator ”time” is not sufficient to ensure skills and competency levels achieved

• Owners and operators assuming possession of CoP Polar Waters training is a guarantee of ice operations competence. It isn’t, it is far short.
Polar Code and STCW

What have we seen since 2016?

- Not all Polar Water courses are created equal – very wide range of quality and value
- Mariners arriving in Polar waters without CoPs, only training certificates
- Unable to correctly assess real time ice conditions
- Unable to interpret ice charts or imagery
- Unable to correctly apply AIRSS of POLARIS calculations
- PC Ship Categories selected below ice class, ship’s officers unaware of the difference
Experience Matters

Knowing the difference

Knowing HOW to deal with the wildly changeable conditions

Understanding the limitations of ship and crew
Polar Code and STCW

How do we address this?

- NI Ice Navigator certification compliments and adds to PC requirements
- Mariners must show time in ice operations
- If regular crew does not have sufficient experience in ice, embark a duly competent Ice Navigator