



Land Ho! Discovery of New Lands in the Arctic

OE Watch Commentary: Who says the age of exploration and discovery of new lands is so 17th-19th Century? As the accompanying passage from *Ria Novosti* reports, Russia's Northern Fleet continues to find previously unknown, uncharted islands. Part of this is apparently due to Arctic ice melt. These are not new islands pushed to the surface by volcanic activity or tectonic plate shifts. They've been there a long time, just covered by a glacier. The world has been running low on available mountains, lakes and islands to name after heads of state, explorers and other notables. Russia has naming rights to 35 islands. There must be a ruble in this somewhere. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

“The discovery was confirmed by a hydrographic group operating as part of a combined expedition to the Franz Josef Land archipelago.”

Source: “Северный флот РФ открыл пять новых островов в Арктике (Russia's Northern Fleet says that it has discovered five new islands in the Kara Sea, north of Siberia),” *RIA Novosti*, 27 August 2019. <https://riafan.ru/1207062-severnyi-flot-rf-otkryl-pyat-novykh-ostrovov-v-arktike>

Russia's Northern Fleet says that it has discovered five new islands in the Kara Sea, north of Siberia

The Northern Fleet press service stated that “The area of the sites vary from 900 to 54,500 square meters. A topographic survey was carried out on the new islands, they have been described in detail and photographed.” The islands' location is described as being in the bay of Vize, west of Severny Island in the region of the Vylki Glacier. *RIA Novosti* said that islands were first spotted in 2016 upon analysis of satellite images and that is assumed they were previously hidden by a glacier.

Between 2015 and 2018, Northern Fleet hydrographers helped to discover more than 30 islands, capes and bays in the region of Novaya Zemlya and the Franz Josef Land archipelago, according to the report.

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