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## **Danish survey may hand them rights to the North Pole**

Denmark is at the moment trying to negotiate and manoeuvre itself into a better position when the rights to the areas round the North Pole are to be decided. On Tuesday the 31st of July, 17 Danish researchers will travel to Svalbard and from there on to the North Pole on a survey mission. The objective of this survey is to gather scientific data on a 150.000 sq.km subsea area by the North Pole to prove that the North Pole is part of the Greenland plateau and therefore it belongs under the Denmark realm. The North Pole is located in an area, which Denmark believes it holds the governing rights to. It is not just Denmark, which is laying claim to the North Pole and the surrounding areas. Russian scientists are in the process of conducting similar surveys and already in September of 2007, a Russian submarine planted a Russian flag on the seabed by the North Pole. The Danish scientific team will leave Svalbard onboard the icebreaker Oden, which will open up a 25 nautical mile long passageway and it will be broad enough to allow the scientists to conduct seismic surveys of the seabed. The ocean depth in the area is between three to four kilometres and this is the first attempt ever to map the subsea Lomonosov ridge, stretching all the way between Greenland and Siberia. To the UN in 2014 If the survey results turn out the way the Danes hope, the Danish government will, together with the Greenland government, approach the UN with a claim for the seabed and to all it may contain, or which may lay beneath the seabed. This is most likely to be done in 2014, says the Danish national radio. The environmental organisation, Greenpeace, is not particularly pleased, that countries have begun laying claim to the areas under and around the North Pole. In an action called Save-the-Arctic the organisation is trying to gain support for the complete protection of the arctic areas not belonging to any specific country. The