



Summary Report 2017-2019

PAME Main Achievements

11th Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting

7th of May 2019, Rovaniemi, Finland

PAME
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment



ARCTIC COUNCIL

PAME MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS SUMMARY REPORT 2017-2019

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The PAME Programme

The programme for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) was established by the Arctic Council Ministers in Nuuk, Greenland, September 1993.

PAME members include National Representatives of the eight Arctic Council States: Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden and United States in addition to six Indigenous groups' organizations, Termed "Permanent Participants". Representatives from several designated Arctic Council observer countries and organizations also participate in PAME.

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Mandate

PAME focuses on the marine agenda of the Arctic Council and provides a unique forum for collaboration on a wide range of activities directed towards the protection and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment.

PAME's mandate: To address marine policy measures and other measures related to the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine and coastal environment in response to environmental change from both land and sea-based activities, including non-emergency pollution prevention control measures such as coordinated strategic plans as well as developing programs, assessments and guidelines, all of which aim to complement or supplement efforts and existing arrangements for the protection and sustainable development of the Arctic marine environment.

Summary of main achievements 2017-2019

PAME's work has proceeded in accordance with relevant activities captured in PAME's biennial work plan as approved by the Arctic Council, including implementation of certain Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) recommendations, and policy follow-up on other assessments and reports of the Arctic Council.

PAME cooperates actively with the other Arctic Council working groups (WGs) in an effort to contribute to improved efficiency and effectiveness of the Arctic Council. Further, PAME works substantively with Arctic inhabitants, including indigenous peoples, to provide a unique forum for collaboration on a wide range of activities directed towards protection of the Arctic marine environment.

In follow up to the [2017 Fairbanks Declaration](#) (i.e., paragraphs 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 17, 25, 28 and 32), PAME has, inter alia, undertaken the following work over the course of 2017-2019:

Arctic Marine Shipping

PAME, aided by its Shipping Expert Group, advanced a number of projects and initiatives to promote safe and sustainable shipping in the Arctic which included:

- Collaboration with international organizations on Arctic related activities of common interest;
- The Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum (established in 2017), which supports effective implementation of the IMO's Polar Code, including its first two meetings and the launch of its web portal in May 2018 (www.arcticshippingforum.is);
- Joint submission of the *Regional Reception Facilities Plan (RRFP) – Outline and Planning Guide for the Arctic* to IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) 74 in 2019;

- The finalization of two informational papers related to heavy fuel oil (HFO), one of which was co-sponsored by all Arctic States and submitted to the IMO on 31 January 2018, and;
- The Final report on the environmental, economic, technical and practical aspects of the use by ships in the Arctic of alternative fuels.

PAME also executed the official launch of the Arctic Ship Traffic Data (ASTD) System in January 2019; completed a report with EPPR on a Compendium of Arctic Shipping Accidents (*CASA*), and completed the *Underwater Noise in the Arctic – State of Knowledge Report*; and started the process of developing a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding with the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission which will continue into the next work plan period.

PAME made progress in identifying, where relevant, revisions and updates to the 17 Ministerial-approved Recommendations contained in the 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Report, taking into account inter alia, the Arctic Ocean Review Final Report (AOR 2013), the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP 2015), and consultations with all other Arctic Council WGs and TFs, as relevant. Other follow-up topics included progress on *Developing an Approach/Framework for more Systematically Engaging with Observers on PAME's Shipping Related Work*, which will continue with at least one workshop in 2019.

Protection from Invasive Species

PAME and CAFF have established a Joint Arctic Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan (ARIAS) Implementation Coordinating Group (ICG) and approved its Terms of Reference (refer to CAFF's Achievements).

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

PAME held its third and fourth workshops¹, hosted by Finland in September 2017 and by Canada in March 2019 on Marine Protected Areas (MPA) networks with the aim to integrate findings into the Arctic MPA-network Toolbox, a practical, hands-on resource for MPA programs and partners for advancing the design and implementation of MPA networks.

Ecosystem Approach to Management (EA)

PAME continues to follow national and international EA developments and integrate the principles of EA into assessments and management recommendations. This contributes to the follow-up to the recommendations in the 2013 Ecosystem-Based Management in the Arctic Report, building on previous work on Large Marine Ecosystems. The joint EA EG coordinates activities with participation from other Arctic Council WGs. The 6th EA workshop held in Seattle in January 2018 focused on the EA Guidelines and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment, and the EA EG developed *Guidelines for Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Management of Arctic Marine Ecosystems*. The EA EG also developed a plan for a 2nd International EA Conference in Bergen, Norway in 2019, with a focus on the issue of scale integration in EA implementation. PAME continues the joint effort by the International

¹ Marine protected areas on PAME's website: <https://pame.is/index.php/projects/marine-protected-areas>.

Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)/North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)/PAME WG on Integrated Ecosystem Assessment for the Central Arctic Ocean (WGICA) and notes the completion of the report on “*Integrated Ecosystem Assessment of the Central Arctic Ocean: Ecosystem Description and Vulnerability Characterization*”.

PAME has noted the importance of close collaboration between the MPA and the EA EGs and their work.

Arctic Offshore Resource Exploration and Development

The Resource Exploration and Development Expert Group (REDEG) completed the *Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities (MEMA) Part II* report. The MEMA online database is accessible on the PAME homepage at: www.memadatabase.is and is publically available as a resource for those interested in engagement of Indigenous peoples and local communities.

Arctic Marine Pollution

PAME completed the *Desktop Study on Marine Litter, including microplastics, in the Arctic* (Phase I). The main task was to collect all relevant and existing literature and scientific studies on marine litter in the Arctic. The aim was to better understand the sources and drivers of marine litter, the pathways and distribution, the interactions with and impacts on Biota, and monitoring and responses. This is the first compilation of marine litter covering the circumpolar Arctic but is by no means comprehensive. It helps to improve the understanding of the status and impacts of marine litter, and in particular plastic litter and microplastics, in the Arctic region. A marine litter expert group was established to assist in this work, in addition to its collaboration with other Arctic Council WGs. A workshop was convened in June 2018 in Iceland in support of this project.

Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) 2015-2025

The PAME Secretariat produced the 2nd AMSP implementation report, which records status on relevant AMSP Strategic Actions for the period 2017-2019 and identifies follow-up activities that are reflected in the PAME WP 2019-2021 and other WGs’ WPs, as per their respective mandates. The AMSP Implementation Plan provides a mechanism to systematically track progress and status of its 40 Strategic Actions. This 2nd report was developed in close collaboration with other Arctic Council WGs to ensure transparent and systematic cross-working group progress, provide a status reporting mechanism for all work plans, as relevant, and contribute to collaboration on cross-cutting marine-related issues.

Coordination and collaboration with other Arctic Council WGs

PAME actively pursues cooperation with other Arctic Council WGs and TFs to contribute to improved efficiency and effectiveness of the Arctic Council. PAME collaborated with all Arctic Council WGs on the development of the 2nd AMSP implementation Progress Report. AMAP

and CAFF continue to be engaged in the joint EA EG, and PAME continues to make efforts to strengthen the communication between the EA EG co-chairs and the relevant WGs. PAME provided input to CAFF on the “Actions for biodiversity” tracking tool and to EPPR on the *Status report on implementation of the framework plan on oil pollution prevention*. PAME collaborates closely with CAFF on MPA and invasive species activities and all Arctic Council WGs on the development of the *Desktop Study on Marine Litter, including microplastics, in the Arctic*.

PAME regularly reaches out to other WGs, industry and organizations with recognized competence as a mean to identify and where possible collaborate on issues of common interest, of relevance to its work, including AMSA shipping follow-up activities. Examples of these include:

- ✓ Comite Maritime International
- ✓ Duke University
- ✓ EYOS Expeditions
- ✓ International Council on Clean Transportation
- ✓ International Seabed Authority
- ✓ Michael Kingston Associates
- ✓ Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center
- ✓ St. Lawrence Shipoperators

Communications and outreach

The lead of PAME’s overall communications activities is the PAME Secretariat. PAME develops necessary project-related communications, which include brochures, promotional materials, websites, video production, event hosting, presentations at key events, and press inquiries. PAME participates in relevant international symposia, meetings and other appropriate venues to communicate PAME’s activities. PAME’s work plan includes information outreach and efforts to increase cooperation and collaboration with international and regional organizations to include the liaising and exchange of information with relevant organizations and programs (e.g. UNEP Regional Seas Programme), and other regional programs. PAME’s homepage serves as the main outreach and communication tool (www.pame.is).

Administration

The PAME International Secretariat is based in Akureyri, Iceland. The Secretariat has a staff of three: (1) the Executive Secretary; (2) Executive Assistant; and (3) project manager. A Ministerial agreement (1998) provides the framework for voluntary contributions to the operation of the PAME Secretariat. Contributions are provided by six of the eight Arctic States in support of the Secretariat. PAME cooperates closely with CAFF to share fixed Secretariat overhead costs. Canada has chaired, and the United States has co-chaired the PAME WG during 2017–2019 period. PAME has held four WG meetings, two MPA network expert

workshops, two Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum meetings, and two ASTD workshops, in addition to a number of meetings of the PAME EGs during the Finnish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

PAME Deliverables for the 2019 Ministerial Meeting

Reports for approval/welcome

- ✓ Underwater Noise in the Arctic: A State of Knowledge report (*Canada/WWF*).
- ✓ Desktop study on Marine Litter, including microplastics, in the Arctic (Phase I) (*Iceland/Norway/Sweden/AIA/OSPAR*).
- ✓ Guidelines for Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Management of Arctic Marine Ecosystems (*Norway/USA/EA-EG*).
- ✓ Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities (MEMA) Part II Findings for Policy Makers (full report) (*Canada/USA/AIA/ICC/Saami Council*).
- ✓ 2nd reporting on progress/implementation of the 2015-2025 Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP).
- ✓ 2019-2021 PAME Work Plan and PAME 2017-2019 Achievements as part of the Senior Arctic Official Report to Ministers.

Reports for information

- ✓ Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum Status Report, Web-portal and Press Release (*Finland/Canada/United States/PAME Secretariat*).
- ✓ Report on the environmental, economic, technical and practical aspects of the use by ships in the Arctic of alternative fuels (*Norway/WWF*).
- ✓ Arctic Ship Traffic Data Project Status Report, Database and Press Release (*United States*).
- ✓ Regional Reception Facilities project titled: Proposal for a new output to amend MARPOL to allow the establishment of regional arrangements in the Arctic for joint submission by all Arctic States to the 74th Session of IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) (13-17 May 2019).
- ✓ MEMA database (*Canada/United States/AIA/ICC/Saami Council/PAME Secretariat*).
- ✓ Progress report on the EA-EG 2017-2019 work plan (*Norway/United States*).
- ✓ Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Report for the Central Arctic Ocean, pending its completion (*Norway/United States*).
- ✓ Various communication and outreach products.



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