

# PAME

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

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Working Group of the Arctic Council



2015 - 2017

## PAME's Mandate

The PAME working group addresses policy and non-emergency pollution prevention and control measures related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment from both land and sea-based activities. These measures include coordinated strategic plans as well as developing programs, assessments and guidelines, all of which aim to complement or supplement existing international arrangements.

## PAME Members

PAME members include National Representatives of the 8 Arctic Council States (Canada, Denmark (including Faroe Islands and Greenland), Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States). Indigenous groups' organizations, termed "Permanent Participants" also participate in PAME's work, as well as representatives from several observer countries and organizations. PAME regularly reaches out to other bodies with recognized competence of relevance to its work as a mean to identify, and where possible collaborate, on issues of common interest.

## PAME Structure

PAME reports to the Senior Arctic Officials, and through them, to the Ministers of the Arctic Council that meet every two years. The PAME Working Group meets twice a year to assess and advance progress and develop work plans. PAME is headed by a chair and vice-chair and is supported by the PAME International Secretariat.

# PAME

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## PAME Activities

PAME will focus on a number of activities, including the following:

### Arctic Marine Strategic Plan

Develop an implementation plan for the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (2015-2025).

### Arctic Marine Shipping

Follow-up activities of Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Recommendations such as:

- Continue to monitor and, as appropriate, identify opportunities to engage and collaborate with international organizations and others on issues of common interest to advance implementation of the AMSA Recommendations and other Arctic Council-related shipping recommendations such as the Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) Final Report Recommendations.
- Convene an International Conference on Safe and Sustainable Shipping in a Changing Arctic Environment in August 2015, in cooperation with the IMO and World Maritime University (WMU).
- PAME will also continue to promote collaboration among Arctic states as they implement the Polar Code and follow-up on the Heavy Fuel Oil Phase II and II(b) Reports.
- Continue its work on strengthening passenger ship safety in Arctic waters by following up on the Arctic Marine Tourism Project's (AMTP) voluntary best practice guidelines.
- Prepare an Arctic Regional Reception Facilities Plan as a long term solution, meeting the challenges facing the expected increases in shipping for the foreseeable future.
- Continue to Pursue opportunities for the Arctic Marine Traffic Systems initiative including, as appropriate, through the proposed Arctic Shipping Data Service (ASDS) in an effort to update the Arctic ship traffic data contained in the AMSA Report.

### Offshore Oil and Gas in the Arctic

PAME will undertake a project on meaningful engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in marine activities, a cross-cutting shipping and oil and gas project.

### Ecosystem Approach

Continue activities to implement the Ecosystem Approach to management which will contribute to the development of ecological objectives and prepare a report "Status of Setting Ecological Objectives in the Arctic". As well, follow up actions on Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (IEA) to consider methodological developments in IEA in collaboration with ICES and other relevant organizations and prepare a briefing on "Work on Integrated Ecosystem Assessments of Arctic LMEs".

### Marine Protected Areas

Projects based on the Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) including Stakeholder engagement and communication, inventory mapping of existing MPAs and a "desktop study" on area-based conservation measures and their linkages to categories of Arctic biodiversity toolbox in support of marine protected area networks.

### Communication & Outreach

Information outreach, capacity building and collaboration with other Arctic Council working groups, relevant organizations, indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants is an integral part of the overall work of the PAME working group.

## The Arctic Ocean

The Arctic Ocean and its biota are generally clean in relation to other oceans and marginal seas. However, low temperatures, short growing season and the fact that there are fewer species to undertake degradation make the Arctic more vulnerable to long-range air and sea transport of contaminants and certain human impacts. Low temperatures slow down the chemical and biological processes of contaminant degradation. Increased economic activity and significant changes due to climatic processes are resulting in increased use, opportunities and challenges to the Arctic marine and coastal environments. These predicted changes require more integrated approaches to address both existing and emerging challenges of the Arctic marine and coastal environments.



## PAME

PAME is one of six Arctic Council working groups. PAME was first established under the 1991 Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy and was continued by the 1996 Ottawa Charter that established the Arctic Council.

The majority of the Arctic Council's activities are conducted in six working groups. Each working group has a mandate under which it operates, has a Chair and is supported by a Secretariat. PAME cooperates with the other Arctic Council working groups and special initiatives/task forces of the Arctic Council as follows:

- **Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP)** - Identification and assessment of pollution problems.
- **Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)** - conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of living resources.
- **Emergency, Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)** - Pollution prevention and control measures responding to environmental emergencies.
- **Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)** - Assessment of the relationship between pollution and health.
- **Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP)** - Project preparations on pollution prevention and control measures.

### PAME Secretariat

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