



**PROGRESS REPORT TO
PAME I-2011
MEETING GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH
TO MANAGEMENT**

PAME

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

Progress Report to PAME I-2011 meeting
Group of Experts on the Ecosystem Approach
to Management

Introduction

Norway and USA as co-leads presented a progress report on behalf of the PAME Group of Experts on the Ecosystem Approach to Management to PAME II-2010. We have followed-up on the agreed activities as per the RoD from the PAME II-2010 meeting and report here progress and plans for work for inclusion into the PAME Work Plan for 2011-2013.

Workshop on Ecosystem Approach to Management

The workshop was held in Tromsø 22-23 January 2011 just prior to the Arctic Frontiers Conference. A total of 28 participants took part in the workshop, including experts from Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the USA, as well as experts and representatives from 3 PP organizations (ICC Alaska, ICC Canada, Saami Council), the European Environment Agency, UNEP/GRID-Arendal, and WWF (International and Russia).

A DRAFT Report from the workshop has been prepared. The report is now being circulated for comments from workshop participants and the aim is to have it finalized by end of March.

Revision of the working map of Arctic LMEs

The workshop discussed LME boundaries and their ecological justification. Adjustments of some boundaries were suggested and options for changes were considered in some cases. These options require further consideration and consultations with experts from the geographical areas concerned. A map of the Arctic LMEs with suggested changes and options for changes of boundaries is included in the Draft report from the workshop.

Synthesis of reports on ecosystem status

Information on reports on ecosystem status (including status of ecosystem components, trends and pressures) were presented at the workshop and a compilation of information is included in the draft workshop report. The information will be developed as an inventory with links to the various reports. The aim is to facilitate a process towards regular assessments of status of Arctic LMEs (including trends and pressures), building on and contributing to assessments linked to and used by management systems.

Work Plan 2011-2013

The workshop discussed and agreed that it would be advantageous to broaden the participation by AMAP and CAFF in the expert group. This is because of the extensive work these working groups do with various assessments that are core elements for the further implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to management. It is therefore suggested to make the group a Joint PAME-AMAP-CAFF Expert Group on the Ecosystem Approach.

These are suggested elements and activities on the work plan for the EG for 2011-2013:

1. Complete the revision of the working map of Arctic LMEs for consideration at PAME II-2011.
2. Prepare an inventory of existing or planned reports relevant to ecosystem status reporting based on the information compiled at the workshop and additional information supplied by members of the expert group.

3. Plan the further development of ecosystem status reports for the various LMEs, including temporal trends due to natural variability and climate forcing, and impacts from harvesting, pollution and other anthropogenic stressors. This should:
 - a. Contribute to a regional LME focus and dimension in the planned Arctic Change Assessment.
 - b. Contribute to the UN Regular Process for reporting on the state of the marine environment for the Arctic region.
 - c. Provide clear links to management needs (at national, bi-lateral and international levels) in the various regional LMEs.
4. Arrangements for cost-effective monitoring and assessment that draw upon existing national and international programs (e.g. by AMAP and CAFF) and form an integral component of the ecosystem approach to management of the Arctic LMEs.
5. Review methods and progress in determining ecological objectives for species and habitats that can serve as a part of the management objectives for the ecosystem approach to management of Arctic LMEs.