

Summary Report 2015-2017

PAME Main Achievements

*10th Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting
11th of May 2017, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA*



PAME

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

PAME MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS SUMMARY REPORT 2015-2017

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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 2015-2017

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 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 paragraphs 31-33, 35, 40, 42 and 43 of the Iqaluit Declaration 2015, PAME has, inter alia, undertaken the following work over the course of 2015-2017:

Follow-up to the 2009 AMSA and other Shipping Report Recommendations

PAME has a designated Shipping Expert Group (SEG) comprised of national representatives, including PPs, IMO experts, and others, who regularly convene to discuss and advance various AMSA and other Arctic Council shipping related reports' recommendations. Examples of topics that the SEG has focused on include: Collaboration with international organizations on Arctic related activities of common interest; the establishment of an Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum; the finalization of a paper entitled "Heavy fuel oil & other fuel releases from shipping in the Arctic and Near-Arctic" and the finalization of a report prepared for PAME entitled "Possible hazards for engines and fuel systems using fuel oil in cold climate"; the identification of specific projects on mitigating the risks associated with the use and carriage of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) by vessels in the Arctic; the finalization of a report on regional reception facilities arrangements in the Arctic; the identification of a project for PAME to report on Polar Code implementation; regular updates on the work of the IMO with respect to black carbon; and creation of the Arctic Shipping Traffic Database (ASTD) a proposed system for maritime traffic analysis. The SEG has also participated in a joint CAFF/PAME project in developing the ARIAS Strategy and Action Plan, in which PAME contributed to the development of the policy recommendations pertaining to marine invasive alien species; and produced the 4th and final report on the "Status on Implementation of the AMSA Report Recommendations for 2015-2017". The SEG has identified criteria for prioritizing PAME's future shipping-related work and will be developing an updated framework to guide its shipping related work in the future. The PAME SEG had committed to increased collaboration with EPPR (e.g. cross attendance at WG meetings) on shipping issues of shared interest, including a joint project to develop a compendium of shipping accidents in the Arctic for the period 2005-2017.

Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

PAME has worked jointly with CAFF on finalizing the "Arctic protected areas: Indicator report" and the release of the harmonized dataset based on data received from the Arctic States. PAME has held two workshops¹ with corresponding websites on MPA networks. PAME also produced an "MPA-network Toolbox" report which describes area based conservation measures as tools for designing MPA networks and highlights connectivity, one of the key elements of MPA networks. A 3rd workshop will be hosted by Sweden and Finland in Fall 2017. PAME collaborates on its MPA network activities with CAFF, which is represented as a member of the MPA Expert Group (EG).

¹ Workshop websites: <http://www.pame.is/index.php/projects/marine-protected-areas/mpa-workshop->

Ecosystem Approach to Management (EA)

PAME continues to follow national and international developments regarding EA and to integrate the principles of EA into assessments and management recommendations. Through this, PAME contributes to the follow-ups to the 2013 Kiruna recommendations, building on previous work on Large Marine Ecosystems. Work on EA activities is done by the joint EA EG with participation from other Arctic Council WGs working on marine-related issues (e.g. Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna [CAFF], Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme [AMAP], Sustainable Development Working Group [SDWG]). Implementing the institutional recommendation from the Arctic Council Ecosystem Based Management report (Kiruna 2013) to conduct regular review, PAME convened jointly with AMAP and CAFF an international conference on the “Status of implementation of the ecosystem approach to management in the Arctic” and produced a report on the conference. Building on the outcome of the conference, the EA expert group through PAME produced the report “Status on Implementation of EA in the Arctic”. PAME helped to establish and lead the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)/PAME WG on Integrated Ecosystem Assessment for the Central Arctic Ocean (WGICA). PAME encourages AMAP and CAFF to join the ICES/PAME WG.

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) has developed terms of reference based on an information survey that asked Arctic States and PPs to detail their priorities. The REDEG statement of work includes gathering information from members and outside experts on offshore renewable energy, offshore and coastal mining, marine noise from activities, and offshore oil and gas.

The project on *Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Communities in Marine Activities (MEMA)* has produced a Part I report. The MEMA online database is accessible on the PAME homepage. PAME has approached SDWG to explore further collaboration in finalizing the report and following up on its findings.

Based on the results of a survey of PAME members, the REDEG will hear from outside experts on non-emergency issues of Arctic offshore oil and gas activities for the 2017-2019 work plan.

REDEG reviewed the recommendations from the “Systems Safety Management and Safety Culture Report” (2013), developed an online questionnaire on specific actionable and reportable implementation items, and has approached EPPR representatives, who have agreed to coordinate the reporting of these implementation actions.

The “Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Regulatory Resource (AOOGRR)” website provides links to specific information on national websites related to management, regulation, and enforcement of Arctic offshore oil and gas activities and continues to be updated.

Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) 2015-2025 implementation plan

PAME approved the AMSP communication plan and the AMSP implementation plan, including the AMSP implementation tracking matrix in February 2016. The implementation plan is a living document that permits modifications based on, e.g. Arctic Council Chairmanship priorities, emerging issues and outcomes from ongoing assessments and findings. The tracking matrix was developed with the aim to provide a mechanism to systematically track progress and status on the AMSP’s 40 strategic actions. This was accomplished in close collaboration with other Arctic Council WGs to ensure a transparent and systematic cross-working group progress and provide status reporting mechanism to be reflected in their respective work plans as relevant. The aim is to contribute to collaboration on cross-cutting marine-related issues. The 1st “AMSP implementation report” has been produced and records status on relevant AMSP strategic actions for the period 2015-2017 and identifies follow-up activities, which are reflected in the PAME work plan 2017-2019 and other WGs’ work plan as per their respective mandates.

Coordination and collaboration with other Arctic Council WGs

PAME actively pursues cooperation with the other Arctic Council WGs and Task Forces, in particular the Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation, to contribute to improved efficiency and effectiveness of the Arctic Council. PAME collaborated with all Arctic Council WGs on the development of the AMSP implementation tracking matrix and emphasized the importance of their inputs in this work. AMAP and CAFF continue to be engaged in the joint EA EG and co-convened with PAME the EA “International conference on status of implementation of the ecosystem approach to management in the Arctic”. In October 2015, SAOs decided that EPPR has the lead on oil pollution prevention, in cooperation with PAME. PAME provided inputs 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 is working with CAFF on projects related to MPA and invasive species. SDWG’s Social, Economic and Cultural EG contributed to the MEMA Project.

PAME regularly reaches out to other WGs, industry and organisations 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:

- Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC)
- The International Ice Charting Working Group (IICWG)
- WMO-IOC Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) Expert Team on Sea Ice (ETSI)
- Marine, Trade & Energy Group, DWF LLP
- BarentsWatch
- Danish Shipowners’ Association
- The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)
- International Whaling Commission (IWC)
- The International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)
- Arctic Coast Guard Forum
- Arctic Economic Council, Maritime Transportation Working Group
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
- OSPAR Secretariat
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), global initiative on marine litter

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 organisations 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 hosted by Iceland and located in Akureyri. The secretariat has a staff of three: (1) the executive secretary; (2) executive assistant and (3) project officer. 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 2015–2017 period and will continue during 2017-2019 period. PAME has held four WG meetings, two MPA network expert workshops, one EA Conference and one MEMA workshop, in addition to a number of meetings of the PAME EGs during the U.S. Chairmanship of the Arctic Council. A Ministerial agreement (1998) provides the framework for country contributions to the operation of the PAME Secretariat.

PAME Deliverables for the 2017 Ministerial Meeting

Reports for approval

- ✓ “PAME MPA-network toolbox: Area-based conservation measures and ecological connectivity”.
- ✓ CAFF/PAME Indicator Report on Arctic Protected Areas.
- ✓ CAFF/PAME Arctic Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan (ARIAS).
- ✓ Final report on the Regional Reception Facilities plan and draft submission for IMO.
- ✓ Cooperative Agreement among the Arctic States Regarding Arctic Ship Traffic Data Sharing.
- ✓ Status of Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Management in the Arctic.
- ✓ 2017-2019 PAME Work Plan and PAME 2015-2017 Achievements as part of the Senior Arctic Official Report to Ministers.

Reports for information

- ✓ 4th AMSA Implementation Progress Report for the period 2015-2017.
- ✓ Terms of Reference for the Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum.
- ✓ Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Communities in Marine Activities (MEMA) Part I Report.
- ✓ MEMA Workshop Report.
- ✓ The 2015 – 2017 Progress Report of the Joint Ecosystem Approach Expert Group (EA-EG).
- ✓ The Summary Report of the International Science and Policy Conference on the Status of Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in the Arctic.
- ✓ 1st Report on progress/implementation of the 2015-2025 Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP).

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