The Arctic

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 threats 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

The programme on Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) cooperates with the other working groups and a special initiative of the Arctic Council as followings:

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 Council Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic (ACAP) - Project preparations on pollution prevention and control measures.

For information on Arctic Council programmes:
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