

project Plan for Developing a Revised AMSP

Recognizing the increased emphasis on the ecosystem approach to management (and integrated ocean management) as the foundation of the Arctic Councils' work and the essential need to apply the ecosystem approach to manage Arctic marine-related issues. In this regard PAME has agreed to invite all Arctic Council working groups working on marine-related issues to participate in the PAME led EA Expert Group on the ecosystem approach to management according to its terms of reference.

Background:

The Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) was adopted by the Arctic Council in 2004. It contains objectives for the management of the Arctic marine environment with related strategic actions. The Arctic Marine Strategic Plan was developed in response to the recognition that

“...existing and emerging activities in the Arctic warrant a more coordinated and integrated strategic approach to address the challenges of the Arctic coastal and marine environment...”

Since the AMSP was adopted in 2004, the Arctic marine environment has been subject to increasing pressures from climate change, economic activities and pollution. The Arctic Council is at the forefront of responses to these emerging issues through the development of in-depth reports and assessments, such as the State of the Arctic Environment Report, the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA), the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA), the Arctic Oil and Gas Assessment (AOGA), and ongoing work such as the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA), Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) and the Recommended Practices for Arctic Oil Spill Prevention (RP3).

The working groups of the Arctic Council AMAP, PAME, CAFF, EPPR and SDWG indicate that most strategic actions of the AMSP have been completed or are progressing according to plan, to be concluded within this or the next workplan period.

The Implementation section in the AMSP states that:

“...PAME, in collaboration with all Arctic Council subsidiary bodies, will lead a review of the Strategic Plan by 2010, or another date specified by the Council, to determine its adequacy in light of the results of ongoing assessments and national and regional reporting.”

Therefore, it is timely for the PAME Working Group, in cooperation with the other Arctic Council working groups, to update and revise, as relevant, the AMSP (2004) to secure a healthy and productive and resilient Arctic Ocean and coasts and ensure that the future strategic approach to management of the Arctic marine environment is coordinated between the working groups.

The overall Goals:

The overall goals of AMSP:

- That the Arctic marine environment to be managed using an integrated, ecosystem approach to management.
- That the cumulative environmental effects do not exceed a level at which structure, functioning and productivity of ecosystems and biodiversity are maintained.

Based on this, there is a need to update and expand, as relevant, the AMSP (2004) to secure that the future management of the Arctic marine environment is coordinated between the working groups, based on ecosystem-based approach, and that results are effectively implemented.

This will ensure that marine-related activities in the different working groups collectively work towards integration in assessing impacts on the Arctic marine environment and addressing key pressures. This will facilitate the development of policy recommendations.

Integrated approaches will contribute to better informed decisions on sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic, benefitting Arctic ecosystems and its residents, in particularly indigenous people.

Rationale:

The stewardship of the Arctic marine environment is of particular importance to the Arctic States. Since the AMSP was adopted in 2004, the Arctic marine environment has been, and will continue to be subject to increasing pressures from climate change, economic activities and pollution.

Most of the strategic actions in the AMSP have been accomplished, or are in the process of being finalized. Through the review of the AMSP the Arctic Council will take the leadership in the development of integrated marine management for the Arctic marine environment.

Revisions to the AMSP will provide the building blocks towards more coordinated and integrated approaches and supports policy decisions at the local, national, regional and at the international levels. It also responds to commitments by the global community to sustainable development and protection of marine biodiversity and the marine environment through the application of the ecosystem approach and integrated coastal and ocean management.

Principles to be followed:

- 1. Framework** - The application of an integrated, coordinated ecosystem based management for the Arctic marine environment.
- 2. Relevant and timely** - Topics must meet the needs of users in a timely fashion, in particular those from decision-makers and northern residents, particularly indigenous people. Approach:

At PAME I-2012 it was decided that the main implementation of this project would be postponed until shortly after the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Kiruna, Sweden, in May 2013. The rationale behind this is that revisions to the AMSP will depend on the outcomes and recommendations from several key Arctic Council projects and studies such as the ABA, the AOR and the RP3 as mentioned above.

Prior to the main implementation phase of this project, there will be an outreach and scoping phase. PAME will invite representatives from the other AC Working Groups, the Permanent Participants and other relevant stakeholders to contributing towards revisions of the AMSP. If deemed relevant, PAME will also invite the other AC Working Groups and Permanent Participants to be part of a small scoping and drafting group. Included in the outreach and scoping phase, will be a scoping workshop with broad participation. The scoping workshop will be convened in June 2013.

The co-leads will engage an external expert in preparing for the 1st scoping workshop with the aim to assist in preparing a revised AMSP which sets forth a template to include revising the content, adding new relevant information, restructuring as needed and identifying some new thematic areas of work and a list of possible strategic actions.

Confirmed Co-leads: Canada, Iceland, Norway and USA

Budget: NOK 450.000

Timeline:

- February/March 2013: Selection of external expert to assist the co-leads
- March/April 2013: Outreach to other AC Working Groups, Permanent Participants and relevant stakeholders
- End of May 2013: First draft compilation report on relevant AC and international reports, studies and policies
- Mid-June 2013: Scoping workshop
- June/July 2013: Summary report from the scoping workshop capturing the key points raised
- July/August 2013: Consultations and preparation of the 1st draft structure and core content of a revised AMSP
- September 2013: Presentation by co-leads and discussions/inputs at PAME II-2013
- October 2013: Presentation at the SAO meeting and guidance sought, as appropriate
- October/November 2013: Prepare a 2nd draft and send out for consultations and comments
- January 2014: Co-leads revise/update and send out 3rd draft in advance of the PAME I-2014 meeting
- February/March 2014: Presentation by co-leads and discussions/inputs at PAME I-2014
- March/April 2014: Presentation at the SAO meeting and guidance sought, as appropriate
- Spring/summer 2014: consider convening a 2nd workshop
- September 2014: Presentation by co-leads and discussions/inputs at PAME II-2014
- October/November 2014: Presentation at the SAO meeting and guidance sought, as appropriate
- November/December 2014: Revisions and consultations as appropriate and prepare a final draft of the revised AMSP in advance of the PAME I-2015 meeting
- February/March 2015: Approval of the final draft revised AMSP to be forwarded to the 2015 Ministerial meeting
- May 2015: Final revised AMSP submitted to the Ministerial meeting for approval

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| OVERALL INDICATIVE BUDGET |
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Total budget (at PAME Secretariat/Icelandic account)

| Item | Budget (NOK) |
|---|--------------------------------|
| External expert | 150-200.000 |
| Scoping workshop, June, Iceland? | 150.000 |
| Editing and printing of implementation report | 75.000 |
| Editing and printing of AMSP 2014 | 75.000 |
| Total | 450-500.000¹ |

¹ Any overspending could be covered by reallocation from other PAME projects supported by Norway if money left or application for fresh funds in 2014 (small amount)

