



September 16, 2013

To: The Chairs of ACAP, AMAP, CAFF, EPPR and SDWG Arctic Council working groups
Cc: PAME National Representatives
Subject: Invitation to nominate an expert in a steering group for the revisions of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP)

PAME hereby extends its invitation to the other Arctic Council working groups working on marine-related issues to participate in the work to revise the AMSP during the Canadian Chairmanship and nominate an expert and/or a contact person to participate in a steering group for this project. The AMSP was originally adopted by Arctic Council Ministers in 2004 and based upon reporting from the Arctic Council working groups, most of its strategic actions have been completed.

It is essential that this revision process be done in cooperation with the other Arctic Council working groups in an effort to ensure that their respective marine-related activities and future strategic approach to management of the Arctic marine environment is coordinated between the working groups.

The process to date is that a “zero” draft AMSP was discussed at the 1st Scoping workshop for the revision of the 2004 AMSP which was held from 13-14 June 2013. Based on the outcomes of this workshop a revised draft AMSP (1st draft attached as a separate document) has been prepared and all working groups are encouraged to provide inputs to this draft following their upcoming working group meetings. The co-lead countries (Canada, Iceland, Norway and the United States) aim to have the 2nd draft ready for circulation in Oct/Nov 2013.

The aim of the steering group is to ensure inputs from the Arctic Council working groups and make efforts to overcome the logistical hurdles of the different timings of the working groups meetings which have the potential of causing difficulties in providing relevant inputs. Fully appreciating the heavy workloads of all working groups, the idea is not to plan additional meetings of the AMSP steering group, but rather to interact by conference calls and at other Arctic Council venues as relevant.

The PAME working group meeting will be held from 24-26 September and will discuss the 1st draft of the revised AMSP. Further follow-up will be communicated to the Arctic Council working groups after the PAME meeting.

Kindly send your nomination for your respective expert/contact person to the PAME Secretariat (pame@pame.is), preferably by the 1st of October 2013.

We look forward to a constructive dialogue and collaborative efforts on issues of common relevance and importance to our work.

Sincerely yours,

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