



Annotation to Agenda 6-Concept Paper on Framework for NPA Networks

In 2012 the Swedish delegation at PAME II-2012 presented a draft proposal on Ecologically and Biologically Significant Area (EBSA) and marine protected area (MPA) network processes. The PAME II-2012 meeting decided but this on hold and await the outcome of the AMSA II(C) project on Areas of Heightened Ecological and Cultural Significance and the overall direction from the Arctic Council. The idea of a network of MPAs for the Arctic arose again during planning for the Canadian Arctic Council Chairmanship (2013-2015). Canada tabled a preliminary proposal at PAME I 2013, where it was agreed to: *“Establish an expert group to inter-sessionally work on refining the concept paper for the proposed Framework for an Arctic MPA Network, including the development of a project timeline, milestones, and linkages with relevant Arctic Council, national and international initiatives in advance of June 2013 and for inclusion into the PAME Work Plan 2013-2015”*

Canada, the United States and Norway are leading on this project, which is aimed at developing a pan-Arctic framework document that outlines a common vision, goals (objectives), guiding principles, network design properties, etc., to bring cohesion and synergies to MPA networks in the Arctic. Integration with domestic MPA network planning and management agencies will foster effective implementation of the framework through strengthened international cooperation. An international group of experts was formed to help revise the preliminary project proposal; this group could deliver on the project outcomes and serve as a community of practice for on-going Arctic MPA network collaboration.

Action by PAME II-2013

Reach an agreement/endorsement by PAME on the current project proposal.