

An aerial photograph showing a large colony of walrus resting on a small, irregular ice floe in the middle of a dark blue ocean. The walrus are densely packed on the ice, with some visible in the water nearby. The water around the ice floe is a lighter, turquoise color, likely due to the ice's presence.

Draft project proposal to
PAME MPA-EG for
consideration and
potential inclusion into the
PAME 2015-2017 work
plan

WWF

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Context and rationale

Draft project title

A tool for linking area-based conservation measures to categories of Arctic biodiversity to support development of marine protected area networks

PAME Work plan 2015-2017 theme:

'Enhance PAME's work to develop a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas'

Contributing to the proposed next steps identified in the 'MPA framework':

- *'Develop a consistent approach for achieving MPA network design' (4),*
 - *'Identify types of important marine areas for protection at the pan-Arctic scale based on common criteria, goals, or objectives developed by the MPA-EG, as well as identify areas/species in need of joint conservation measures' (6),*
 - *'Identify practical measures to addressing change in the Arctic through adaptive management of MPA networks, including developing options for management measures designed to address changing conditions' (7).*
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Scope and objective

A pan-Arctic MPA network considers

- *‘ecologically representative and well-connected collection of individual marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures’*,
- *“to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values”*.

Project objective: ‘To develop guidance for the development of MPA networks in the Arctic’

- a catalogue of types of area-based conservation measures that contribute to the long-term conservation of important categories of Arctic biodiversity and associated ecosystem services and cultural values in a pan-Arctic MPA network,
 - a toolbox for consideration by Arctic states in developing MPA networks that demonstrates how different types of MPAs and other area-based conservation measures can be used to conserve categories of Arctic biodiversity.
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Final product

A catalogue of types of area-based conservation measures

- considers available types of area-based measures across all relevant governance scales and sectors,
 - provides an analysis –including the identification of gaps– of existing area-based measures that are effective for achieve long term conservation of Arctic nature,
 - links specific area-based measures to categories of Arctic biodiversity –including key features and habitats vital for life history stages of important species, ecosystem processes and linked ecosystem services – by means of available knowledge of their sensitivity to known pressures and threats,
 - rationalises how these area-based conservation measures are effective for achieving long-term protection of respective biodiversity elements, therefore providing guidance for network design and a toolbox for network development, and
 - informs the development of ecosystem based management practices and schemes in the Arctic.
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Final product

Table A.2. Ecological use of areas by groups and/or species of fish, birds and mammals, and the associated sensitivity to oil spills and disturbance from shipping activities. Sensitivity is given in a relative and qualitative sense: 'Low' indicates possible effects on individuals (but not enough to be significant at the population level), 'High' indicates possible effects at the population level, while 'Moderate' indicates possible but generally limited effects at the population level.

Area type	Group/species	Sensitivity	
		Oil spill	Disturbance
Fish			
Spawning	Small cods spawning in winter under ice (Arctic cod, polar cod, navaga, saffron cod)	High	Low
	Demersal spawners (capelin, Atlantic and Pacific herring, Pacific cod)	Moderate to High	Low
	Pelagic spawners (Atlantic cod, walleye pollock, Greenland halibut)	Moderate to Low	Low
Nursery	Pacific salmon, eulachon, coregonid whitefishes	Moderate	Low
Migration	Arctic char	Low	Low
Wintering	Pacific herring, capelin	Moderate/Low	Low



Thank you

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