**PAME II-2018: Agenda 9(d)**

**Draft Project Plan Outline**

**Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Arctic**

**(draft version 4 Sep, submitted by the ML Phase I co-leads)**

*Note: the content of this draft project proposal is subject to the content of the final agreed version of the ML Desktop Study.*

# Project Title:

Develop a Regional Action Plan on marine litter in the Arctic

# 2019-2021:

* Develop a regional action plan on marine litter in the Arctic
* Develop a monitoring program on marine litter in the Arctic
* Continue the development of outreach and communication material

# Background

This project represents Phase II of PAME’s Desktop Study on Marine Litter including Microplastics in the Arctic (for further information [here](https://pame.is/index.php/projects/arctic-marine-pollution)). Phase I focused on the development of the desktop study with the aim to provide the current status on this topic

* To evaluate the scope of marine litter in the Arctic, and its effects on the Arctic marine environment;
* Increase knowledge and awareness of marine litter in the Arctic;
* Enhance cooperation by the eight Arctic Council member governments to reduce negative impacts of marine litter to the Arctic marine environment; and,
* Contribute to the prevention and/or reduction of marine litter pollution in the Arctic and its impact on marine organisms, habitats, public health and safety, and reduce the socioeconomic costs it causes.

The draft Desktop Study lists a number of recommendations and next steps for PAME’s and other Arctic Council working groups considerations as relevant to their respective mandates. One of the key and overarching recommendation is to:

* Develop a regional action plan on marine litter in the Arctic, taking into account existing regional action plans, and be structured around the following themes:
* Actions to combat sea-based sources of marine litter
* Actions to combat land-based sources of Marine Litter
* Removal Actions
* Monitoring/Science
* Education and Outreach

Most of the recommendations fall within the framework of the development of a regional action plan of which a compatible “fit-for-purpose” monitoring plan is an important component of the plan and cooperation with relevant Arctic Council working groups is imperative for the monitoring plan to be comphrensive. Relevant Arctic Council working groups (AMAP and CAFF) are encouraged to consider this in their work plans to complement the actions within the proposed marine litter action plan.

A workshop was held in Akureyri, Iceland, in June 2018 as a part of the project. Inputs were facilitated to the development of the Desktop Study on Marine Litter, taking into account new developments and information as relevant. It was recommended that in developing the outline of a Regional Action Plan following issues should be taken into account:

* A Regional approach amplifies national actions by coordinating efforts.
* Jointly addressing international commitments (e.g. UN, IMO, EU, OSPAR etc.),
* Establish an advisory group and develp Terms of Reference to develop a monitoring plan in cooperation with the Arctic Council working groups (AMAP, CAFF and ACAP), and seek guidance from Regional Sea Conventions that have existing monitoring programs in place.
* Developing best practices for delivering fishing nets, including evaluation of nets, recycling of nets. (e.g. list of suppliers), the use and disposal of plastics, disposal of fisheries and aquaculture waste, shipping waste and land-based waste, including recommendations from FAO on gear marking to identify lost and abandoned fishing gear.

# Rationale:

Marine litter is one of the most pervasive pollution problems affecting the marine environment globally. UNEP defines it as ‘any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment’. Marine litter consists of items that have been made or used by people and deliberately discarded into the sea or rivers or on beaches; brought indirectly to the sea with rivers, sewage, storm water or winds; or accidentally lost, including material lost at sea in bad weather.

The universal challenge of addressing and managing marine litter is a useful illustration of the global and transboundary nature of many marine environmental problems. Arctic Council Ministers adopted the Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (Arctic RPA) in 1998 and updated it in 2009. The Arctic-RPA is a dynamic programme of action that uses a step-wise approach for its implementation and recognizes the continually evolving situation in the Arctic environment and the need for an integrated approach. It is the regional extension of the GPA, and as such provides a framework for addressing the main pollution source categories and respond to the global concerns. Marine Litter is one of eight contaminant categories of the GPA and the Arctic RPA. International organisations as United Nations Environmental Programme and International Maritime Organisations have instigated processes to combat marine litter.

# Project aims:

* To develop a joint policy context of the Arctic Council member governments on various types of action to reduce negative impacts of marine litter, including micorpastics, to the Arctic marine environment;
* Enhance knowledge and awareness of marine litter in the Arctic;
* Enhance cooperation by the eight Arctic Council member governments to reduce negative impacts of marine litter to the Arctic marine environment; and
* Contribute to the prevention and/or reduction of marine litter pollution in the Arctic and its impact on marine organisms, habitats, public health and safety, and reduce negative socioeconomic effects.

# Main activities Phase II (2019-2021): Implementation phase:

Based on recommendations from the Arctic marine litter workshop, the main activities of phase II are to:

* Develop a regional action plan on marine litter in the Arctic *(main responsibility: PAME)*
* Develop a monitoring program on marine litter in the Arctic, supporting the Regional Action Plan *(main responsibility: AMAP and CAFF)*
* Outreach and communication; develop an Arctic marine litter competition *(main responsibility: PAME, in close coordination with other AC working groups)*
* Coordination and collaboration with working groups of the Arctic Council *(main responsibility: PAME and other AC working groups)*

# Timeline and Major Milestones (Phase II):

In addition to the main activities, this phase will follow-up with activities from phase I, including outreach and communication. It is envisioned that the project will commence an expert group workshop to advance this work, in addition to meetings and teleconferences as needed.

**Main tasks:**

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| April 2019 | Arctic Council Ministerial – approval of PAME Work Plan |
| May 2019 | First teleconference to develop ToR for the advisory group |
| May 2019 | Establish an advisory group on monitoring with the Arctic Council working groups working (AMAP, CAFF) and observers with monitoring programmes |
| June 2019 | Follow-up expert group teleconference |
| September 2019 | Presentation by project co-leads and discussions/inputs at PAME II-2019 |
| 2019 | Potential workshop/conference to advance the Regional Action Plan and monitoring programme |
| October 2019 | Presentation at the SAO meeting and guidance sought, as appropriate |
| February 2020 | Presentation by project co-leads and discussions/inputs at PAME II-2020 |
| March 2020 | Presentation at the SAO meeting and guidance sought, as appropriate |
| September 2020 | Presentation by project co-leads and discussions/inputs at PAME II-2020 |
| October 2020 | Presentation at the SAO meeting and guidance sought, as appropriate |
| February 2021 | Presentation by project co-leads and discussions/inputs at PAME II-2019 |
| September 2021 | Presentation by project co-leads and discussions/inputs at PAME II-2019 |
| March 2021 | Approval of Regional action plan by Senior Arctic Officials |
| Mars/Apr 2021 | Final layout and preparation for Ministerial |
| April 2021 | Arctic Council Ministerial |

# Overall estimated budget: Phase-II (2019-2021)

Consistent with the overall Arctic Council approach, the development of this project will be financed through voluntary contributions and in-kind support from member governments. The proposed stepwise approach, with PAME approval required for each phase, will facilitate financial planning and budgets. Financial contributions will be sought from other sources as well, such as the Nordic Council of Ministers.

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| **Item** | **Budget (USD/in-kind)** |
| Project management, coordination, consultation and outreach | 100.000 |
| External expert(s) | 20.000 |
| Workshop | 40.000 |
| Editing, final layout and printing | 10.000 |
| Estimated total | 170.000 |

# Project team Structure/Lead Countries

* Leads: Iceland?, Norway?, Sweden, AIA?, OSPAR, others?
* Each Arctic Council member government and Permanent Participants’ organization to appoint a project team member.
* Collaboration and assistance will be sought with AMAP and other organizations e.g. OSPAR and ICES on the monitoring programme, and as relevant, from e.g. UNEP/GPA(GPML), as appropriate.
* The PAME Secretariat will provide administrative and project assistance.
* Other Arctic Council working groups will be consulted accordingly.

# Action Requested by PAME II-2018:

* All comments and any other input into this draft project proposal are welcomed prior to, or at, the PAME meeting Oct 1-4 in Vladivostok.
* Indications and/or confirmation of co-leads for this project.
* Agree to a revised draft project proposal and/or a timeline to finalize for inclusion into the PAME 2019-2021 Work Plan, subject to the final agreed version of the ML Desktop Study.