

PAME I-2019: Annotation to AGENDA 8.4

ICES/PICES/PAME Working Group on Integrated Ecosystem Assessment of the Central Arctic Ocean (WGICA)

Summary of status and next steps

PAME II-2018 RoDs:

PAME welcomes the interim report from the joint ICES/PICES/PAME Working Group on Integrated Ecosystem Assessment of the Central Arctic Ocean (WGICA) and notes the on-going work to produce the report “Integrated Ecosystem Assessment of the Central Arctic Ocean: Ecosystem Description and Vulnerability Characterization”, to be completed by the end of 2018. This report will be made available to HoDs for informational purposes. A peer-review process will be decided within the WGICA in consultation with ICES, PICES and PAME.

PAME welcomes the continued work of the WGICA promoting the work on IEA and implementation of EA for the CAO. PAME notes that the draft ToR for continued WGICA work will be considered by ICES and PICES during the next month. These revised ToRs will be circulated to PAME HoDs for review before they are finalized in consultation with ICES and PICES.

Status of the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment report for the central Arctic Ocean

The *Integrated Ecosystem Assessment of the Central Arctic Ocean: ecosystem description and vulnerability characterization report* has been delayed by few months. Draft sections of the report have been prepared and are now being further elaborated by sub-groups of experts within WGICA (physics, lower trophic levels, fish, birds, mammals, vulnerability).

Terms of Reference for continuation of WGICA

The working group (WGICA) discussed and recommended a continuation of the work on IEA of the CAO at its last meeting in St. John’s, Canada, in April last year. A draft set of Terms of Reference (ToR) for the next 3 years of work by the joint WGICA was included in the 2018 WGICA report and reported to PAME II-2018.

Action by PAME I-2019:

- ✓ Recognizing that the *Integrated Ecosystem Assessment of the Central Arctic Ocean: ecosystem description and vulnerability characterization report* is a scientific report prepared by the WGICA and submitted to the three participating organizations (ICES, PICES and PAME) for their information and as a contribution to their work, as relevant.

Based on this, PAME to explore the possibility to submit this report to the 2019 Ministerial meet for information (as per PAME II-2018, Annex 2) based delays in finalizing it.

- ✓ Review the ToR for the joint WGICA 2019-2021 for inclusion into PAMEs Work Plan 2019-2021, and to provide any comments and guidance on the ToR and the work of WGICA.