

## **PAME II-2019: Agenda item 8: Ecosystem Approach to management Annotations to agenda items 8.1 and 8.2**

There are four items on the 2019-2021 work plan for the EA topic. In short, they are:

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> International EA Conference, Bergen, June 2019
2. 7<sup>th</sup> EA workshop in 2020
3. Report on Ecological Objectives
4. Integrated Ecosystem Assessment of the Central Arctic Ocean (Joint WGICA)

These four items are dealt with under agenda items 8.1 a, b and c, and 8.2, respectively. In addition, there is agenda item 8.1 d on other EA relevant activities.

The four items will also form the main part of the agenda for the **EA pre-meeting** on Monday 9 September.

We have not prepared a written progress report for the EA work for PAME II-2019. We plan to make a progress report for PAME I-2020 summarizing the work during the first year of the current work plan.

### **Agenda item 8.1 a** - *Summary from the 2nd EA Conference convened 25-27 June 2019 and next steps*

The conference was organized by the EA-EG with support from a planning group with members also from Arctic Council working groups (AMAP, CAFF, PAME, SDWG) and international organizations (ICES, PICES, WWF). The conference was attended by 57 participants from 9 countries and several organizations including ICES, which was an official co-sponsor of the conference, NAMMCO, and WWF.

We were especially pleased with strong participation from indigenous communities and organizations in Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Norway; 14 persons in total including Harry Brower, mayor of Utqiagvik and the North Slope Borough, and Fred Phillip, chairman of the Bering Sea Elders Group in Alaska. Session 3 was called '*Voices from the North – a conversation about people, nature, and sustainability*'.

We have prepared a draft report from the conference where the outcomes of session 3 as well as the other sessions are reflected. The draft report is a separate document to PAME II-2019 and will be presented briefly to the EA pre-meeting and the PAME plenary under this agenda item.

### **Agenda item 8.1 b** - *Planning of the 7th EA Workshop.*

The work plan item is 'Convening of the 7th EA Workshop in 2020 with a focus on element No. 5 of the EA framework: Value the cultural, social, and economic goods and services produced by the ecosystems (*Leads: Norway/USA in close collaboration with the EA expert group*).

We have started the planning of the 7<sup>th</sup> workshop which we aim to hold it in early summer next year (2020). We are preparing a first draft prospectus which we will use as a basis for consultations, input, and improvement by members of the EA-EG and PAME. We will present the first draft at the EA pre-meeting on 9 September and, following revisions, to PAME under this agenda item.

**Agenda item 8.1 c - Report on development in defining or setting Ecological objectives**

Setting ecological objectives is an element of the EA framework and has been on the EA work plan for some time. The 5<sup>th</sup> EA workshop in Bergen in 2015 was on this topic. The plan was to use the outcome of this workshop (and a background document prepared for it) as a basis for a status report on setting ecological objectives in the Arctic as part of the 2015-2017 work plan. In the end, the EA co-leads decided not to finalize this report since we realized that conceptual clarification of ecological objectives versus other types of political and management objectives was needed.

The element of ecological objectives was brought back as an item on the 2019-2021 work plan. The product of the work is to be a report on the issue of setting ecological objectives with more thoughts and emphasis on the concept of ecological objectives (or ecological quality objectives) in relation to other types of objectives. The report will also include a summary of experiences with setting ecological objectives in national and international contexts (e.g. the Marine Strategy Framework Directive of the European Union).

The work on this item is now starting with a planning phase that we will discuss at the EA pre-meeting in Reykjavik. A starting point is the report from the 5<sup>th</sup> EA workshop in Bergen and the background document prepared for the workshop. We are seeking participation and contributions by members of the EA-EG, and others, in the preparation of the report. The aim is to have the report ready for final review by PAME I-2021 as a possible deliverable to the ministerial meeting at the end of the Icelandic chairmanship.

**Agenda item 8.2 - Update on PAME/ICES Working Group on Integrated Ecosystem Assessment in the Central Arctic Ocean (WGICA)**

WGICA is a joint working group of ICES (International Council for Exploration of the Sea), PICES (North Pacific Science Organization), and PAME. The group was established in autumn 2015 and has worked for three years (2016-2018) to prepare a first version Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) report for the Central Arctic Ocean (CAO). The report has the subtitle 'Ecosystem description and vulnerability characterization' and is now in the final stages of preparation and editing. It will be published as a Cooperative Research Report by ICES following peer review and technical editing.

WGICA has renewed Terms of Reference for a new 3-year period (2019-2021). The group had its fourth meeting in Sapporo, Japan, in May this year, where plans for a second version IEA for the CAO was made. This report will contain a more detailed assessment of the impacts of climate change on species and habitats in the CAO, and will also include assessment of pollution, dependent on expertise available.

Further information on the first IEA report and the 2019 Sapporo meeting will be given at the EA pre-meeting on Monday and at PAME on Wednesday.