

11 September 2019

Marine Litter and Plastics



Meeting of PAME in Reykjavík

**TOGETHER
TOWARDS A
SUSTAINABLE
ARCTIC**
ICELAND'S CHAIRMANSHIP
ARCTIC COUNCIL 2019-2021

Magnús Jóhannesson
Special Adviser on Arctic Affairs

Government of Iceland
Ministry for Foreign Affairs



Coordination on marine litter and plastics

1. Efforts to reduce plastics in the Arctic Marine Environment one of Iceland's priorities.

3. Plastics are an issue in 6 different projects in 5 AC working groups.

2. To follow-up SAO decided to appoint a special coordinator on marine litter and plastics.

Role of Coordinator

“Ensure that the work undertaken under the auspices of the Arctic Council and the political interest coincide”

“Engage directly with working group Chairs and Executive Secretaries on possible overlaps and gaps; engage in dialogue with observers and relevant private sector representatives regarding best practices for reducing plastic in the Arctic Marine Environment; ensure transparency of the Arctic Council’s work on plastics (and marine litter), and report back to the SAO’s as necessary”





Implementation

1. Coordination and facilitation.
2. Dialogue with leads of the relevant projects of the AC working groups.
3. Update on status and information sharing as we progress.

Government of Iceland
Ministry for Foreign Affairs



Organized events on plastics

1. International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic and Sub -Arctic Region, Reykjavik 21-23 April 2020. See

www.arcticplastics2020.is

2. Workshop in Harvard Kennedy School 30-31 October 2019

“Policy and Action on Plastics in the Arctic Ocean”

Government of Iceland
Ministry for Foreign Affairs



**TOGETHER
TOWARDS A
SUSTAINABLE
ARCTIC** ICELAND'S CHAIRMANSHIP
ARCTIC COUNCIL 2019-2021

Government of Iceland
Ministry for Foreign Affairs



Outreach events

1. Side event at Our Oceans Conference in Oslo 23 October 2019
2. Cleanup on Arctic Coastlines organized in cooperation with Ocean Conservancy in Summer 2020.