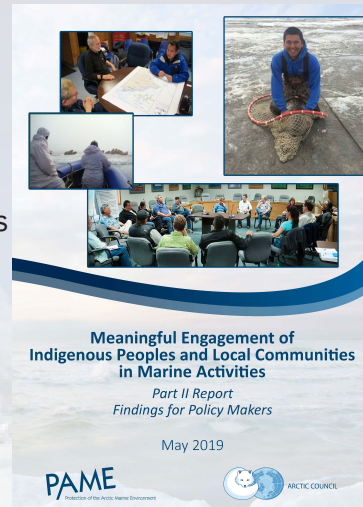


THE MEMA REPORT

Available on PAME.is

PAME is developing a "Reference Guide for Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous peoples and local communities in Marine Activities."



MEMA

Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities Project

Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in marine activities that may affect them is critical to protecting their way of life, their well-being, and their culture. It is also critical for the success of any such activities.

The purpose of the MEMA project was to:

- take stock of existing guidance, recommendations, protocols and requirements on engagement with Indigenous peoples and local communities;
- analyze these data; and
- identify good practices and lessons learned.



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THE MEMA DATABASE

The MEMA project developed an informational database with over 750 documents that contain legislation, regulations, policies, requirements, recommendations, and guidance, from governments, Indigenous Peoples, the Arctic Council, industry, scientists/academics, and NGOs, on how engagement can be achieved.

www.memadatabase.is

These data were analyzed and good practices for meaningful engagement were identified.



GOOD PRACTICES

1. Identify issues and factors where engagement is needed and engagement strategies could help.
2. Identify potentially affected people and organizations.
3. Consider any existing and potential legal obligations relevant to engagement.
4. Consider cultural differences, community locations and resources available.
5. Build relationships based on trust and respect between project proponents and Indigenous peoples and local communities; conduct interactions in a transparent and culturally appropriate manner.
6. Pinpoint the best times to begin engagement processes throughout an activity's lifetime.
7. Determine how best to communicate with Indigenous peoples and local communities.
8. Use multiple approaches and tools to engage, and practice early and proactive engagement at all levels.
9. Develop an engagement plan or agreement with the community, and report back on progress.
10. Set up supportive measures like recordkeeping, process reviews, conflict resolution mechanisms, as appropriate.

KEY LESSONS

General

1. There is no single approach to meaningful engagement; it depends on the context.
2. Consider outlining what all parties consider to be a meaningful role.
3. Make Indigenous peoples and local communities aware of any rights or opportunities to be meaningfully engaged.

Relationship development

4. Understand communities and the culture, heritage and traditions of the people.
5. Keep relationship building and engagement ongoing to make the relationship meaningful.
6. Collaborate and coordinate among partners, including those who do not normally communicate directly with one another.
7. Develop capacity in communities by providing education, training, infrastructure and funding, when available.
8. Make an effort to incorporate and apply Indigenous knowledge and local knowledge through engagement approaches.
9. Develop a foundation of trust and provide clarity, certainty and reliability through constructive dialogue; also include time for events and activities not directly related to issues being considered.

Process

10. Plan for engagement while being flexible with the process, since this can lead to more fruitful outcomes.
11. Aim for an engagement process that balances interests and provides for positive outcomes for all partners.
12. Aim for representation on advisory councils and decision-making boards.

