

PAME I-2020: Agenda item 8.2

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

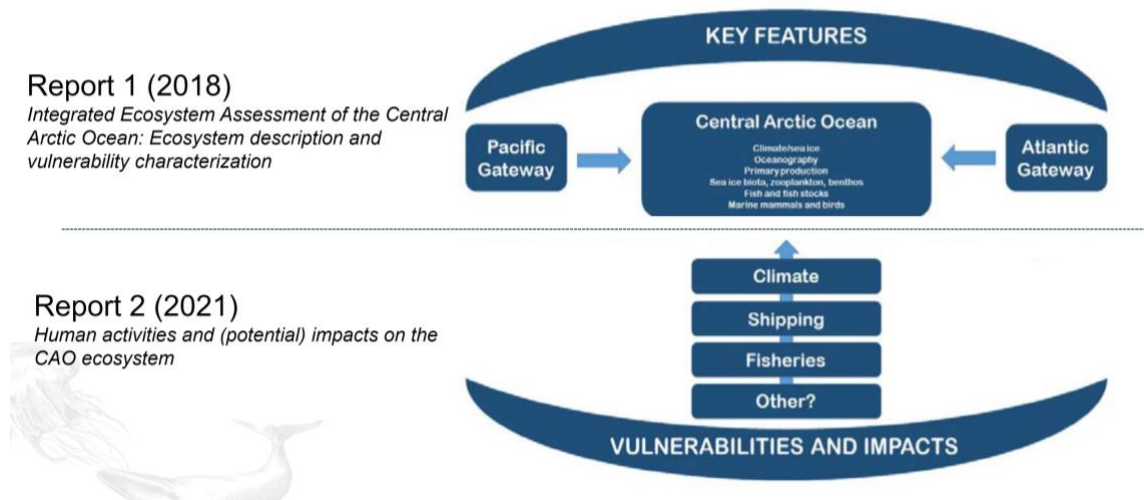
The Working Group for Integrated Ecosystem Assessment of the Central Arctic Ocean – WGICA – was established jointly by ICES and PAME in 2016. PICES joined as a co-sponsor of the group in 2017.

WGICA met the first time at ICES headquarters in Copenhagen in June 2016 and for its second meeting in Seattle in April 2017 and third meeting in St. John’s, Canada in April 2018. The fourth meeting was held in Sapporo on May 8-10, 2019. The three WGICA Co-chairs are John Bengtson, Sei-ichi Saitoh, and Hein Rune Skjoldal.

The main product from the first three years of work (2016-2018) of WGICA is an IEA report for the CAO:

Integrated Ecosystem Assessment of the Central Arctic Ocean: Ecosystem description and vulnerability characterization (Report 1, about 200 pages).

In the Sapporo meeting 2019, chapter levels and a time schedule was agreed upon. According to this schedule, the CAO IEA Part 1 Report will be delivered in November 2019. The report will be published in the series of ICES Cooperative Research Reports, after a technical editing including peer review as part of the editorial process.



A second IEA report for the CAO ecosystem in 2021 (Report 2)

The next IEA report for the CAO ecosystem will build on the first report and be more detail into an assessment of human activities and their pressures and impacts on the ecosystem. This will include climate and climate change (ToR c), contaminants and pollution (ToR d), shipping (including tourism), and potential future fisheries.

WGICA was given a new set of Terms of References (ToRs) for continued work in the next 3-years period (2019-2021). Next meeting will be in Copenhagen, Denmark, 27-29 April 2020.