PAME
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

14 January 2020

To: PAME Members, Marine Litter Expert Group, Arctic Council Working groups

From: Leads of Co-Leads for the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter

Subject: **Request for Review and Comment by 24 January 2020 on 1st Draft of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Arctic**

Action Requested:

Attached for review and comment **by 24 January 2020** is the 1st draft of PAME's Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Arctic (ML-RAP). This draft version will form the basis for the discussions at the one-day workshop on Monday 3 Feb. 2020 at the conference center of the office of the Norwegian Environment Agency in Oslo (here). The workshop is held back-to-back with the PAME Working Group Meeting (PAME I-2020).

Please note that this draft represents only the work by the consultant and has not gone through an intergovernmental review process by the Arctic Council member states. The co-leads (*Canada, Finland, Kingdom of Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Sweden, USA, AIA and OSPAR*) have provided a technical review for structure and accuracy only.

Please direct comments and any questions you may have to the PAME Executive Secretariat (pame@pame.is).

Background

The development of the ML-RAP in the Arctic builds upon the Phase I Project "Desktop Study on Marine Litter including Micro-plastics in the Arctic (2019)", which was based on best available science , indigenous knowledge, and other information at the time of completion. The ML-RAP may be updated in subsequent bienniums to address new and emerging information and priorities; therefore, the structure needs to be realistic and adaptable. This project addresses both sea and land-based activities, focusing on e.g., Arctic-specific marine litter sources and pathways, which will play an important role in demonstrating Arctic States' stewardship efforts towards reducing the negative impacts of marine litter, including microplastics, to the Arctic marine environment.[1]

Under contract with PAME, GRID-Arendal has prepared a first draft the ML-RAP with input from project co-leads. At this stage, project co-leads request review and comment in preparations for the ML-RAP expert workshop on 3 February 2020 which will focus on the ML-RAP Strategic Actions, while discussions during PAME I (4-6 February 2020) will focus on larger policy issues. For this stage of expert review, you are asked

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[1] PAME Work Plan 2019-2021 at < https://www.pame.is/index.php/shortcode/pame-work-plan/445-pame-work-plan-2019-2021/file>

to review the ML-RAP for technical-level questions, including the following:

- Robustness of outlined actions;
- Additional actions/frameworks not included thus far;
- Efficacy of proposed actions;
- Feasibility of outlined actions;
- Any additional, technical-level commentary.

Next steps:

Co-leads will try to consolidate comments into one document and submit an updated version prior to the ML-RAP expert workshop. Comments will inform discussions at the expert workshop and the PAME I-2020 Meeting.

Co-leads will revise the ML-RAP after the PAME I-2020 Meeting for intersessional review, based on a timeline to be developed at PAME I-2020.