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2020

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**Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Arctic**

**PROTECTION OF THE aRCTIC mARINE eNVIRONMENT**

***outline prepared by consultant***

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# Table of Content

[Executive Summary 2](#_Toc29891509)

[Introduction 2](#_Toc29891510)

[Purpose and Objectives 3](#_Toc29891511)

[Actions for the prevention and reduction of Arctic marine litter (sea-based and land-based sources) 5](#_Toc29891513)

[1. Prevention and reduction of sea-based sources 6](#_Toc29891514)

[1.1 General (all offshore operations) 6](#_Toc29891515)

[1.2 Fishing and aquaculture industry 7](#_Toc29891516)

[1.3 Port reception facilities 8](#_Toc29891517)

[2. Prevention and reduction from land-based sources 9](#_Toc29891518)

[2.1 Improved solid waste management 9](#_Toc29891519)

[2.2 Sewage and wastewater management 10](#_Toc29891520)

[2.3 Microplastics 10](#_Toc29891521)

[2.4 Changing products / changing behaviours 10](#_Toc29891522)

[3. Removal 11](#_Toc29891523)

[3.1 Fishing industry driven removal 11](#_Toc29891524)

[3.2 Coastal clean-ups 13](#_Toc29891525)

[4. Addressing research needs 13](#_Toc29891526)

[General 14](#_Toc29891527)

[5. Outreach and Education, including Communication 16](#_Toc29891528)

[6. Strengthening international and cross-institutional cooperation 18](#_Toc29891529)

[Monitoring 19](#_Toc29891530)

[Reporting and review 19](#_Toc29891531)

[Implementation 19](#_Toc29891534)

[Annex 1: Selected Research Needs based on the Desktop Study on Marine Litter. 21](#_Toc29891535)

[References 23](#_Toc29891536)

[Acronyms 23](#_Toc29891537)

# Executive Summary

***Note: To be provided***

# Introduction

Like other regions in the world, marine litter exists in the Arctic Ocean despite the remote nature of the Arctic marine environment. PAME has a long history of addressing marine litter, dating back to 1998 and the adoption of the Regional Programme of Action on Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. This Programme (and its 2004 and 2009 updates) outlined a step-wise approach for tackling land-based pollution. At the 2017 Fairbanks Ministerial, Arctic Council Ministers noted the, “increasing accumulation of marine debris in the Arctic, its effects on the environment and its impacts on Arctic communities…”[[1]](#footnote-2) and approved PAME’s project plan to conduct a ‘Desktop Study On Marine Litter, including Microplastics, in the Arctic.’[[2]](#footnote-3) Arctic Council Ministers welcomed the final Desktop Study in 2019. The results of the Desktop Study, including the identification of knowledge gaps, has prompted the Arctic Council and its working groups to address the growing issue of marine litter and led to the ultimate decision to develop a Regional Action Plan (RAP) on Marine Litter in the Arctic as part of PAME’s 2019-2021 Work Plan.[[3]](#footnote-4)

The Desktop Study highlights potential land-based and sea-based sources and pathways of marine litter, including microplastics, in the Arctic marine environment. It defines land-based sources as, “sources of pollution that originate from activities on land” and sea-based sources as “sources of pollution that originate from activities at sea.”[[4]](#footnote-5) The Desktop Study identifies fisheries-related activities as a major local source in the Arctic, with other sea-based activities like aquaculture, passenger and goods shipping, and oil and gas exploration activities providing additional sea-based sources. As for land-based sources, solid waste and wastewater management deficiencies are important localized sources of marine litter.

Finally, the Desktop Study describes the current state of knowledge of the transport of marine litter into and within the Arctic Ocean and identifies some of the pathways of distribution of marine litter from both within and outside of the Arctic marine environment. Specifically, some research has shown that marine litter, including microplastics, is transported via river systems, the atmosphere, and/or oceanic currents, and other mechanisms such as wildlife and icemelt. Some evidence suggests that marine litter, including microplastics, is increasingly pervasive throughout the Arctic marine environment, including sea ice, sea floor sediments, and throughout the water column, as well as on land, although additional research is needed to further evaluate the extent and fate of marine litter in the Arctic environment.

The Desktop Study identifies a number of knowledge gaps which may help identify future research needs related to marine litter in the Arctic. Generally speaking, the research needs highlighted in the Desktop Study fell into broad categories including:

* information on the distribution of marine litter geographically and physically (e.g. in the water column, sea floor, sea ice),
* information on the sources and pathways of marine litter, and
* information on the impacts of marine litter to Arctic wildlife and human populations.

Annex 1 further specifies some of the research needs highlighted in the study.

# Purpose and Objectives

***Note: Consider adding text describing the purpose of the action plan. The purpose and objectives of the action plan (to reduce marine litter) should be clearer.***

Arctic Council Ministers representing the eight Arctic States and representatives from the six Permanent Participant organizations met in Rovaniemi, Finland on May 2019. The Statement by the Chair “*… noted with concern that marine litter, including plastics and microplastics, represents a serious environmental problem on a global scale, including in the Arctic, welcomed the Desktop Study on Marine Litter, and supported the development of an Arctic regional action plan for reducing marine litter*.”[[5]](#footnote-6)

The RAP outlines a suite of actions for Arctic States to consider taking to address Arctic marine litter, individually or collectively through the Working Groups. It encompasses all types of marine litter except nanoplastics [and microfibres][[6]](#footnote-7), including but not limited to, plastics, microplastics, wood, textiles, metal, glass, and rubber and other persistent and durable materials.[[7]](#footnote-8) Implementation will play an important role in demonstrating Arctic States’ stewardship efforts to reduce negative impacts of marine litter on Arctic marine species and ecosystems as well as the human communities that depend on these species.

This RAP covers the following types of actions to address marine litter, noting there is not a prescribed priority order to these themes and that not all strategic actions are expected to take place concurrently:

1. Prevention, reduction and removal of marine litter from sea-based sources
2. Prevention, reduction and removal of marine litter from land-based sources
3. Outreach and education , including communication
4. Addressing research needs
5. Monitoring

The RAP can be modified over time to address new and emerging information and priorities. The structure and scope of the RAP, therefore, is realistic and intended to be practical and adaptable.[[8]](#footnote-9)

## Geographical scope

The geographic scope of the RAP mirrors that of the Desktop Study, encompassing the waters and surrounding seas of the Arctic Ocean. (The exact boundaries include the Central Arctic Ocean, Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea, Beaufort Sea, Northwestern Passages, Hudson Bay, the Hudson Straight, Baffin Bay, Davis Strait, Labrador Sea, Greenland Sea, the waters around Iceland and the Faroe Islands, northern parts of the Norwegian Sea, Barents Sea, Kara Sea, Laptev Sea and East Siberian Sea.)[[9]](#footnote-10)

# Actions for the prevention and reduction of Arctic marine litter (sea-based and land-based sources)

The actions identified in this RAP aim to address the largest regional sources of marine litter, the marine litter posing highest risk, the areas of highest accumulation due to Arctic-specific pathways, and the most sensitive ecosystems being impacted, as based on the latest science. The desktop study provides the science-based background for the actions in this RAP which – in accordance with the objectives of the RAP – are divided into actions to prevent,reduce, and remove sources of marine litter from both sea-based and land-based sources, actions for education and outreach on the subject of marine litter and actions to address research needs on this topic in the Arctic region.

Where applicable, when suggested actions are covered in or connected to instruments developed by other regional and international organisations, these will be specifically mentioned (e.g. FAO, IMO) and cooperation with these organisations or coordination with the work done under these organisations will be necessary to address the specific issue and avoid unnecessary duplication of instruments or actions.

This is not an exhaustive list of actions. It is anticipated that additional actions may be required as new priorities emerge or new information becomes available through, for example, ongoing or new studies by the Arctic Council working groups and others.

***Notes:***

* ***The actions proposed below are based on an evaluation of other action plans and a selection was made based on the priorities described above to ensure that only those actions most relevant to the Arctic were selected. All provided documents by the leads were evaluated, but the HELCOM and OSPAR RAPs were utilized most.***
* ***So far, no effort was put into prioritizing within these suggested actions***

***Some comments from co-leads:***

* ***Whether or how best to include strategic actions from other fora (e.g. IMO, FAO, etc.) without causing redundancy (and while tailoring to the Arctic);***
* ***Some Strategic Actions are overly prescriptive and/or outside the remit of PAME/the AC.***
* ***Whether to develop an implementation plan;***
* ***The form and function of monitoring;***
* ***Whether or how to include reporting and review;***
* ***The periodicity of revision of the RAP;***
* ***Whether and how to apply the SMART goals (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely) when developing Strategic Actions.***

### 1. Prevention and reduction of sea-based sources

Sea-based origin relates to marine litter that is directly (accidently or purposely) released into the sea by maritime activities such as from shipping, fishing, offshore installations or dumping of refuse at sea.

#### 1.1 General (all offshore operations)

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 1

Develop guidelines for best practices in vessel inspections with regard waste management and disposal in support of MARPOL Annex V regulations, considering relevant guidance developed by the IMO,[[10]](#footnote-11) and investigate options for regional coordination and information sharing to strengthen implementation of best practices.

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 2

Review and promote best practices for waste management and disposal procedures for vessels and other offshore operations in the Arctic, including source reduction and alternative materials, to identify their role in preventing marine litter, including through effective delivery of waste to port reception facilities.

***Note: possibility of dividing into two separate actions***

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 3

Explore options for establishing and, where they exist, strengthening end-markets for plastic waste from fishing, aquaculture, shipping and off-shore activities, including recovered marine litter (e.g. by facilitating networking of waste producers, collectors and recycling companies).

***Note:***

* ***promote implementation of MARPOL Annex V on fishing and shippiong waste and on discharge to port reception facilities. Ot too technical and delete?***
* ***Divide into two separate actions?***

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 4

Increase awareness by vessel operators using the Arctic Council member states´ ports of updated information and best practices relevant to MARPOL Annex V measures.

#### 1.2 Fishing and aquaculture industry

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 5

Support ongoing efforts by the IMO, including to review **best practices within Arctic fishing and aquaculture industries in relation to** **all relevant aspects of waste management** (e.g. waste management on board, waste management at harbours, and operational losses/net cuttings).

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 6

Promote best practices for the **prevention of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG)** as developed under multinational projects on sustainable fisheries and as appropriate to the Arctic, such as the FAO and other international efforts, including but not limited to the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear.[[11]](#footnote-12)

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 7

Where relevant, strengthen **reporting requirements for ALDFG in** line with IMO recommendations as outlined in paragraphs 34-38 on Reporting of ALDFG within the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear.

[Consider including within vessel reporting requirements the **reporting by the flag State of discharge or accidental loss of fishing gear to IMO** via the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS).]

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 8

Assess feasibility of fishing fleets to **report** to fisheries authorities **purchases of fishing gear as well as disposals and losses** to assist in understanding regional waste management needs specific to fishing gear.

***Note. Maybe better suited under research needs?***

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 9

**Indetify options to reduce the operation release** of **dolly ropes** (bunches of polyethylene threads used to protect the cod end of demersal trawl nets from abrasions) in the Arctic Ocean in collaboration eith relevant authorities (such as National Authorities, EU, North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, etc.) and the ﬁshing industry.

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 10

Promote environmentally friendly design and choice of products used in fisheries and aquaculture such as lifecycle assessments, CO2 accounting from ‘cradle to grave’, reduction of packaging, recoverability and use of recycled content, labelling of material composition, best disposal practices and prevention of leakage to the marine environment.

***Note: Divide into separate actions e.g. action on ecological footprint of fishing gears? Or too Technical? Delete?***

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 11

Investigate and share information on the use of economic incentives, including return schemes and requirements to report on gears collected and dispatched for recycling, to address key waste items from the fishing and aquaculture industries, which could contribute to marine litter in the Arctic.

#### 1.3 Port reception facilities

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 12

Implement the ISO standard (ISO 201070:2013) in relation to port reception facilities. Promote the development of regional statistics on waste collected in ports based on existing information as far as possible

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 13

Support ongoing work by PAME to develop a Regional Reception Facilities Plan for the Arctic in accordance with IMO guidance.

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 14

Review various pricing frameworks, cost recovery and other relevant incentive schemes in use (regional, national, port-specific) to encourage the use of reception facilities by ships, including fishing vessels, in order to assess and compare the efficacy of incentives in reducing marine litter.

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 15

Explore options for regional arrangements, including a no-special-fee system for the discharge of wastes at Arctic ports, sharing experiences from implementation in the OSPAR and HELCOM regions and in collaboration with the IMO in delivering on Action 16 of the IMO Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships.

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 16

Assess available port reception facilities to determine their ability to receive plastics (including recycling).

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 17

Consider options for separation at source and promote the provisioning at port reception facilities of separate collection facilities for plastic waste from ships, including fishing gear, to facilitate reuse and recycling.

### 2. Prevention and reduction from land-based sources

Improved waste management, including wastewater treatment, is key to prevent litter from entering the marine environment, and marine litter needs to be integrated into national waste management plans and strategies to reduce the generation of waste. In parts of the Arctic, population density is very low, and communities are not connected by road. Arctic weather and climate circumstances make proper solid waste management processes challenging. In addition, natural disasters and extreme weather events can increase the amount of waste entering the marine environment from land.

More distant sources of marine litter come from surrounding marine areas and possibly the large Arctic watersheds with several large rivers that deliver substantial amounts of freshwater to the Arctic Ocean. Arctic watersheds are under the jurisdiction of the eight Arctic Council member states with only some headwaters of large rivers extending beyond them.

#### 2.1 Improved solid waste management

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 17

Develop best practices guidelines and share best practices to improve national solid waste management strategies in the region, based on the waste hierarchy and taking into consideration the unique characteristics of the Arctic, including remote communities and seasonal weather patterns.

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 18

Establish a dialogue with the private sector and relevant government authorities to (i) actively promote design of products that take into account the waste hierarchy, (ii) advance approaches for resource efficiency, and (iii) improve sustainable materials management across the supply chain, with the overall objective of long-term reduction of waste, including from pellet loss, packaging and microplastics, and any associated negative impacts on ecosystem health.

***Note: Divide into separate actions?***

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 19

Share and promote best practices and technologies/techniques to prevent litter, including microlitter, from entering the marine environment through sewage, stormwater and wastewater outlets.

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 20

Assist communities, particularly in remote areas, to improve the collection and sustainable management of solid waste, as well as promote appropriate preventive measures, including to reduce inputs of microplastics from textiles and personal care products, and to reduce the use of disposable products such as packaging.

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 21

Promote cooperation with river basin authorities in and between the Arctic states to reduce inputs of litter from upstream regions into the Arctic and to reduce inputs to waterways within the Arctic, including from point sources.

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 22

Identify landfills and dumpsites in close proximity to coastal zones and waterways, particularly where these might be at risk of coastal erosion, and develop guidelines, as appropriate, on remedial action to prevent discharge of waste into the environment.

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 23

Promote best practice within the waste industry to reduce leakage of waste into the environment.

#### 2.2 Sewage and wastewater management

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 24

Improve stormwater management in order to prevent litter, including microplastic, from entering the marine environment through sewage, stormwater and wastewater outlets during heavy weather events and natural hazards.

#### 2.3 Microplastics

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 25

Engage with the private sector to actively promote the elimination of discharge of microplastics from personal care and cosmetic products and explore the potential for avoidance in other product ranges and activities.

***Note: Is this Arctic specific?***

#### 2.4 Changing products / changing behaviours

***Note: consider rewording the title of this section***

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 26

Explore options to implement economic incentives that encourage behaviour change appropriate to the local context in communities, commercial establishments and industry sectors, including tourism, agriculture, construction and maritime sectors. This includes deposit refund schemes and Extended Producer Responsibility schemes.

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 27

Encouraging the development and implementation of Sustainable Procurement Policies that promote end-markets for recycled products.

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 28

Promote the introduction of product certification schemes and ecolabelling to inform consumer choice.

***Note: Is this Arctic specific?***

### 3. Removal

The remote and harsh nature of the Arctic can make removal of marine litter a particular challenge. However, there are also numerous opportunities to engage both civil society and the private sector in removal activities. Removal activities around communities can be motivating for residents as they can see an immediate positive effect on the local environment and the resources they use. Programs may also target particular sectors such as fisheries or shipping. Clean up activities may also provide an opportunity for data collection, depending on the indicators that are developed for monitoring marine litter in the Arctic.

***Note: Should the paragraph above be moved to introduction section?***

#### 3.1 Fishing industry driven removal

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 34

Where relevant, develop guidelines, best practices and tools appropriate for the Arctic to promote and strengthen cost-effective, safe and environmentally sound removal and disposal of ALDFG in accordance with IMO recommendations as outlined in paragraphs 39-45 on Recovery of ALDFG within the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear. Consider including all relevant sectors, including boaters and aquaculture operators, in promotion of relevant schemes in the Arctic for reporting and removal practices.

Identify hotspot areas of abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) through mapping of snagging sites or historic dumping grounds working with other initiatives, research programmes and with ﬁshing organisations

***Note: Should this be divided into two or more actions? How does this relate to Research Actions (e.g. 5)?***

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 35

Remove barriers to the processing or adequate disposal of marine litter collected in fishing vessels, including landfilling if relevant and in line with waste legislation, including by reviewing the option that any vessel involved in a removal scheme can land non-operational waste at participating harbours in Arctic countries.

***Note: Divide into two seprate actions – one disposal facilities for fishing vessels. Second other ship related waste?***

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 36

Support the development of incentives for fishing vessels to retrieve or collect derelict fishing gear and deliver to port reception facilities, as per Action 5 of the IMO Action plan to address marine plastic litter from ships.

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 37

Consider implementing national programmes for the regular environmentally sound removal and disposal of marine litter, based on collaboration with relevant stakeholders and academia to identify accumulation hotspots.

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 38

Share experiences and promote national regulations and schemes to prevent, identify and remove abandoned derelict vessels (ADVs), particularly in ecologically sensitive and culturally important areas, for example by:

* Developing a priority list of derelict vessels for removal
* Compiling a clear set of existing responsibilities and capabilities for agencies addressing derelict vessels and share publicly
* Promoting owner Vessel Turn-In Programs
* Promoting reporting of ADVs and maintain a database
* Supporting collaboration of derelict vessel removal with appropriate authorities
* Development of best practices for the intentional disposal at sea or in coastal zones of end-of-life boats, ships and offshore constructions.

#### 3.2 Coastal clean-ups

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 39

Develop best practices and programmes for the participation of citizens in reporting and clean-up activities, such as adopt-a-beach programmes, that are appropriate to Arctic settlements and remote communities and consider safety and logistical feasibility.

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 40

Establish an exchange platform, possibly in collaboration with Regional Seas Programmes and other relevant fora, for sharing experiences and development of best practices and environmentally sound technologies for removal of marine litter from relevant land and marine compartments, including by local communities.

##### STRATEGIC ACTION 41

Develop removal and safety best management practices for both public and private debris removal efforts that minimize adverse environmental, health, and cultural effects and mitigate impacts to coastal economies. Work with disposal companies to install proper disposal sites and ensure collected marine debris is appropriately managed.

### 4. Addressing research needs

Research efforts targeting identified knowledge gaps should be prioritized according to those most necessary to understand the sources, pathways, and distribution of marine litter in order to better identify actions for the prevention of leakage of marine litter and microplastics in the Arctic (See Table 1 for potential research opportunities).

At the same time, investigation into the impact of marine litter and microplastics on the Arctic marine ecosystem, its wildlife, and indigenous people and local communities, including socio-economic impacts, should continue and be strengthened. These needs and their relevancy for the reduction of marine litter and microplastics in the Arctic should be described here (See Table 1 for potential research opportunities).

***Notes:***

***Should there be a prioritization of the research needs actions?***

***Would subheaders be valuable to sort the research actions based on the type(s) of knowledge gaps they address. This could be based on the knowledge gaps identified in the Desktop Study:***

***General (e.g. monitoring framework)***

***Drivers (e.g. socioeconomic assessment)***

***Sources (e.g. by sector)***

***Pathways (e.g. riverine input, winds, final fate)***

***Distribution (e.g. geographic, water column)***

***Impacts (e.g. on biota)***

***Should a general action be to support the monitoring plan developed by AMAP?***

#### General

##### RESEARCH ACTION 1

Produce and compile regional monitoring data (protocol?)while considering harmonization at broader scales.

##### RESEARCH ACTION 2

Research the concentration of contaminants transferred from plastics/debris to species of cultural importance (e.g. seals, polar bears), including the bio magnification and bioaccumulation of contaminants associated with plastic debris.

##### RESEARCH ACTION 3

Assess the current state of knowledge on and, if needed, carry out research on the importance of sewage-related waste in the upstream waste flows (i.e., sewage treatments applied, efficiency of the treatments, existence of untreated sewage, storm water influence, psychology behind people’s behavior related to flushing the toilet, identification of missing elements).

##### RESEARCH ACTION 4

Conduct risk analysis of procedures on board vessels and in aquaculture farms to identify potential emission sources.

##### RESEARCH ACTION 6

Identify accumulation areas of marine litter and develop sub-regional or regional maps of hotspots of ﬂoating and stranded marine litter, based on mapping of circulation of ﬂoating masses of marine litter, and identiﬁcation of hotspots of accumulation on coastal areas and the role of prevailing currents and winds.

##### RESEARCH ACTION 7

Conduct analysis of overlap of high-density Marine Litter areas with areas of high sensitivity (endangered species, key habitats, etc.) in order to prioritise clean-up and mitigation efforts.

##### RESEARCH ACTION 8

Assess and analyze removal data to support and target outreach efforts, potential policy options, and other means of preventing litter

##### RESEARCH ACTION 9

Work with the science community to identify environmentally sound methods to remove micro-, nano-, and mesoplastics, implement removal protocols, and identify priority areas for removal.

***Note: Would this be better suited under the a section on international cooperation should one be created? Also pending outcome of inclusion of nano and fibres.***

##### RESEARCH ACTION 10

Building on the desktop study, investigate and compile information on the prevalence and sources of plastics and other top waste items in the Arctic environment and evaluate the potential harm/impact caused to the marine environment by them.

##### RESEARCH ACTION 11

Continue and strengthen efforts to understand the environmental and socio-economic impacts of marine litter on the environment and biota, particularly effects at population levels and human health, furthered by a clearer understanding of the degradation of various plastics once in the marine environment.

***Note: divide this action into two separate actions?***

##### RESEARCH ACTION 11

Assess the importance of the different sources of primary and secondary microplastics. Evaluate products and processes that include both primary and secondary microplastics, such as fibres from clothing

***Note: Pending outcome of inclusion of nano and fibres.***

##### RESEARCH ACTION 12

Promote research into methods to reduce the release of microplastics into the environment during the intended use of products, such as from synthetic fabrics and tires, including through product design and improvement of sewage and wastewater treatment.

##### RESEARCH ACTION 13

Assess microplastic contributions identified in the FAO report titled *Microplastics in fisheries and aquaculture*[[12]](#footnote-13) with relevance to the Arctic and consider development of options to reduce such inputs.

##### RESEARCH ACTION 14

Support international and regional efforts to analyse waste disposal offences at sea, including from offshore and seafloor activities, to further understand sources, pathways and drivers for such offenses in the Arctic.

***Note: Would this be better suited under the a section on international cooperation should one be created?***

RESEARCH ACTION 15

Promote research to prevent litter, including microlitter, from entering the marine environment through sewage, stormwater and wastewater outlets.

### 5. Outreach and Education, including Communication

***Notes: General text on outreach and education to be included.***

***It may be beneficial to organize the actions in such a way that those focused on dissemination of the action plan (and related products) are separate from actions that are focused on engaging with targeted external audiences to prevent debris impacts in the Arctic.***

***Organizing in a way that links to related actions also helps avoid redundancy. Have flagged some instances that would benefit from the reorg below.***

##### ACTION 1

Develop marine litter assessment information sheets to assist Arctic Council member states to develop material for educational programs, including for universities (through UArctic) and professional seafarers such as fishermen, highlighting the marine litter problem and including codes of practice in cooperation with relevant organisations including IMO.

##### ACTION 2

Develop a communication strategy for this Regional Action Plan linked in a coherent way with national initiatives/actions. This will include linking the PAME website to relevant projects and initiatives based on the input from the stakeholder groups on marine litter management activities.

##### ACTION 3

Host regular symposium or scientific conference on marine litter in the Arctic, focusing on the latest scientific knowledge and the best practices to deal with this challenge. Can potentially include a new conference/webinar series/add to UNEP´s Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) for educators on marine debris.

##### ACTION 4

Establish a database on good practice examples of marine litter measures and initiatives (at community and national levels) and share this database with other Regional Seas Conventions in order to make actions more visible to the public.

 ***Note: Would this be better suited under the a section on international cooperation should one be created?***

##### ACTION 5

Where appropriate, develop and support shoreline cleanup programs. Consider actions to:

* Develop best practices guidelines for clean-ups
* Develop cleanup protocols for wilderness and remote beaches
* Train and support volunteers to survey and collect marine debris on local beaches, and report large and/or hazardous waste to appropriate authorities
* Establish pilot projects for marine debris collection sites at public beaches (e.g. wooden box with bags inside, information about marine debris inside, provide collection and drop off location)
* Explore means to reduce contributions of cleanup debris to landfills

##### ACTION 6

Establish an exchange platform to share information on location of hotspots, including from fishers, scuba diver surveys and sea-bed imaging, and to share experiences in marine litter removal on beaches, riverbanks, seafloor, the water column and sea surface areas, as well as ports and inland waterways.

***Note: Is this repetitive of previous actions?***

##### ACTION 7

Consider strengthening anti-littering campaigns and associated penalties, particularly in ecologically sensitive and culturally important areas.

##### ACTION 8

Promote and undertake education activities on marine litter in synergy with existing initiatives in the field of sustainable development and in partnership with civil society (including activities related to prevention and promotion of sustainable consumption and production).

* Use websites, social media, blogs, and e-newsletters to educate various audience groups on marine debris science, issues, and actions that can be taken to prevent marine litter debris
* Develop and implement community based public education campaigns for marine litter prevention, including specialized marine litter prevention programmes for key user-groups and stakeholders
* Incorporate cultural concepts and practices including use of Indigenous traditional knowledge, popular culture icons in outreach programming to promote behavioural change at the community and national level.
* Conduct outreach and education around prevention of marine debris through public presentations, traveling exhibits, volunteer outreach, citizen science trainings, University courses, waste prevention and recycling initiatives, and hands-on beach cleanups.
* Conduct outreach and communication with the aquaculture sector on the types of gear that are escaping from farms into marine systems and are found in beach cleanup data

ACTION 9

Identify and promote curricula for marine-related education, including both professional seafarers and the recreational sector (e.g. diving and sailing schools), which develop awareness, understanding, and respect for the marine environment and secure commitment to responsible behavior at personal, local, national and global level.

##### ACTION 10

Raise public awareness, including through schools and consumer campaigns, on the occurrence and prevention of marine litter, including micro particles and alternatives, taking into account existing materials (e.g., UNEP MOOC on Marine litter, the EU’s Marlisco Project, NOAA’s Marine Debris Program, Ocean Wise’s Ocean Plastic Education) and accompanied by image campaigns addressing threats/impact to marine life from various harmful litter items.

***Note: Would this be better suited under the a section on international cooperation should one be created?***

### 6. Strengthening international and cross-institutional cooperation

***Note: should this be a separate section or under main Strategic Actions? If so, other actions from previous sections that fit here could also be considered.***

##### ACTION 1

Support ongoing work by the IMO to better understand sea-based sources of marine litter, including all shipping and offshore activities, including container loss and ballast water, and assist in assessing the volume and types of marine litter collected during fishing operations to better understand the management and disposal of such wastes in the Arctic.

##### ACTION 2

Enhance cooperation and coordination with global marine initiatives such as UNEP’s Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPAMarine); Regional Seas Action Plans; The Global Partnership on Waste Management (GPWM); Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI)

# Monitoring

***To be added based on the AMAPs work***

# Reporting and review

***Note: Suggestion to delete this section as the “reporting and review” is better suited as a part of an implementation plan (see*** [***https://www.pame.is/index.php/document-library/amsp-documents/176-amsp-2015-2025-implementation-plan/file***](https://www.pame.is/index.php/document-library/amsp-documents/176-amsp-2015-2025-implementation-plan/file)***)***

#### 8.1 Measure degree of implementation and effectiveness of the RAP

Describe mechanism through which the states report on progress and effectiveness of the actions set out in the RAP.

#### 8.2 Review cycles

Describe mechanism/process for review

# Implementation

***Suggested rewrite based on the AMSP***

The Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Arctic addresses both short-term and long-term challenges and opportunities to reduce and eliminate marine litter, including microplastics, from both sea-based and land-based sources in the Arctic region. The Arctic Council working groups will coordinate and cooperate closely, and the Arctic Council will need to look to governments and agencies for support and participation. Working regionally offers an economy of scale, particularly for such joint efforts as research, monitoring, assessment and technical cooperation. It can also improve policy and program coordination, which in turn also help implementation. The implementation of this Regional Action Plan may also foster Arctic states cooperation to promote the goals in relevant international and regional fora.

The Arctic Council provides strong institutional support for the stewardship of the Arctic marine environment. The implementation of this Regional Action Plan relies on the existing structures and mechanisms of the Council, i.e., Arctic Council biannual meetings, Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) meetings and the activities of the Arctic Council Working Groups. Each Working Group, under the overall direction of the SAOs, will implement those actions that relate to their mandates and incorporate them into their work plans. As a portion of the marine litter found in the Arctic comes from outside of the region, cooperation and collaboration between Arctic Council member states and Observer States, as well as other countries will be beneficial.

Reports on progress of the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Arctic will be submitted regularly to the Senior Arctic Officials. Subject to direction from SAOs and Arctic Council Ministers, PAME, in collaboration with all Arctic Council subsidiary bodies, will also lead a review of the Regional Action Plan.

Under the direction of SAOs, PAME will, in consultation with other Arctic Council Working Groups and Permanent Participants, develop a communication plan to support implementation of the Regional Action Plan.

# Annex : Selected Research Needs based on the Desktop Study on Marine Litter.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| General | Types of marine litter | Information on non-plastic marine debris |
| Sources | Land-based | Input associated with domestic/industrial waste in Arctic watershed.Socio-economic proxies (e.g. population, waste management, transportation)Information on locally-originating marine litter and distant sources |
| Sea-based | Sea-based activities by sector  |
| Pathways and distribution (quantity and composition) | Pathways  | Atmospheric transport (e.g. wind, precipitation) |
| Riverine input  |
| Oceanic transport |
| Distribution | Distribution of marine litter in the Central Arctic Ocean, and along and off the shores of Arctic Alaska, Siberia, Canadian Arctic Archipelago, and mainland Canada |
| Quantifying marine litter in compartments (e.g. water column, sea ice, beach and shorelines, sea floor) |
| Impacts | Biotic interaction and impacts | Residence time of plastic in digestive tract |
| Potential transfer of toxic substances to seabird tissues |
| Systematic assessment of ingestion of plastic debris |
| Ingestion of plastic by fish and invertebrates |
| Population-level effects |
| Consequences of entanglement and ingestion (e.g. sublethal and lethal effects) |
| Human dimensions | Socio-economic impacts of marine litter |
|  |  |
|  |  |  |

# References

***Note: to be populated***

Footnotes / references to the documents we refer to like Marpol annex V –

… MARPOL Annex V, known as a living document, the latest of which is [resolution MEPC.295(71)](http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/PollutionPrevention/Garbage/Documents/MEPC.295%2871%29.pdf)

… See 2012 Cape Town Agreement Consolidated text [2012 Cape Town Agreement](http://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/ListOfConventions/Documents/Consolidated%20text%20of%20the%20Agreement.pdf) (kept this here in case we keep the language about the IMO Identification Scheme Number, see page 13 of RAP)

<http://www.imo.org/en/Publications/Documents/Newsletters%20and%20Mailers/Mailers/IA793E.pdf> (additional reference to Cape Town Agreement)

IMO MEPC 74/14/2 Proposal for a new output to amend MARPOL to allow the establishment of regional arrangements in the Arctic (see page 14 of RAP)

See Polar Code [IMO Polar Code](http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/polar/Documents/POLAR%20CODE%20TEXT%20AS%20ADOPTED.pdf) (need to add reference see page 14 of RAP)

The ISO standard (ISO 201070:2013) (see page 13 of RAP)

# Acronyms

***Note: to be populated***

GGGI - Global Ghost Gear Initiative

ALDFG - abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear

MARPOL - International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships/ Maritime Pollution

IMO – International Maritime Organization

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization

EU – European Union

GISIS – Global Integrated Shipping Information System (I wrote this out with the abbreviation on page 12 of the RAP)

ISO – International Organization for Standardization

LCA – life cycle assessments

KIMO - Kommunenes Internasjonale Miljøorganisasjon

NABU - Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union

MOOC – Massive Open Online Courses – (I wrote this out with the abbreviation on page 28 of the RAP)

1. Arctic Council (2017). “Fairbanks Declaration.” Arctic Council Secretariat (Fairbanks, USA. Accessed at: <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/1910>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. PAME (2019), Desktop Study on Marine Litter including Microplastics in the Arctic (May 2019). Accessed at: <https://pame.is/images/03_Projects/Arctic_Marine_Pollution/Litter/Desktop_study/Desktop_Study_on_marine_litter.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. PAME (2019). “PAME Work Plan 2019-2021.” <https://pame.is/index.php/document-library/pame-reports-new/pame-ministerial-deliverables/2019-11th-arctic-council-ministerial-meeting-rovaniemi-finland/426-pame-2019-2021-work-plan/file>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Arctic Council (2019). “Statement by the Chair; 11TH Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council.” Rovaniemi, Finland. Accessed at:<https://arctic-council.org/images/PDF_attachments/Rovaniemi-Statement-from-the-chair_FINAL_840AM-7MAY.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. **Note from Grid-Arendal:** This requires discussion within PAME as it is not clear if all countries support the inclusion on nanoplastics. If nanoplastics are not to be included, some words of explanation should be added as to why they have been excluded. Also, for some of the actions could be quite difficult to address microplastics but exclude microfibers as microfibers are mostly a type of microplastics (except for the natural fibers such as cotton , wool, etc.). This may require consultation with AMAP to determine how microplastics will be treated in their monitoring program [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. PAME (2019), Desktop Study on Marine Litter including Microplastics in the Arctic (May 2019). Accessed at: <https://pame.is/images/03_Projects/Arctic_Marine_Pollution/Litter/Desktop_study/Desktop_Study_on_marine_litter.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. PAME (2019). “PAME Work Plan 2019-2021.”Accessed at: <https://pame.is/index.php/document-library/pame-reports-new/pame-ministerial-deliverables/2019-11th-arctic-council-ministerial-meeting-rovaniemi-finland/426-pame-2019-2021-work-plan/file>. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. PAME, The Arctic Ocean Review Project, Final Report (Phase II 2011-2013) Kiruna May 2013. Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Secretariat, Akureyri (2013). <https://www.pame.is/images/03\_Projects/AOR/Reports/126082\_pame\_sept\_2.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. See for example: Port Reception Facilities: How to Do It (IMO, 2016); Consolidated Guidance for Port Reception Facility Providers and Users (Mepc.1/Circ.834/Rev.1); Guidelines for ensuring the adequacy of port waste reception facilities (MEPC.83(44)); 2016 Revised Specific Guidelines for the Assessment of Vessels (LC 38/16, Annex 7) [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. <http://www.fao.org/3/ca3546t/ca3546t.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7677e.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)