FGMP WORKSHOP 27-28 JAN 2026

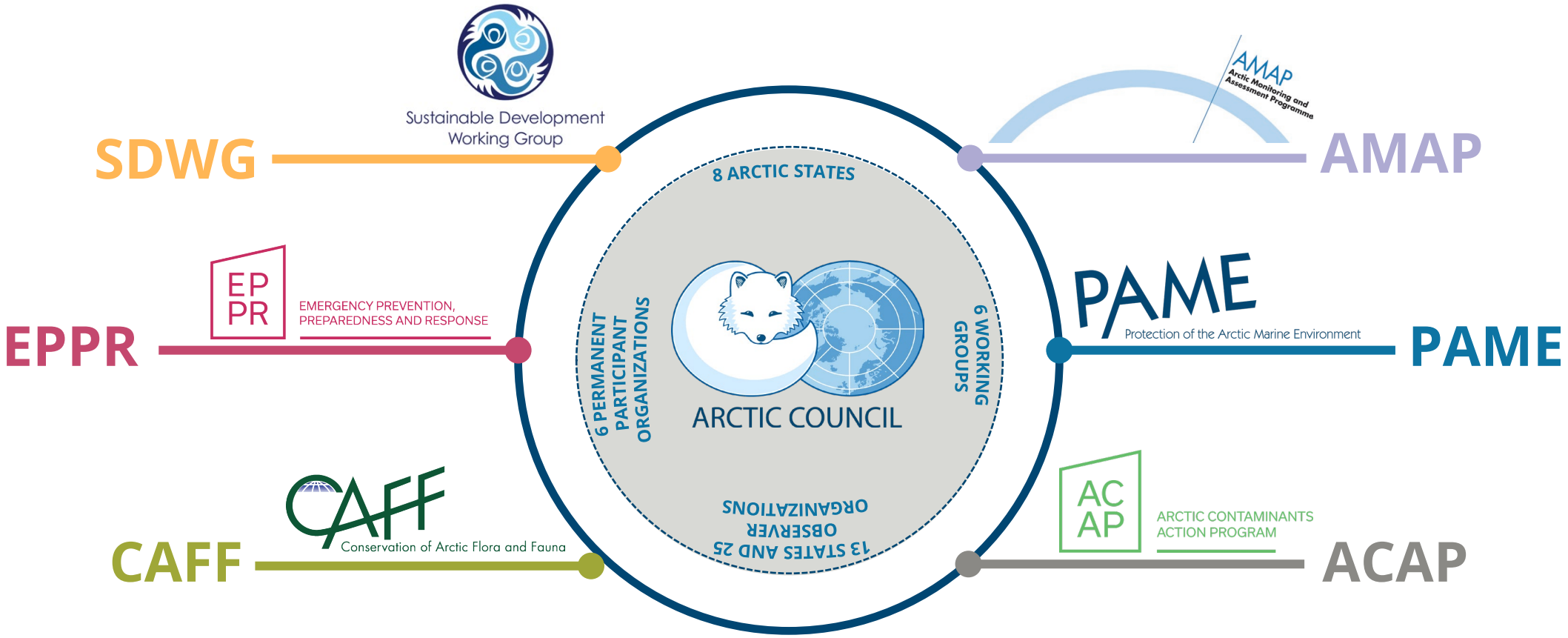
PAME AND ALDFG REPORT

PETER MURPHY
NOAA

On behalf of the Co-leads

PAME
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

THE ARCTIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS



MANDATE

PAME

Focal point of Arctic Council's policy-related initiatives for the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment.

PAME MANDATE

*Address **marine policy measures** related to the **conservation** and **sustainable use** of the Arctic marine and coastal environment in response to environmental change from **both land and sea-based activities**, including non-emergency pollution prevention control measures ..... all of which aim to complement or supplement efforts and existing arrangements for the protection and sustainable development of the Arctic marine environment.*

PAME
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

PAME

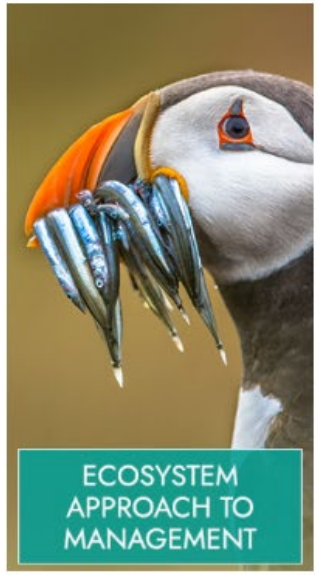
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

PAME

12

7

9

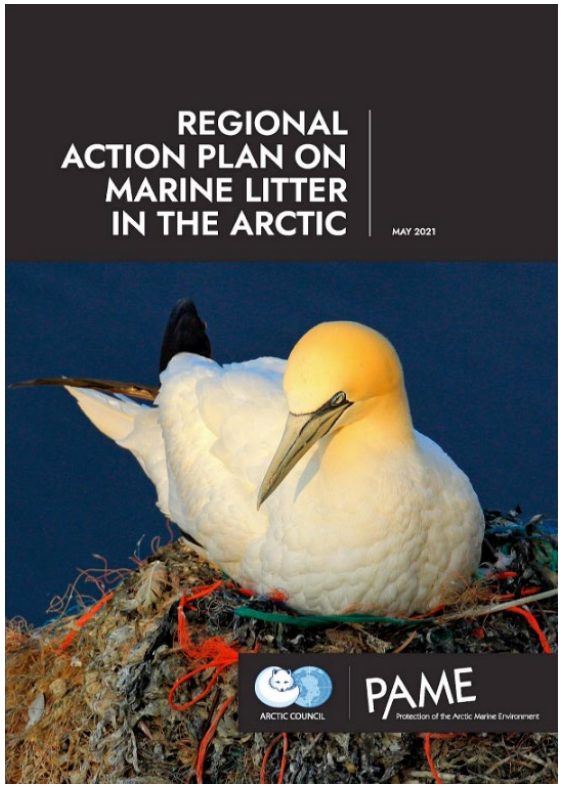


5

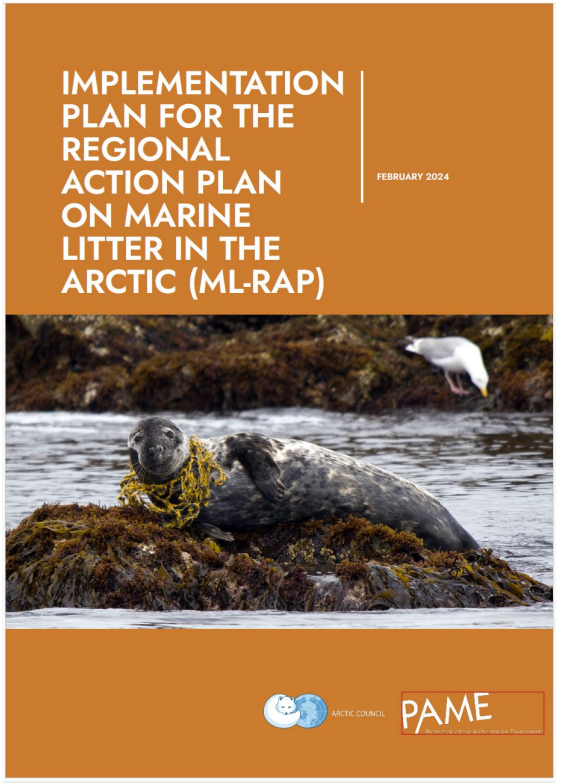
5

PAME'S WORK ON MARINE LITTER IN THE ARCTIC

2019



2021



2024

PAME
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

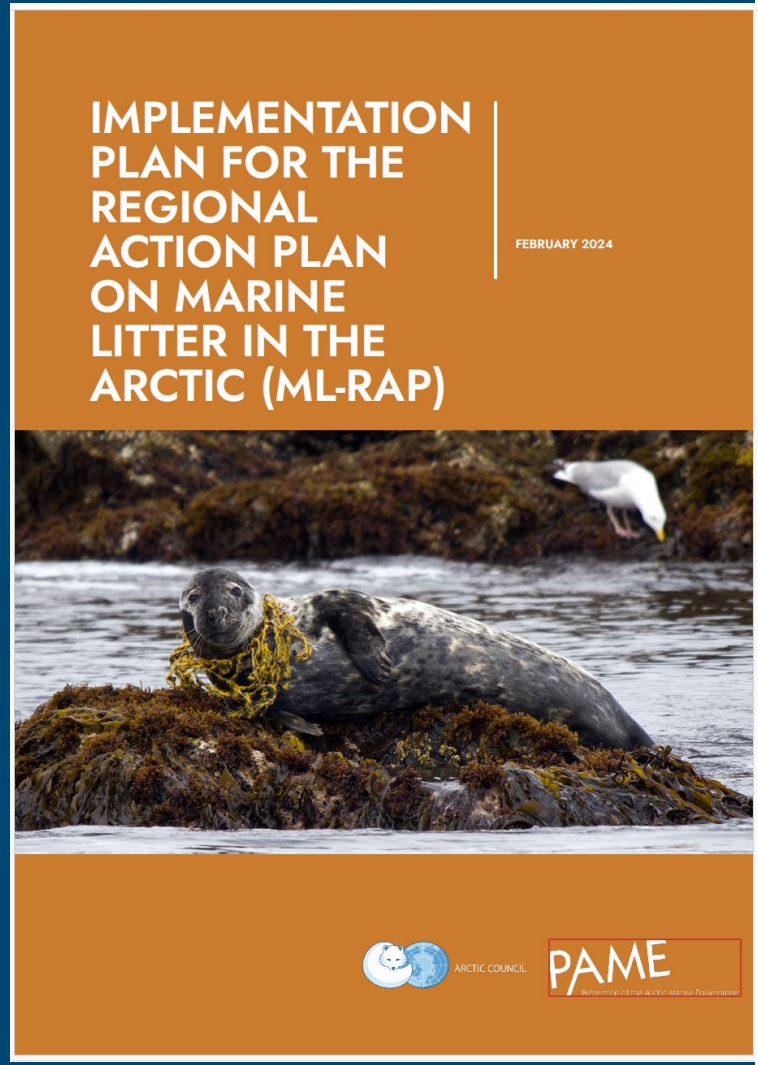
PAME

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

The Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Arctic (2021) sets out a range of 59 Strategic Actions that address both land- and sea-based sources of marine litter in the Arctic region, organized by eight themes.

PAME

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

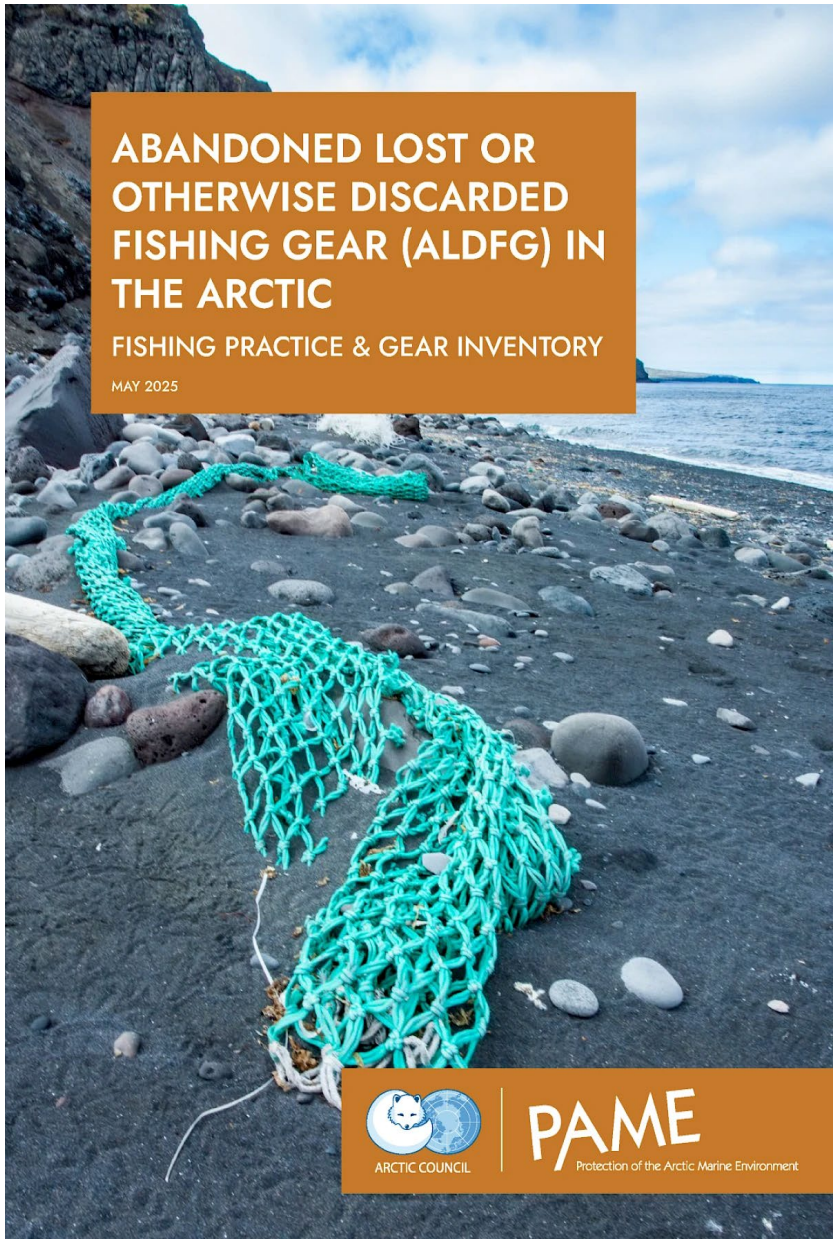


The aim of the Implementation plan for the ML-RAP 59 strategic actions is to provide a structured approach that tracks follow-up activities (ongoing and planned) in close coordination and cooperation with other Arctic Council working groups through an overall guidance from the SAOs.

1. **Develop specific projects and activities that align with ML-RAP Strategic Actions, taking into account, when possible, decisions and priorities from Arctic Council Ministerial meetings, SAOs, Arctic States and Arctic Council working groups.**
2. **Incorporate projects targeting ML-RAP Strategic Actions into the Arctic Council working group's work plans, as relevant.**
3. **Direct input to the marine-related activities of the Arctic Council work plans.**
4. **Contribute to the Arctic Council Strategy.**
5. **Provide status reports on the implementation of the ML-RAP at the Arctic Council SAOs, Ministerial meetings and at other international events and contributions, as relevant, into new Arctic assessments.**

Theme I

REDUCING MARINE LITTER INPUTS FROM FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE



Theme V

CLEANING ARCTIC COASTS

PROJECT GOALS

Increase understanding and develop reliable informational resources on fishing activity in Arctic and Near Arctic, in order to inform gear dentification as part of monitoring or removal of ALDFG.

TEMPLATE – FISHING GEAR USED BY VESSELS IN THE ARCTIC IN 2021

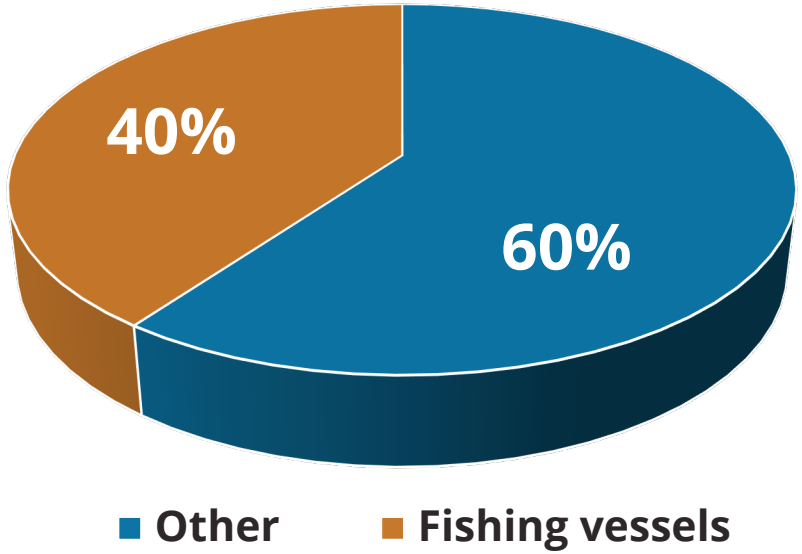
- **Sent to six Arctic Council Member States**
- **Questions:**
  - How many unique vessels operated in your country's EEZ in 2021? *(What vessels are included in the above number? How many were fishing vessels?)*
  - How many fishing vessels were from your country?
  - Location of fishing and species permitted
  - Request to fill in a table of fishing gears and number of vessels
- **Highly varying responses**

PAME
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

KEY FINDINGS

- Fishing vessels are the pre-dominant ship type in the Arctic
- Fishing gear is a major source of marine litter in the Arctic.
- Environmental impacts are significant.
- Prevention is the most effective approach.
- Arctic States are advancing mitigation measures.
- Data and monitoring remain limited and inconsistent
- Regional cooperation is essential.

UNIQUE VESSELS IN THE ARCTIC POLAR CODE AREA: 2024

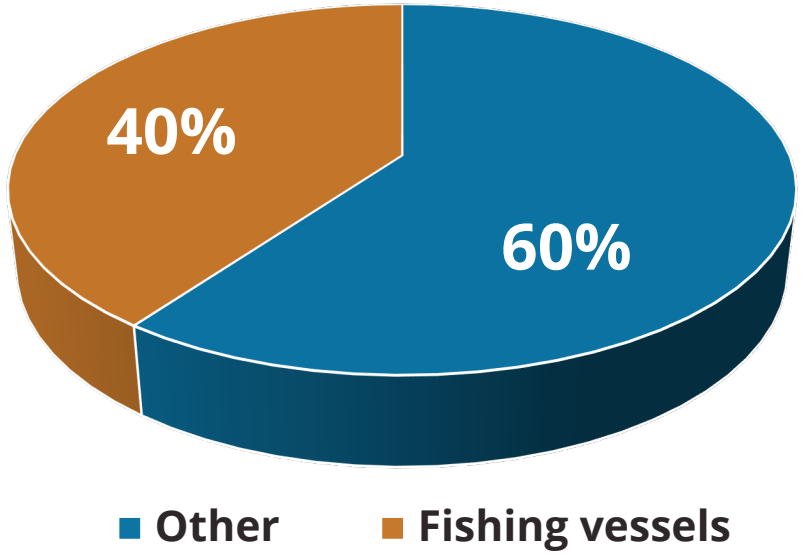


PAME
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

KEY FINDINGS

- Fishing vessels are the pre-dominant ship type in the Arctic
- Fishing gear is a major source of marine litter in the Arctic. Environmental impacts are significant.
- Prevention is the most effective approach.
- Arctic States are advancing mitigation measures.
- Data and monitoring remain limited and inconsistent
- Regional cooperation is essential.

UNIQUE VESSELS IN THE ARCTIC POLAR CODE AREA: 2024



PAME
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

PAME
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

NEXT STEPS

- Develop **Fishing Gear Management Plans (FGMPs)** tailored to Arctic fisheries, focusing on onboard handling, maintenance, and waste management.
- Investigate and address **sources of rope and net cuttings**, using beach litter monitoring and source-mapping.
- Convene an **Arctic expert workshop** (fisheries, regulators, NGOs, researchers) to identify best practices and knowledge gaps on gear handling and waste.
- Promote and support implementation of the **FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear**.
- Strengthen **international cooperation and information-sharing** through the Arctic Council and RFMOs.

PAME
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

FISHING GEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN IN THE ARCTIC (FGMP) 2025-2027

REDUCING MARINE LITTER INPUTS FROM FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

PAME
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

FGMP

Preventing loss of fishing gear parts and net cuttings from fisheries in the Arctic and Near-Arctic

- Increase **awareness** on a proved source of marine litter on Arctic beaches.
- **Reduce** marine litter from fisheries in the Arctic and Near-Arctic through a tool for preventive planning.
- Synergies with other **international processes**, and benefits for the IMO's efforts to develop measures to reduce littering from fishing vessels.
- Create a platform for **dialogue** and **cooperation** between Arctic States and with fishing industry regarding the issue of lost fishing gear parts and net cuttings.

Workshop on Improving Fishing Gear Waste Management Practices on board fishing vessels operating in the Arctic.

Iceland – January 2026

FISHING GEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN IN THE ARCTIC (FGMP)
2025-2027

PAME
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

FG MP

Preventing loss of fishing gear parts and net cuttings from fisheries in the Arctic and Near-Arctic-FGMP

OUTPUTS

- Workshop report from the workshop on Improving Fishing Gear Waste Management Practices on board fishing vessels operating in the Arctic.
- Project report, including policy recommendations
- Proposal for FGMPs for different fisheries adapted to Arctic conditions

THANK YOU!

Email: pame@pame.is
Homepage: www.pame.is
Facebook.com/pamesecretariat
Twitter: @PameSecretariat

PAME
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment