

Draft for WCC Session on Arctic MPA Network  
August 26, 2015

From Policy to Implementation – Practical Considerations in Developing a Pan-Arctic MPA Network

Purpose:

To hear from MPA practitioners, user groups and scientists in Arctic nations about the progress and challenges in developing MPA networks that can help promote resilience to climate change impacts, and to have a facilitated discussion about practical measures that can be taken over the coming year through the Arctic Council and other mechanisms to advance an effective network. The session will include diverse perspectives to discuss how we can build coalitions.

Format:

Background on Arctic MPA Network (PAME) (5 min)

Presentations from each country on steps toward an Arctic MPA network (US, Canada, Russia, Kingdom of Denmark (Greenland), Iceland, Norway (5 min each)

Q & A for Country Presenters (15 min)

Facilitated Discussion with session participants – small groups (1 hour)

Establish stations for key elements of network development and have participants discuss prepared questions. Recognizing the impacts that climate change is having on Arctic marine ecosystems, how can MPA networks best be designed and managed to:

1. Protect Ecological Connectivity – priorities for working across boundaries
2. Work with Arctic Communities – lessons and perspectives from local communities
3. Building Coalitions for Conservation – hearing diverse perspectives and considering the contributions of “other effective management measures” to Arctic conservation

Report out from Small Groups/Closing Comments (10 min)

Possible Co-sponsors:

- NOAA
- National Park Service – Alaska Region
- IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas
- NRDC