

# AMSP



## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OUTLINE

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**PAME**  
Polar Area Marine Environment  
A Working Group of the Arctic Council

Arctic Council  
**Arctic Marine Strategic Plan**  
2015 - 2025

# Implementation

## Overview

The 9th Arctic Council Ministerial meeting convened on 24th of April 2015 approved the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2025 as a framework to protect Arctic marine and coastal ecosystems and to promote sustainable development in the region.

The Arctic Council Arctic Marine Strategic Plan 2015-2025 (AMSP) provides a framework to guide its actions to protect Arctic marine and coastal ecosystems and to promote sustainable development. AMSP articulates how the Arctic Council can increase its understanding of the impacts of human activities, climate change and ocean acidification. The AMSP recognizes the importance of acquiring a better understanding of Arctic change so that actions can be taken that allow Arctic inhabitants, including Arctic indigenous peoples to further adapt to the change. The strategic actions identified in the AMSP guide the work of the Arctic Council and its subsidiary bodies.

This 10-year implementation plan sets forth the methodology, process and approach to execute implementation of the AMSP. The plan builds on Arctic Council principles, coordination and collaboration with the Arctic Council members, its subsidiary bodies and observers, and reflects the reality of the changes in the Arctic marine environment.

## Outline of Implementation Plan

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# Implementation Structure

The AMSP sets out a range of actions that can be undertaken by the Arctic Council and its subsidiary bodies, in collaboration with Observers of the Arctic Council and other partners, as appropriate. There is also an opportunity for joint action among the Arctic states to promote these strategic actions in relevant international and regional fora.

The AMSP addresses both short-term and long-term challenges and opportunities. Achieving the goals of this Strategic Plan is dependent on cooperation.

## Vision

**AMSP**  
The Arctic Council's vision for the Arctic marine environment is: Healthy, productive, and resilient Arctic marine ecosystems that support human well-being and sustainable development for current and future generations.

# GOALS

**1**

Improve knowledge of the Arctic marine environment, and continue to monitor and assess current and future impacts on Arctic marine ecosystems.

**2**

Conserve and protect ecosystem function and marine biodiversity to enhance resilience and the provision of ecosystem services.

**3**

Promote safe and sustainable use of the marine environment, taking into account cumulative environmental impacts.

**4**

Enhance the economic, social and cultural well-being of Arctic inhabitants, including Arctic indigenous peoples and strengthen their capacity to adapt to changes in the Arctic marine environment.

Total of 40 strategic actions have been developed that are important in a circumpolar Arctic perspective and which are guided by the key findings and recommendations of recently published Arctic Council reports. 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 examples, ongoing or new studies by the Arctic Council working groups and others.

This implementation plan is a living document. The PAME Working Group will evaluate progress and reflect the priorities of the Arctic Council on a regular basis.

Analyze each strategic action and identify ongoing activities/projects/tasks.

1

2

Identify gaps and needs (by PAME, by other Arctic Council working groups, by other processes).

3

Propose future implementation options/projects (these are tentative and subject to the Arctic Council direction and respective chairmanship priorities).

4

Review options and develop outline of activities as relevant.

Inclusion in PAMEs biennial work plans and other Arctic Council working groups work plans as relevant.

5

6

Set priorities based on:

# ROADMAP to AMSP Implementation

**a** New and emerging knowledge affecting the Arctic marine environment (focusing on conservation and the sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment that supports environmental, socio-cultural, and economic values).

**b** Circumpolar Arctic perspective.

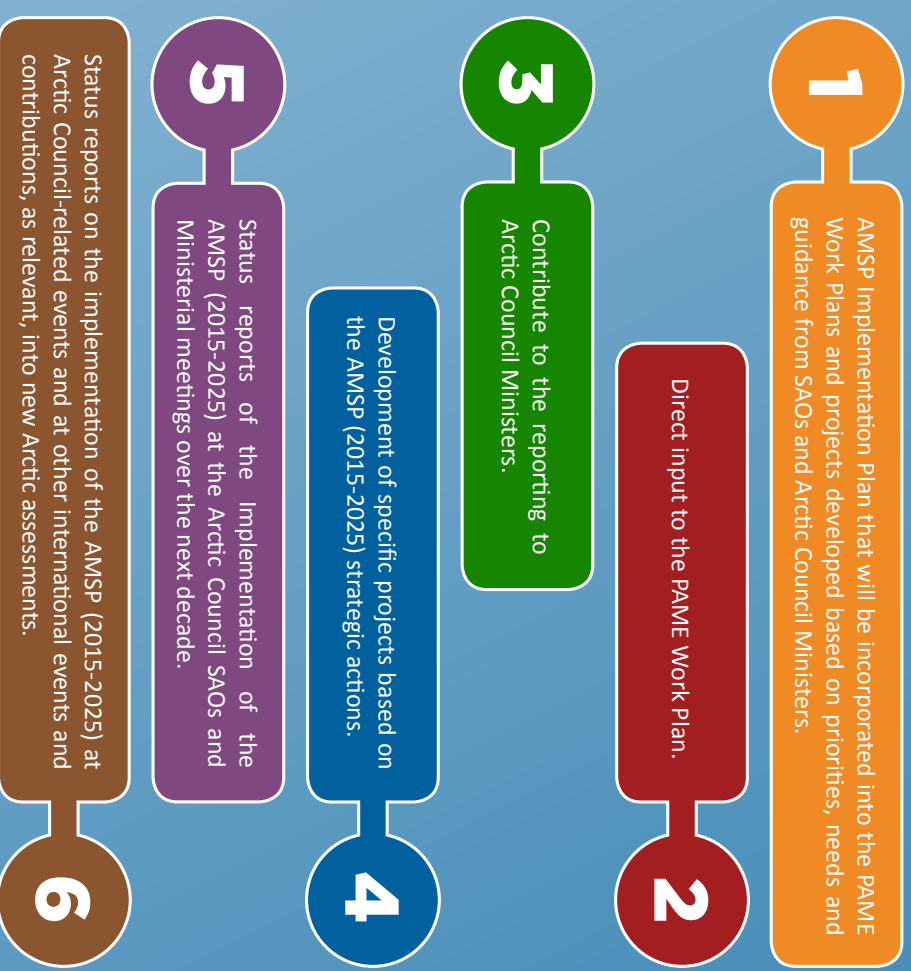
**c** Key finding and recommendations of ongoing or new studies by the Arctic Council working groups and others.

**d** Setting of priorities will be revisited and feedback provided as required.

# Implementation Steps

The Arctic Council working groups will coordinate and cooperate closely in its implementation, and the Arctic Council will need to look to governments and agencies for support and participation. There is also an opportunity for joint action among the Arctic states to promote these strategic actions in relevant international and regional fora.

The plan is organized in two-year implementation periods, corresponding to the rotation of the chairmanship of the Arctic Council. PAME will provide a status reporting on the AMSP implementation at the end of each implementation period and revise the prioritization of the strategic actions based on the prioritization of respective Arctic Council chairmanship period. Furthermore, those strategic actions of relevance to PAMEs mandate will be reflected in its biennial work plans.



# Reporting on Strategic Actions

## 7.1 Improve and Expand the Knowledge-base

### 7.1.1

Strengthen scientific cooperation and joint monitoring among the Arctic states, and with other states, organizations and stakeholders involved in Arctic research or traditional and local knowledge, with a focus on prioritizing research issues, filling knowledge gaps, and developing mechanisms to share and exchange observational data.

**Lead & Partners**

**Status**

### 7.1.2

Improve, synthesize, and respond to emerging knowledge across all disciplines and sectors to include government, academic and industry information, and traditional and local knowledge.

**Lead & Partners**

**Status**

### 7.1.3

Improve the understanding of cumulative impacts on marine ecosystems from multiple human activity-induced stressors such as climate change, ocean acidification, local and long range transported pollution (land and sea-based), marine litter, noise, eutrophication, biomass overharvesting, invasive alien species and other threats.

**Lead & Partners**

**Status**

### 7.1.4

Improve the predictive capacity and develop a common understanding of the likely future impacts of climate change and other emerging threats, such as ocean acidification.

**Lead & Partners**

**Status**

# Reporting on Strategic Actions

## 7.2 Conserve and Protect Ecosystem Function and Biodiversity

### 7.2.1

Promote the implementation of the ecosystem approach to management in the Arctic through synthesis and application of the results of relevant work by the Arctic Council and associated efforts by relevant organizations.

**Lead & Partners**

**Status**

### 7.2.2

Identify and assess threats and impacts to areas of heightened ecological and cultural significance and how such areas may be influenced in the future by climate change and other human induced changes and activities.

**Lead & Partners**

**Status**

### 7.2.3

Identify and develop tools and methodologies for assessing cumulative impacts and risks for Arctic marine ecosystems and areas of heightened ecological and cultural significance with the aim of using them for integrated assessments.

**Lead & Partners**

**Status**

### 7.2.4

Encourage the Arctic states to implement appropriate measures, – or to pursue such measures at relevant international organizations to protect Arctic marine Areas of Heightened Ecological and Cultural Significance. Focus should be on species and ecosystems particularly at risk from climate change and cumulative impacts, including areas of refuge for ice-associated species that are, or are expected to become particularly important to Arctic marine biodiversity under future climate conditions.

**Lead & Partners**

**Status**

# Reporting on Strategic Actions

## 7.3 Promote Safe and Sustainable Marine Resource Use

### 7.3.1

Advance EBM as an overarching framework for conservation and sustainable use of living and non-living resources in the Arctic marine environment, taking into account cumulative impacts on the Arctic and the need for adaptation to climate change.

**Lead & Partners**

**Status**

### 7.3.2

Improve the understanding of risks and risk reducing measures related to Arctic shipping and oil and gas exploration and development activities, including gap analysis and sharing of best practices related to oil spill prevention, preparedness and response to emergencies in the Arctic.

**Lead & Partners**

**Status**

### 7.3.3

Explore whether there are substances in addition to oil that would benefit from additional pollution preparedness and response cooperation among the Arctic states.

**Lead & Partners**

**Status**

### 7.3.4

Support the research, development, and implementation of oil spill detection, mitigation measures, and response technologies in ice-covered and ice-infested waters.

**Lead & Partners**

**Status**

# Reporting on Strategic Actions

## 7.4 Strengthen Capacity to adapt to changes

### 7.1.1

Improve meaningful engagement of Arctic indigenous peoples and other Arctic inhabitants in relevant decisions, including through the consideration and use of traditional and local knowledge (TLK) in avoiding or mitigating negative environmental, subsistence, and cultural impacts, as well as in maintaining or increasing well-being and socioeconomic opportunities.

**Lead & Partners**

**Status**

### 7.1.2

Facilitate coastal community exchanges between Arctic states to improve sharing of knowledge and experiences and to strengthen the dialog with relevant business and industry in the Arctic in order to foster the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment.

**Lead & Partners**

**Status**

### 7.1.3

Assess vulnerabilities and adaptation options of Arctic coastal communities to changes in climate and the marine environment, as well as challenges and opportunities related to these changes and new patterns of activity.

**Lead & Partners**

**Status**

### 7.1.4

In cooperation with the Permanent Participants, encourage engagement, as appropriate, with indigenous peoples organizations and bodies, that have specialized in traditional knowledge and that can inform the work of the Arctic Council in the protection of the marine environment and in enhance the well-being and the capacity of Arctic inhabitants, including Arctic indigenous peoples to deal with a changing Arctic and increased activity.

**Lead & Partners**

**Status**

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# Progress

The plan is organized in two-year implementation periods, corresponding to the rotation of the chairmanship of the Arctic Council. PAME will provide a status reporting on the AMSP implementation at the end of each implementation period and revise the prioritization of the strategic actions based on the prioritization of respective Arctic Council chairmanship period in collaboration with other Arctic Council working groups. Those strategic actions of relevance to PAMEs mandate will be reflected in its biennial work plans.

Furthermore, the ongoing evaluation process will guide adaptation in the implementation of the strategic actions over the lifetime of the plan, clearly outline timeframes and project phases, especially where there are interdependencies with other Arctic Council subsidiary bodies.

# AMSP