

PAME

The Working Group on the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) is one of six working groups of the Arctic Council. PAME focuses on the marine agenda of the Arctic Council and provides a unique forum for collaboration on a wide range of activities directed towards the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment. PAME operates largely within the following themes where work is conducted by corresponding expert groups such as:

- Arctic Shipping
- Ecosystem Approach to Management
- Marine Protected Areas
- Resource Exploration and Development
- Arctic Marine Pollution

PAME's Mandate

PAME's mandate is to address marine policy measures and other 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. These measures include coordinated strategic plans as well as developing programs, assessments and guidelines, all of which aim to complement or supplement efforts and existing arrangements for the protection and sustainable development of the Arctic marine environment.

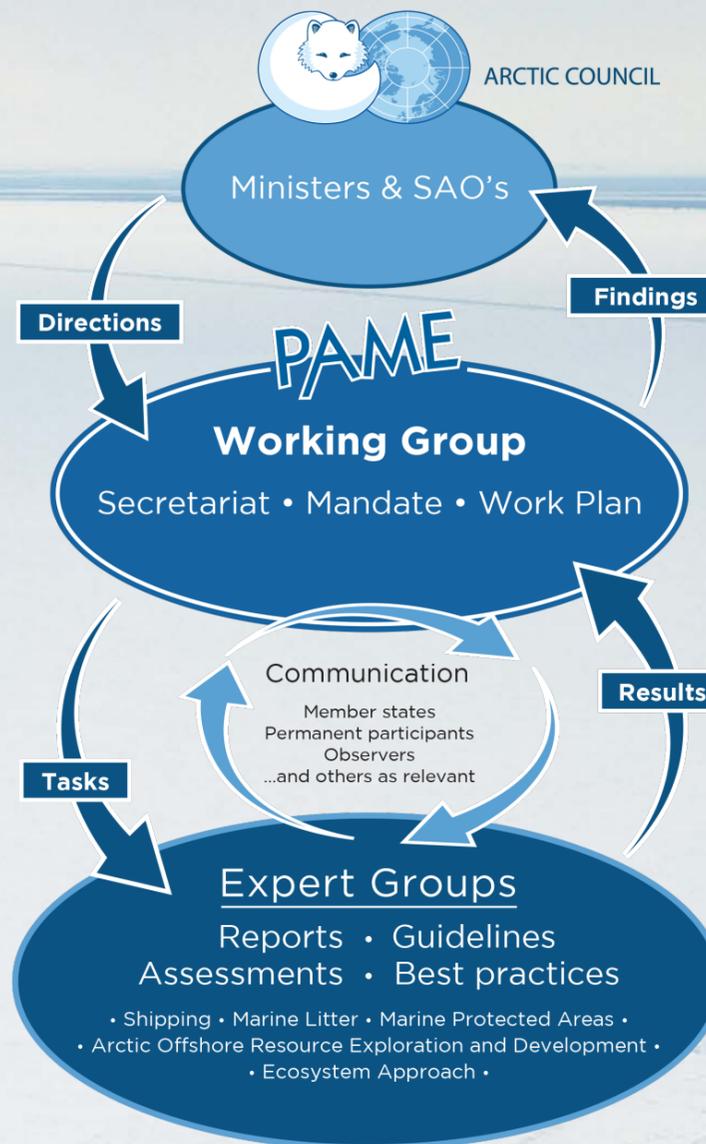
PAME Members

The eight Arctic Council Member States (Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States) nominate their National Representatives to participate in PAME's work. Indigenous groups' organizations, termed "Permanent Participants" also nominate their representatives in PAME's work. Representatives from several Observer States and organizations participate in PAME. PAME regularly reaches out to other bodies with recognized competence of relevance to its work as a means to identify, and where possible collaborate, on issues of common interest.

Arctic Council Working Groups

PAME was first established under the 1991 Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy and was continued by the 1996 Ottawa Charter that established the Arctic Council. Each working group has a mandate under which it operates, has a Chair, Vice-Chair and is supported by a Secretariat. PAME cooperates with task forces, special initiatives and other working groups of the Arctic Council:

- Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP)
- Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)
- Emergency, Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)
- Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)
- Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP)



PAME Structure

PAME reports to the Senior Arctic Officials, and through them, to the Ministers of the Arctic Council that meet every two years. The PAME Working Group meets twice a year to assess and advance progress on its activities and develop new work plan items, as relevant. PAME is headed by a Chair and Vice-Chair and is supported by the PAME International Secretariat.

PAME Secretariat

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PAME

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

Working Group of the Arctic Council

2019-2021

PAME Activities

PAME focuses on a number of activities within the framework of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (2015-2025), which outlines the overall direction of the Arctic Council for the protection of the Arctic marine environment.

PAME projects in the 2019-2021 Work Plan:

Arctic Marine Shipping

- Black Carbon emissions from shipping activity in the Arctic and technology developments for their reduction
- Arctic Shipping Status Reports
- Arctic Marine Tourism: Development in the Arctic and enabling real change
- Develop a non-binding PAME-Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC) Memorandum of Understanding
- Underwater Noise in the Arctic – Understanding Impacts and Defining Management Solutions - Phase I
- Compendium of Shipping Accidents in the Arctic (CASA): Follow-up
- Collect, report and/or review information about on-shore use by indigenous peoples and local communities of HFO (HFO Phase IVb)
- Collect and summarize information on Arctic State safe and low-impact marine corridor initiatives
- Develop a framework for more systematically engaging with Observers on shipping related matters
- Update of PAME's shipping priorities and recommendations
- Arctic Ship Traffic Data (ASTD)
- Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum
- Develop an overview of Arctic States' and Observer States' interpretation of the Polar Code

Invasive Species

- Develop an implementation plan for the Arctic Invasive Alien Species (ARIAS) Strategy and Action Plan

Arctic Marine Pollution

- Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter

Strategic Documents

- Arctic Marine Strategic Plan Implementation Status Report 2019-2021

Ecosystem Approach to Management

- The 2nd International Science and Policy Conference on Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Management in the Arctic
- The 7th Ecosystem Approach to Management (EA) Workshop
- Report on development in defining or setting Ecological objectives
- Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) of the Central Arctic Ocean

Marine Protected Areas

- Modelling Arctic oceanographic connectivity to further develop PAME's Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) toolbox
- Arctic Protected and Important Areas update
- Develop two factsheets on MPAs under change
- Expansion and Refinement of the MPA Network Toolbox

Resource Exploration and Development

- Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities (MEMA) Information handbook for engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities
- Update/status report on current offshore oil and gas activities by Arctic States
- Follow-up on the Framework Plan on Oil Pollution Prevention (FP-OPP)

Capacity Building and Outreach

Capacity building, information outreach and collaboration with other Arctic Council working groups, relevant organizations, indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants as an integral part of the overall work.

The Arctic Ocean

The Arctic Ocean and its biota are generally clean in relation to other oceans. However, low temperatures, a short growing season and the fact that there are fewer species to undertake degradation make the Arctic more vulnerable to air and sea transport of contaminants and certain human impacts. Low temperatures slow down the chemical and biological processes of contaminant degradation. Increased economic activity and significant changes due to climatic processes are resulting in increased use, opportunities and challenges to the Arctic marine and coastal environments. These predicted changes require more integrated approaches to address both existing and emerging challenges of the Arctic marine and coastal environments.

