

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
- Marine Litter in the Arctic

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 plans items, as relevant. PAME is headed by a Chair and Vice-Chair and is supported by the PAME International Secretariat.



Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

Working Group of the Arctic Council



PAME Secretariat

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2017 - 2019

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.

List of PAME projects in the 2017-2019 Work Plan

Arctic Marine Shipping Projects

- Collect and report information on use of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) in the Arctic
- Collect, report and/or review information about on-shore use by indigenous peoples and local communities of HFO (*joint project with SDWG*)
- Prepare an information paper summarizing PAME's work on HFO
- Explore the environmental, economic, technical and practical aspects of the use by ships in the Arctic of alternative fuels
- Harmonized implementation of the Polar Code
- Collect and summarize information on Arctic State safe and low-impact marine corridor initiatives
- Compendium of Arctic Shipping Accidents, (*joint project with EPPR*)
- Systematic engagement with Observer States on shipping-related work
- Update of PAME's shipping priorities and recommendations
- Operationalization of the Arctic Ship Traffic Database (ASTD) System
- Operationalization of Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum
- Develop an Implementation Plan for the ARIAS Strategy and Action Plan (*joint project with CAFF*)

Ecosystem Approach to Management (EA)

- Preparation of Guidelines for EA/EBM Implementation in the Arctic
- Integrated Ecosystem Assessment of the Central Arctic Ocean

Marine Protected Areas (MPA)

- PAME MPA-network Toolbox: Area-based conservation measures and ecological connectivity

Arctic Offshore Resource Exploration and Development (REDEG)

- Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities project (MEMA) Part II Report
- Resource Exploration and Development Expert Group (REDEG) Information gathering
- Follow-up on the Framework Plan on Oil Pollution Prevention (FP-OPP) (Joint project with EPPR)
- Good Practice Recommendations for Environmental Impact Assessment, EIA, and Public Participation in EIA in the Arctic (Arctic-EIA) (Joint project with SDWG)

Marine Litter in the Arctic

- Desktop Study on Marine Litter and Microplastics in the Arctic, Phase I

Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP)

- AMSP Implementation Status Report 2017-2019

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 of the PAME Working Group.

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.

