

PAME Structure

The majority of PAME's activities are directed towards pollution prevention and control measures of the Arctic marine environment. PAME members include National Representatives of the 8 Arctic Council States (Canada, Denmark (including Faroe Islands and Greenland), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden and United States). Indigenous groups' organizations, termed "Permanent Participants" also participate in PAME, as well as representatives from several observer countries and organizations. Thus PAME provides a unique forum for collaboration on a wide range of Arctic pollution preventive issues.

The PAME Working Group meets once a year to assess progress and develop work plans. PAME is headed by a chair and vice-chair and is supported by the International Secretariat.

PAME Goals

PAME reports to the Senior Arctic Officials that meet twice a year and, through them, to the Ministers of the Arctic Council that meet every two years.

The PAME working group addresses policy and non-emergency pollution prevention and control measures with the long term goal of protecting the Arctic marine environment from land and sea-based activities through coordinated action programmes and guidelines complementing existing legal arrangements.

PAME Objectives

PAME's objectives for 2006-2008 were developed according to its mandate and agreed priorities and are in line with the goals and objectives as outlined in the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan. The PAME Work Plan 2006-2008 identifies the following three objectives followed by a set of specific actions that outline the overall direction of the programme:

Improve knowledge and respond to emerging knowledge of the Arctic Marine Environment.

Determine the adequacy of applicable international / regional commitments and promote their implementation and compliance.

Facilitate partnerships, programme and technical cooperation and support communication, reporting and outreach both within and outside the Arctic Council.

PAME Activities

PAME will focus on the following main activities to accomplish its objectives:

Continue the comprehensive and integrated Arctic marine shipping assessment of current and future Arctic shipping. This will include activities such as finalizing the survey of marine activity for 2004, survey the regions of indigenous Arctic marine use including hunting, fishing, transport and other critical uses of the Arctic Ocean, project the level of marine activity for 2020 and 2050, conduct studies on risk, accident scenarios and responses to future Arctic marine activity and determine current and future social, economic, and environmental impacts of current and future Arctic marine activity.

Organize a workshop to assess the implementation of the Arctic Council Oil and Gas Guidelines (2002), and whether there are gaps and a need to update them in light of the findings and recommendations of the Arctic Council Marine Strategic Plan and the AMAP Oil and Gas Assessment.

Finalize the assessment of existing measures for port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residue and develop proposal for common guidelines based on gap analysis.

Monitor and consider any new climate change information to determine additional activities to be included in future work plans of PAME.

Initiate the work of the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) Experts Group with the aim to consider information requirements including suites of indicators of the changing states of Arctic LMEs to guide effective decision-making and compile an inventory of ecosystem-based projects and initiate the identification of LME approach for pilot assessment and management projects for the Arctic, for example the West Bering Sea, the Barents Sea and the Beaufort Sea.

Review and update the Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA 1998) and expand where necessary, taking into account new information since 1997.



The Arctic

The Arctic Ocean and its biota are generally clean in relation to other oceans and marginal seas. However, low temperatures, short growing season and the fact that there are fewer species to undertake degradation make the Arctic more vulnerable to long-range 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 threats 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.

PAME

The programme on Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) cooperates with the other working groups and a special initiative of the Arctic Council as follows:

Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP)

- Identification and assessment of pollution problems.

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

- conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of living resources.

Emergency, Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)

- Pollution prevention and control measures responding to environmental emergencies.

Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)

- Assessment of the relationship between pollution and health.

Arctic Council Action Plan to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic (ACAP)

- Project preparations on pollution prevention and control measures.

For information on Arctic Council programmes:
<http://www.arctic-council.org>

For more information contact:

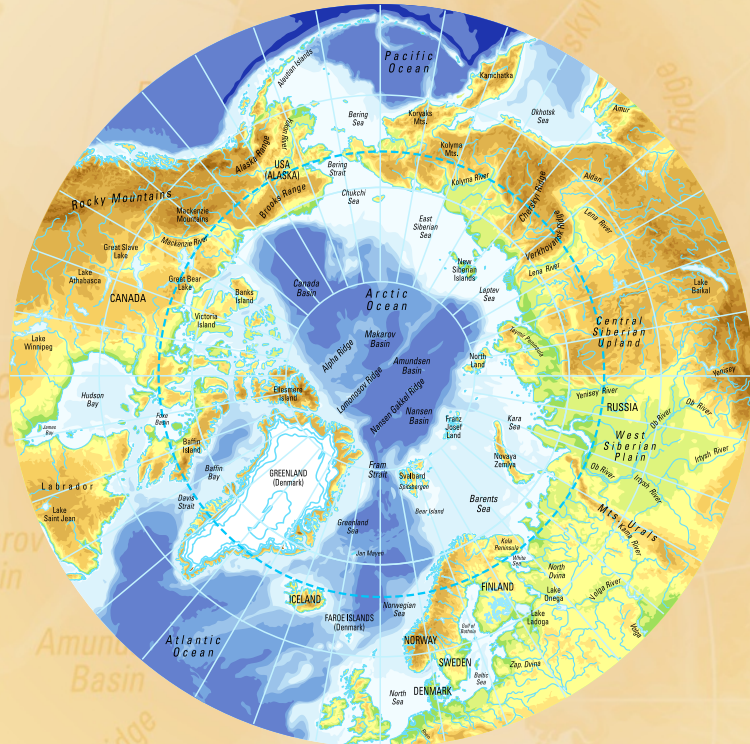
PAME International Secretariat

Borgir
Nordurlod
600 Akureyri
Iceland

Tel: +354 461 1355
Fax: +354 462 3390
Email: pame@pame.is
Internet: <http://www.pame.is>

PAME

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment



Source: Digital chart of the world; Institut Géographique National français (IGN)

PHILIPPE REKACEWICZ - UNEP/GRID-ARENDAL - NOVEMBER 2004

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Working Group of the Arctic Council
2006 - 2008

