



## Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) Phase II Project Plan

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*The Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) is a multi-phased project that will result in a review of the global and regional measures that are in place for the protection of the Arctic marine environment, and options to address any gaps or weaknesses. This project will address both sea and land-based activities influencing the state of the Arctic marine environment, and will result in a phase I report on existing measures (2011) and a final report with recommendations (2013) for endorsement by the Arctic Council Ministers.*

### **Table of Contents**

<i>I. INTRODUCTION .....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>II. OBJECTIVES.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>III. PHASE I DELIVERABLES .....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>IV. SCOPE AND APPROACH .....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>V. PROJECT MANAGEMENT.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>VI. OUTCOMES .....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>VII. MAIN COMPONENTS, TIMELINE AND MAJOR MILESTONES.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>ANNEX A - PROJECT MANAGEMENT .....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>ANNEX B - AOR PHASE II TIMELINE 2011-2013 .....</i>	<i>6</i>

## **I. Introduction**

The Arctic marine environment is subject to increasing pressures, resulting from climate change and pollution on the one hand, and from economic activities on the other. The Arctic Council is at the forefront of these emerging issues through the development of various in-depth reports and assessments, such as the State of the Arctic Environment Report, Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment, and Arctic Oil and Gas Assessment among others. Because of the work of the Arctic Council, the pressures to the Arctic marine environment can be better understood and are higher on the international agenda than in recent years. It is therefore timely to undertake a review of global and regional measures (voluntary and mandatory) that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment, as well as activities of the Arctic Council in order to clearly demonstrate Arctic states' stewardship efforts to the global community.

The AOR is encouraged by:

- The Arctic Marine Strategic Plan, adopted by the Arctic Council in 2004, provides the foundation for both the Arctic Council and PAME's mission and objectives. It specifically requires PAME to "Periodically review the status and adequacy of international/regional agreements and standards that have application in the Arctic marine environment, new scientific knowledge of emerging substances of concern, and analyze the applicability of a regional seas agreement to the Arctic" (Strategic Action 7.3.4).
- The common objectives and priorities for the Norwegian, Danish and Swedish chairmanships of the Arctic Council (2006-2013) has given high priority to the theme of integrated management, as well as ensuring a sustainable and ecosystem-based approach to resource development in the Arctic.
- Objective II of the PAME Work Plan 2009-2011 asks PAME to "Determine the adequacy of applicable international/regional commitments and promote their implementation and compliance".
- Commitments by the global community to sustainable development and protection of marine biodiversity and the marine environment through the application of the ecosystem approach and integrated coastal and ocean management.

## **II. Objectives**

The overall objective of the AOR is to provide guidance to Arctic Council Ministers as a means to support effective governance for the Arctic marine environment through cooperative, coordinated, and integrated approaches. The AOR will also play an important role in demonstrating Arctic States' stewardship efforts in the Arctic.

To recap, the Phase I and II objectives are as follows:

### Phase I Objectives (2009-2011):

- Compile information on global and regional measures that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment;
- Survey the status and trends in the Arctic marine environment in cooperation with other working groups of the Arctic Council;
- Disseminate compiled information through communication products/tools, and conduct outreach to both communicate efforts and obtain input;

- Prepare a compilation document that will review global and regional measures that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment and identify and highlight potential weaknesses. (This document will form the basis of discussion for the technical workshop); and,
- Develop a status report for Arctic Council Ministers.

Phase II Objectives (2011-2013):

- Take into account major new developments;
- Analyze potential opportunities in global and regional instruments and measures to achieving environmental, economic and socio-cultural outcomes;
- Outline options to address potential opportunities to strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment; and,
- Produce a final AOR Report to Arctic Council Ministers that will: summarize opportunities to strengthen global and regional instruments and measures for management of the Arctic marine environment; outline options to address these opportunities; and, make agreed recommendations to help ensure a healthy and productive Arctic marine environment in light of current and emerging trends.

### **III. Phase I Deliverables**

Phase I deliverables include convening an experts workshop (Fall 2010) that addressed the status of the Arctic marine environment and the potential weaknesses and/or impediments identified through reviewing global and regional measures that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment. The outcomes of this workshop, was presented in an AOR Summary Workshop report for the Senior Arctic Officials Meeting (Fall 2010).

In addition to finalizing an AOR Phase I report, the project leads also developed several communication products to demonstrate the Arctic Council's stewardship efforts including an AOR brochure, Outreach/Communication Strategy, and website.

### **IV. Scope and Approach**

The AOR will not initiate a new assessment, but will produce a report on the global and regional measures in place for the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment. The report will also include recent and ongoing activities of the Arctic Council. It may be necessary for the lead countries to revisit the scope and approach at a later date and whether the activities of other organizations need to be included.

Phase II (2011 – 2013):

This phase will analyze the information collected in Phase I with an emphasis on areas where the Arctic Council can effectively add value to the existing mechanisms of governance for the Arctic marine environment. An important question here is how the members of the Arctic Council can further develop and build on existing mechanisms that have proven to be effective.

### **V. Project Management**

The AOR is led by Canada, Iceland, Norway, Russia, and the United States. Project leadership will be provided by lead countries' Heads of Delegation (HoD) to whom the Lead Authors will report (see project structure - Annex A).

The overall responsibility of the Lead Authors is to coordinate and consolidate inputs received at relevant meetings (AOR and PAME meetings) and from the Chapter Authors as per the AOR Phase II timeline and integrate these inputs into consolidated draft versions of the AOR Report in collaboration with the co-lead countries and the PAME Secretariat.

The overall responsibility of the Chapter Authors is to draft their respective chapter taking into account the information collected in the AOR Phase I Report, major new relevant developments, including recent and ongoing activities of the Arctic Council and inputs from relevant meetings / workshops, and develop drafts as per the AOR Phase II timeline in collaboration with the Lead Authors.

PAME HoDs have updated their nominated points of contact within their respective governments to form the Project Expert Group for AOR Phase II. This expert group will contribute to the organization of the technical workshop/international conference and the production of documents and solicit input from Permanent Participants and other Arctic Council Working Groups.

## **VI. Outcomes**

### Phase II (2011 – 2013)

The challenges and opportunities in existing global and regional instruments and measures (voluntary and mandatory) which were identified in phase I (see report), will in phase II be analyzed in order to address the question how the members of the Arctic Council can further develop and build on existing mechanisms that have proven to be effective to solve these issues.

As a first step, consultants will be approached to prepare theme-based papers which will contain an analysis of the information contained in phase I. Theme-based workshops will be arranged, as necessary.

These papers, in addition to the phase I report will be the basis for a Phase II workshop and an international conference/workshop with the aim to further discuss potential ways to strengthen instruments and measures in 2012

The Phase II report will be based on the outcomes of the phase I report, the theme-based papers and the results of the international conferences/workshops. It will integrate this analysis with the objective of producing recommendations that outline opportunities for the Arctic Council to improve current mechanisms for the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment.

A final AOR Report will be presented for endorsement at the Arctic Council Ministers meeting in 2013, which will include advice and guidance for policy makers.

## **VII. Main Components, Timeline and Major Milestones**

### Phase II (2011-2013): Analysis of information and Reporting to the Arctic Council:

The second phase of this project will follow-up on the information collected in Phase I by analyzing potential opportunities in global and regional measures in place for the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment, including Arctic Council activities, and outline options to address these opportunities.

The major deliverable for Phase II will be a final report to Arctic Council Ministers that will summarize potential opportunities and the options to address them, as well as recommendations for endorsement by Arctic Council Ministers to help ensure a healthy, productive and safe Arctic marine environment in light of current and emerging trends.

1. Conduct an analysis of the information from the Phase I report to determine opportunities to strengthen:
  - a. Instruments and measures
  - b. Existing legislation, policy and guidelines; and
  - c. Develop new mechanisms as appropriate.
2. Prioritize opportunities in order of importance, to the extent possible, according to the degree of potential impact to the Arctic marine environment (includes the immediacy of occurrence, magnitude of impact, etc.)
3. Outline options to address opportunities
4. Provide advice to the Arctic Council Ministers.

Detailed timeline for AOR Phase II is in Annex B

## Annex A - Project Management

# AOR Phase II Project Management



## Annex B - AOR Phase II Timeline 2011-2013<sup>1</sup>

2011						
	June					
<b>Phase II</b>	<b>Phase II:</b> Terms of Reference (June 1 <sup>st</sup> ) Workshop Agenda (June 1 <sup>st</sup> ) Propose Project Manager Candidates (June 13 <sup>th</sup> ) Invitations for workshop (June 13 <sup>th</sup> )					
2011						
	July	August	September	October	November	December
<b>Meetings</b>			PAME II—2011 Workshop and AOR Conference (Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> )		SAO Meeting (Nov. 8 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> )	
<b>Reports</b>	-			PAME II- 2011 Summary Report	AOR P2, PAME Progress Reports to SAOs	
<b>Milestones</b>	<del>Secure Project Manager (July 18<sup>th</sup>)</del>  <del>Confirm Workshop Presenters (July 18<sup>th</sup>)</del>	<b>AOR</b> <del>-Update P1 report</del> <del>-P2 Outline</del>	-	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>October 2011 – January 2013:</b> Project Coordinator and Co-Leads to lead development of the Phase II Report and Recommendations, consulting with experts, etc. and facilitate negotiations on the Report and Recommendations.           </div>		

<sup>1</sup> May be adjusted in accordance with other planned Arctic Council-related meetings

2012						
	January	February	March	April	May	June
<b>Meetings</b>	Leads Meeting (TBC)		27-29 March SAO meeting in Washington D.C.	PAME I – 2012 (March/April - TBC)	Deputy Ministers Meeting (TBC)	
<b>Reports</b>			- Progress Report to PAME/SAO	Summary Report - PAME I, AOR		
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Chapter Abstracts Annotated Outlines</b> (end of Jan):		<b>First draft of chapters or detailed abstracts</b> (end of March)			<b><u>“zero” draft AOR report (rough first draft)</u></b>
2012						
	July	August	September	October	November	December
<b>Meetings</b>	Leads Meeting (TBC)		PAME II – 2012 Workshop/Conference (CANADA - TBC)		SAO Meeting (TBC)	Leads Meeting - Final Draft (TBC)
<b>Reports</b>			PAME II- 2012 - Summary Report	Reports to SAOs - AOR - PAME Progress		
<b>Milestones</b>			<b>1<sup>st</sup> draft AOR Report to include draft Recommendations</b>		<b>2nd draft AOR Report</b>	

2012						
	January	February	March	April	May	June
<b>Meetings</b>		PAME I – 2013 (TBC)	SAO MEETING (TBC)		AC Ministerial (TBC)	
	← <b>Intergovernmental Review Process</b> →					
<b>Reports</b>						
<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Final AOR Draft</b> - Revisions by Author  <b>Recommendations</b> - Final negotiations	AOR Report: - PAME WG Endorsement	AOR Report - SAO endorsement		AOR Report - AC Ministerial endorsement	