
Arctic Marine Litter Workshop Context and Guidance for Presenters

Akureyri, Iceland, 5-6 June 2018

The Project

The Desktop Study on Marine Litter including Microplastics in the Arctic project is under the auspices of the Arctic Council Working Group for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME). The project will be developed in two phases:

- Phase I (2017-2019): Scoping and Outreach Phase
 - Desktop Study on marine litter in the Arctic region with the aim to provide the current status on this issue
 - Develop outreach and communication
 - Explore international cooperation (e.g. UNEP/GPA on marine litter)
 - recommendations on next steps (e.g. outline for a Regional Action Plan on marine litter/plastics, including microplastics)
- Phase II (2019-2021): Implementation Phase
 - This Phase is subject to outcomes of Phase I and agreement on the recommendations on next steps.

The overall aim of the project is to:

- ✓ Evaluate the scope of marine litter in the Arctic, and its effects on the marine environment;
- ✓ Enhance knowledge and awareness of marine litter in the Arctic;
- ✓ Enhance cooperation by the eight Arctic Council member governments to reduce negative impacts of marine litter to the Arctic marine environment; and
- ✓ Contribute to the prevention and/or reduction of marine litter pollution in the Arctic and its impact on marine organisms, habitats, public health and safety, and reduce the socioeconomic costs it causes.

The Workshop

Objective

The objective of this Workshop is **to contribute to the development of the Phase I of the project and facilitate inputs to the development of the desktop study**, taking into account new developments and information as relevant.

Participants

Approximately 40-50 experts from all the key stakeholder groups (Member States, Permanent Participants, Observer States and organizations, scientists, academics) will be represented at the workshop.

Structure

The 2-day workshop will be based on expert presentations followed by facilitated discussions by participants. *The 1st draft of the Desktop Study on Marine Litter including Microplastics in the Arctic* has been posted on the workshop website ([here](#)) and is the **main document** which participants are expected to provide their experts' inputs and comments on with the aim to further advance this document and develop recommendations on next steps.

The workshop agenda is structured around the table of content of the desktop study as follows:

- Workshop session II correlates with the desktop study "Section II: Mandates"
- Workshop Session III correlates with the desktop study "Section III: Literature Review"
- Workshop Session IV: correlates with the desktop study "Section IV: Recommendations on Next Steps".

Facilitated discussions follow each workshop session with the aim to seek inputs from participants, including recommendations on next steps which will feed into the workshop session IV.

Presentations

Based on existing information/literature and the status of the *1st draft of the Desktop Study on Marine Litter including Microplastics in the Arctic*, presentations should:

- aim to summarize both status and emerging trends of their respective topic
- highlight possible omissions they see in this 1st draft and;
- set forth proposed recommendations on next steps to stimulate the discussion.

The presenters are encouraged to keep the aim of the project and its context in mind when developing and delivering their presentations and answering questions.

The presenters are asked to please submit a short bio/introduction on themselves (3-5 sentences max) and their presentation to the PAME Secretariat by 28 May to help facilitate the running of the workshop. All presentations will be made available on the PAME website after approval by the presenters.

Outcomes / Next Steps

The workshop Chair and moderator will work with the Project's co-leads and the PAME Secretariat to capture the recommendations of the workshop and produce an overview of the recommendations, which will be included in the revised 1. draft of the desktop study in the following weeks after the workshop. The outcomes of the workshop will contribute to the further developments of the 2nd draft of the desktop study, which will be presented to the PAME II-2018 meeting 1-4 October for comments and further revisions prior to submission to the Arctic Council Ministers in May 2019.