

Background from PAME MPA Framework on Definitions of MPAs and Other Measures

<http://www.pame.is/index.php/projects/marine-protected-areas>

Definition of MPA

Section 4.1 (page 11) defines, with reference to IUCN categories (Annex 3)

As defined by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature / World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN/WCPA), and as used in this framework, an

MPA is:

A clearly defined geographical space recognized, dedicated, and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.

All Arctic states have legal and policy tools for designating and managing MPAs in the Arctic that offer flexibility with respect to level of protection and management regime. IUCN has developed categories in order to compare protected areas at a global scale, and guidelines for applying these categories (See Annex 3).

Other Area Based Conservation Measures

The pan-Arctic MPA network is composed of spatial measures -- both MPAs and some “other effective area based conservation measures” (see Figure 3). Not every spatial management measure is part of the MPA network, as not all contribute to MPA network goals and objectives. The term “*other effective area-based conservation measure*”, as used in Aichi Target 11, was evolving as this framework was being developed. Generally the term is understood to refer to place-based / spatial conservation measures that have some protection under national or subnational law or policy, or regional management regime, but do not meet the IUCN definition of an MPA. These measures may also have a temporal component, such as areas protected during fish spawning or bird nesting periods. For our purposes, such measures may contribute to achievement of conservation objectives including MPA network objectives. It is anticipated that some fisheries management measures, important bird areas, critical habitat for species at risk, and conservation areas established by indigenous peoples may qualify as such measures. The other measures listed in Annex 4 are based on the working definition noted above. This list may be modified to align with the internationally accepted definition once it is finalized.