

Memo to meeting participants at the Joint Working Group meeting 10/08/2015

**Breakout session:** Biodiversity reporting and assessment: with a focus on the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) and its State of the Arctic Biodiversity Reports(CAFF lead)

### What is the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP)?

Arising out of recommendations from the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) and reinforced by the recommendations of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment and other Arctic Council projects, CAFF's [CBMP](#) is an international network of scientists, governments, Indigenous organizations and conservation groups working to harmonize and integrate efforts to monitor the Arctic's living resources. The goal is to facilitate more rapid detection, communication, and response to the significant biodiversity-related trends and pressures affecting the circumpolar world.

The CBMP organizes its efforts around the major ecosystems of the Arctic. It coordinates [marine](#), [freshwater](#), [terrestrial](#) and [coastal](#) monitoring activities while establishing [international linkages](#) to global biodiversity initiatives including the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEOBON). The CBMP emphasizes [data management \(through the Arctic Biodiversity Data Service\)](#), [capacity building](#), [reporting](#), [coordination and integration](#) of Arctic monitoring, and [communications, education and outreach](#).

The CBMP is facilitating an integrated, ecosystem-based approach to monitoring through the implementation of four **Steering Groups** and their respective **Arctic Biodiversity Monitoring Plans** (see: [marine](#), coastal, [freshwater](#), and [terrestrial](#)). These plans identify existing capacity to facilitate improved cost effective monitoring through enhanced integration and coordination. This will allow for earlier detection of disturbances and provide faster information delivery, and lead to more effective and efficient policy/management response.

### Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan

The [Arctic Biodiversity Monitoring Plan](#) represents agreement across Arctic nations on how to generate better results from existing monitoring efforts in Arctic marine ecosystems. It is designed to provide comprehensive and timely circumpolar information for effective decision-making. Implementation of the Marine Plan began in 2011 with creation of an inventory of Arctic marine biodiversity monitoring efforts and delineation of eight **Arctic Marine Areas** for the purposes of reporting and comparison. The Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan selected **Focal Ecosystem Components** to monitor at various trophic levels using specific parameters, methodologies, indicators and sampling designs drawn from existing monitoring capacity and data. **Marine Expert Networks** (MENS) work to implement the Plan at various trophic levels: [sea ice biota](#), [plankton](#), [benthos](#), [fishes](#), [seabirds](#), and [marine mammals](#).



### The State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report

The State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report will be the first product from the implementation of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan and is scheduled for release in 2017. Freshwater and terrestrial reports are scheduled to follow in 2018. After these initial reports, the groups will synchronize and report every five years. The

marine report will present baselines and where possible trends in Arctic marine biodiversity at different trophic levels and by Arctic Marine Areas.

**General questions:**

1. How can both the monitoring of biodiversity and the application of its findings be better mainstreamed into the work of the Arctic Council, and how can the other working groups become more involved and improve the profile of biodiversity in their work?
  - Task: provide potential suggestions on how to better integrate biodiversity monitoring and assessment and use of its findings into the work of the Arctic Council.
2. Limited resources lead to limited capacity for country experts to participate, despite the interest and enthusiasm for multilateral cooperation that can lead to better coordination and exchange of scientific work and understanding. What can be done to improve this situation and how can we improve synergies between working groups to reduce expert fatigue and the perception of overlap?
  - Task: provide potential suggestions on how to build capacity for participation of experts.

**Specific questions:**

3. How can the findings of the State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity report be best conveyed to key audiences? Target audiences include: a) Arctic policy and decision-makers, b) scientific and research community, 3) residents of the Arctic, 4) industry operating in the Arctic. Please note that Indigenous audiences are found throughout these four categories. What type and format of presenting findings would be most useful to these key audiences, including AC and its WGs?
  - Task: provide a list of ideas on how to best convey SAMBR findings to these audiences
4. How can the CBMP through its products (e.g. the State of the Marine Biodiversity Report) be used to advance Ecosystem Based Management in the Arctic?
  - Task: provide a list of ideas on this might be accomplished