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ArcNet

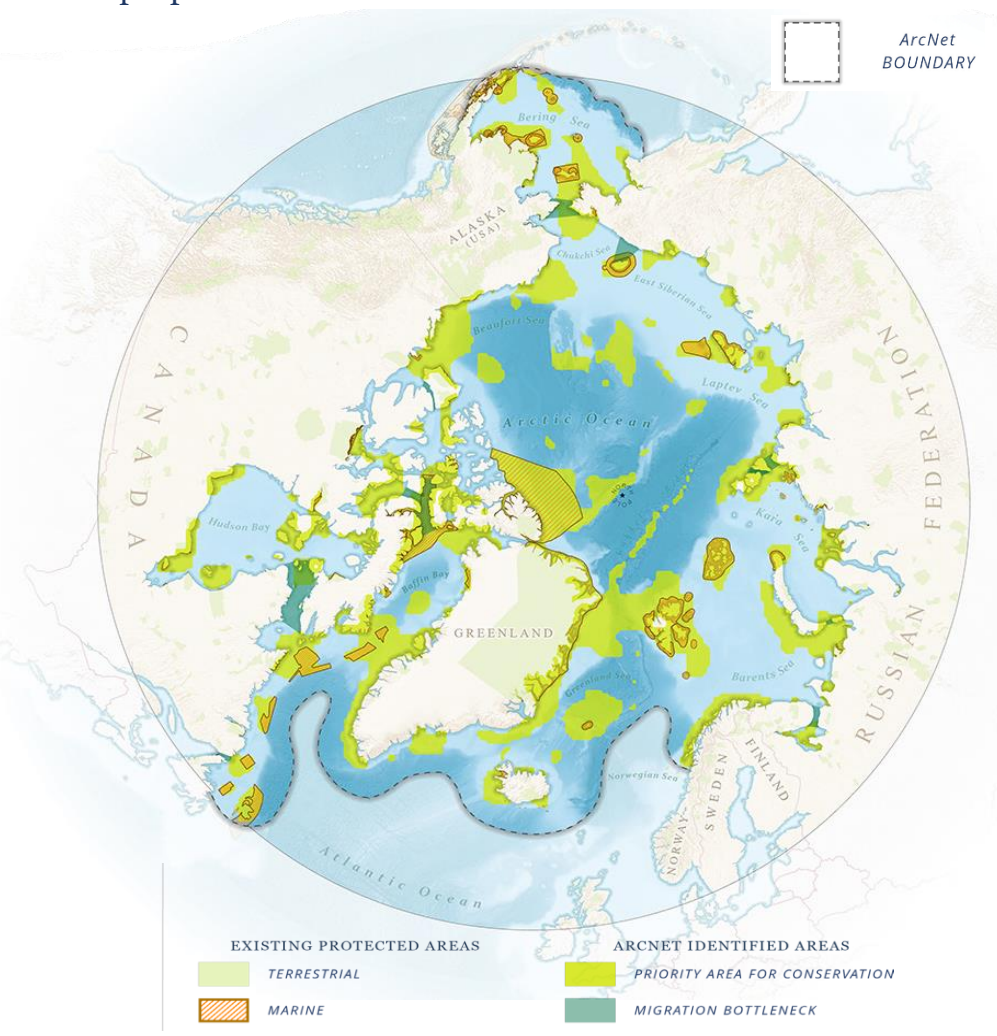
AN ARCTIC OCEAN NETWORK OF PRIORITY AREAS FOR CONSERVATION

The Arctic Ocean is transforming as sea ice melts due to climate change and increasing industrial development is exposing more and more marine life to risks in this vulnerable and rapidly changing part of the world.

ArcNet – supports governments and marine stakeholders as they work together to build a future where Arctic marine life is strengthened in the face of rapidly increasing pressures in the region. A cooperatively established Network will support marine species, ecosystems and their contributions to the global wellbeing of nature and people.

What is ArcNet?

- A mapped vision of an Arctic Ocean network of Priority Areas for Conservation that can be used as a concrete proposal for marine planning and management;
- A comprehensive and systematically designed conservation network that considers the Arctic Ocean’s entire marine ecosystem and accounts for the key functions, needs and benefits of its’ unique wildlife;
- A transparent approach that can be reproduced with a set of tools to support open and inclusive cooperation between governments and marine stakeholders as they work together to establish priority areas for conservation; and
- An iterative engagement process that allows for establishing, adjusting, and managing the Network over time as the Arctic and its marine life adapt to rapid change.



Why ArcNet matters



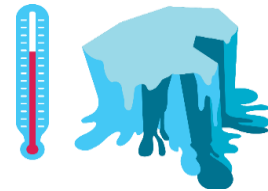
THRIVING WITH LIFE

The Arctic marine environment is still relatively intact. Thirty-four species of marine mammals and 633 species of fish call the Arctic home. Thirty species of marine birds breed only in the Arctic.



DEVELOPMENT IS GROWING

Industrial development including shipping, and oil and gas, is increasing in the Arctic as sea ice melts. We need to proactively protect and connect the areas most critical for wildlife and coastal communities, and ensure future development is done in a sustainable way.



CLIMATE CHANGE IS A THREAT

By identifying areas critical for marine wildlife that need to be protected and connected across the Arctic Ocean we can help provide for their long-term survival and resilience to climate change.



LAGGING ON PROTECTION

We need to protect and connect important areas across international borders where Arctic marine life gathers to feed and breed. Arctic marine life supports livelihoods, cultures, food security and allows for adaptation to change.

In 2015 The Arctic Council agreed to a *Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas*. Five years later, there is an urgency to move forward and establish this network. Efforts need to significantly ramp up to achieve the United Nations' expected new target to protect 30 per cent of coastal marine areas by 2030.



COOPERATION IS KEY

ArcNet does not replace country-level marine conservation planning, and because it takes the entire Arctic ecosystem into account, produces different results. Country level and Arctic scale planning can inform each other to achieve more effective conservation.

Governments, marine experts, Indigenous Peoples and local communities must come together across borders and cultures to protect the Arctic Ocean and the life it holds.

How to get involved

The Arctic is a sustainably- and cooperation-minded region and this is our chance to get it right from the beginning with a pre-cautionary approach to conservation. WWF invites governments, biodiversity experts, marine scientists, and local and Indigenous knowledge holders to become partners in establishing a network of Arctic Ocean Priority Areas for Conservation.

To become a part of ArcNet, please contact us at info@arcticwwf.org

Go to arcticocean.org to learn more and sign up to receive updates about the project.



Working to sustain the natural world for the benefit of people and wildlife.

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