

STUDY GUIDE



PAME - Working Group

Protection of the Arctic Marine environment

*Economic exploitation of the Arctic ocean:
safety, security and stewardship*



ONE ARCTIC

THE SIOI INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
SIMULATION OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

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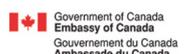


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Introduction of the Arctic Council

The Arctic is generally defined as the region within the Arctic Circle, the line of latitude that runs 66 degrees, 33' 44" (or 66.5622 degrees) north of the Equator. Geographically, the Arctic Circle includes the Arctic Ocean and land areas in parts of Canada, Finland, Greenland (as part of Denmark), Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States (Alaska).



The Arctic Council is the forerunning forum for policy on the Arctic, as it is comprised of 8 Member States (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and USA) with territorial claims to the Arctic Circle through UNCLOS. The Arctic Council was founded with the signing of the Ottawa Declaration in 1996 following the sentiment of the APES declaration. In addition to the Member States, 6 Indigenous peoples' organisations sit in the Council as Permanent Participants, with full consultation rights. Furthermore, 12 non-Arctic states, 9 intergovernmental and inter-parliamentary organisations and 11 NGOs have the status of Observers.

Nature and Scope of the Arctic Council

The Arctic Council is a pure intergovernmental forum: there is not a common budget, and all projects and initiatives are financed directly by the governments or other organisations. For the same reason, every kind of military or security issue is excluded by the Council's agenda. Nevertheless, the Council is not even a mere series of meetings, since it has developed through the years semi-permanent and permanent structures. Chairmanship rotates every two years between the 8 Member States. Currently, Chairmanship is held by the United States, with a program that focused on three areas: Improving economic and living conditions for Arctic Communities; Arctic Oceans safety, security and stewardship; addressing the impacts of climate change; raising awareness about the Arctic region. The United States program also focused on strengthening cooperation and enhancing the ACS, as well as promoting recordkeeping and the gathering and transparency of data. In May 2017, the Chairmanship will pass to Finland.

Moreover, In 2011, the Arctic Council passed the Nuuk Declaration, which included the *Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic*, the first legally binding document from the body. This increase in legitimacy for the agreements made by the Arctic Council is explained by the rapidity of the changes experienced in the region. Other Arctic Member States have seen the treaties as a way to achieve better coordination on the challenges faced by the region. The goal of improving coherency and efficiency of the body also led to the creation of the Arctic Council Secretariat (ACS), a permanent structure established in 2013 and located in Tromsø, Norway.

Within the Council there is also an Indigenous Peoples Secretariat (IPS) as a support for the many native organizations with participant status through providing them with materials and avenues to push their goals. A strong tool for these groups is the 2007 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which focuses on their right to have the faculty to participate in “strengthening their distinct political, social and economic” systems.

Structure and Procedures of the Arctic Council

The work of the Arctic Council is mainly articulated through three formats: the Working Groups, the Senior Arctic Official (SAO) Meetings and the Ministerial Meetings.

Working Groups

Within the Council, six working groups are mandated to work on separate environmental and developmental issues:

- **Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP)**
- Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)
- Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)
- **Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)**
- **Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)**
- **Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)**

The Working Groups are composed of expert representatives from sectoral ministries, government agencies and researchers. Each group operates with a specific mandate and have a Chair and Management Board, supported by a Secretariat. Each groups usually meets twice a

year and regularly produce reports, assessments and recommendations on a variety of topics within their field, promote projects and constantly follow-up on the status of their work.

SAO Meetings

SAO meetings are held three or four times per year: Senior Arctic Officials are government representatives of the Member States, usually envoys of Ministries of Foreign Affairs. During the meetings, the results of the Working Groups are presented and all decisions are taken by consensus of the Member States. Permanent Participants have the right to express their opinions on the issues that are discussed. Observer members can be present as well, but without consultation rights. Every year, a report is produced for the Ministers. The last SAO meeting was held in Juneau, Alaska (US) on March 8th – 9th, 2017.

Ministerial Meetings

Held every two years, the Ministerial Meetings mark the end of each Chairmanship and is held in the country whose mandate is ending. During the meeting, members of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (mainly, but not exclusively) assess the results of the work of the Council since the previous meeting and set the goals for the next two years, which are summed up in a Declaration that will take the name of the city that hosts the meeting. The next Ministerial meeting will be held in Fairbanks, Alaska, on May 10th 2017.

PAME: HISTORY AND OBJECTIVES

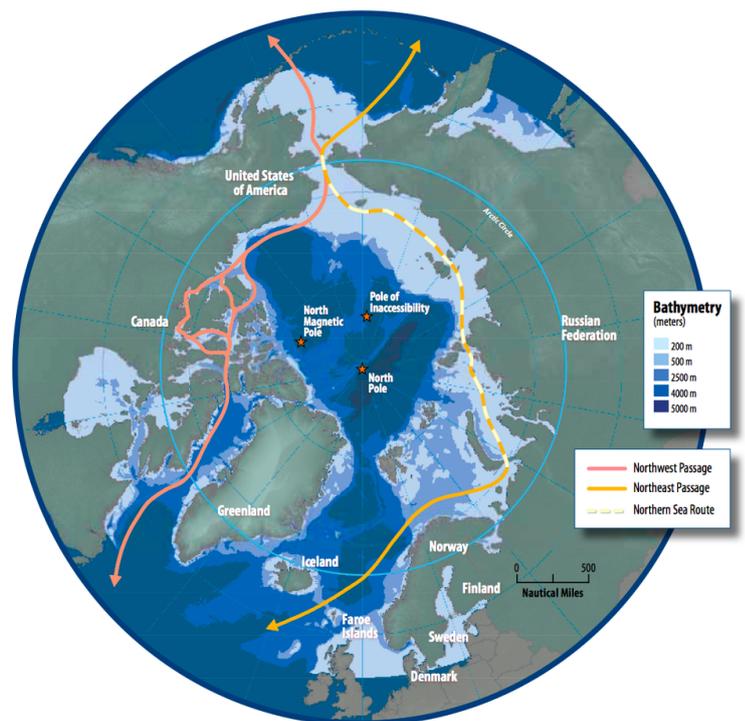
PAME is one of six Arctic Council working groups and was first created under the 1991 Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy and was continued by the [1996 Ottawa Charter](#), which established the Arctic Council.

Through the recommendation of the Senior Arctic Officials (SAO), the PAME Working Group executes bi-annual work plans approved by the Arctic Council. Through such plans, PAME addresses policy and non-emergency response measures related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment from land and sea-based activities. These measures include circumpolar and regional coordinated actions, programmes and guidelines, complementing existing international arrangements.

The PAME Working Group consists of National Representatives responsible for its work in their respective countries. Permanent Participants, representing Arctic indigenous groups, also participate in PAME, as well as representatives of several observer countries and interested organizations. The PAME Working Group is a platform that encourages the collaboration on a wide array of Arctic marine environmental issues. PAME is headed by a chair and vice-chair. These positions rotate among the Arctic countries and is supported by an International Secretariat, based in Akureyri, Iceland. PAME works with the Senior Arctic Officials directly, and through them, to the Ministers of the Arctic Council that meets every two years.

ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION OF THE ARCTIC OCEAN: OVERVIEW

The Arctic is currently undergoing many transformations that will significantly impact the Arctic region and the world. Many of these transformations are being steered mostly by connecting forces of climate change and the escalation of daily human actions and activities. As a result, the Arctic region is changing quickly. Environmental models suggest that nearly ice-free Arctic Ocean is likely to happen before the middle of the century. Since 1980, warming in the Arctic has heightened



twice the global average. Among one of the first regions in the world to experience the reality of climate change and its impacts, the Arctic region serves as an indicator for change in the rest of the world. Going past the impacts to the Arctic region itself, changes in the Arctic are expediting the speed of global warming in the world.

“Climate change, ocean acidification and long range transport of pollution are all mostly a result of activities outside the Arctic region, while increased activity within the Arctic is contributing to increased pressures and risks.” (PAME, AMSP 2015-2025)

A warming Arctic will have major environmental and health ramifications for the world as a whole, including sea-level rise, release of stored chemicals and greenhouse gases into the environment, and impacts on biodiversity. These include migratory species for which the Arctic has provided a fundamental habitat which is crucial during their life cycles. Moreover, climate change also significantly affects the life of Arctic communities: Rising sea levels and a reduction in sea ice increase the exposure of coastal settlements to storms and waves.

As the warming continues in the region, melting sea ice will grant easier access to some parts of the Arctic region: This new access will create potential for increased maritime transport, greater exploitation of natural resources such as oil and gas, minerals, fisheries, and tourism. While this means that important economic opportunities are emerging, many significant challenges will need to be dealt with: namely, being able to monitor a continuously changing situation, minimising environmental risk and support the adaptation strategies of the Arctic communities while promoting the development of the region.

THE ARCTIC COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM

All projects and actions taken by the Arctic Council and its working groups are normally based on long-run strategies. The [first Arctic Marine Strategic Plan \(AMSP\)](#) for the years 2005-2015 had four objectives: reduce and prevent pollution in the Arctic marine environment; conserve Arctic marine biodiversity and ecosystem functions; promote the health and prosperity of all Arctic inhabitants; advance sustainable Arctic marine resource use.

The main sectors in which PAME is working for implementing these objectives are four: Shipping, Marine Protected Areas, Ecosystem Approach to management, Oil and Gas. Of course, reports and strategies proposed and implemented by the Arctic Council are often cross-sectoral; the fields of competence of each working group, also, are deeply connected and they often overlap. Although PAME's focus is on the marine environment, the work of the Arctic Council (AC from now on) should be considered as a whole and inputs from the other working groups will be considered in this section.

Arctic Shipping: safety and environmental issues

High commodity prices and growing worldwide demand have driven the increase in shipping routes and traffic in the region. The bulk of the traffic depends on trade routes, exploration and extraction of oil, gas and hard minerals, but tourism has also been increasing over the years. Moreover, as already mentioned, global warming and its effects on Arctic ice have a considerable effect on the shipping sector, granting longer seasons of navigation and opening new routes.

The main output of PAME's work in this field was the [2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment](#) (AMSA) report, which included the first survey on shipping vessels in the region, and aimed to thoroughly assess strengths and weaknesses of the shipping sector and its impact on the ecosystem. The reports stressed the lack of marine infrastructure in the region, and indicated the possibility of accidental or illegal oil release in the Arctic waters as one of the main threats connected to the increase in ship traffic, in a context of limited emergency response capacity. On these bases, AMSA also included a broad set of recommendations which were and still are very influential in shaping today's AC strategies, which can be summarized as follows:

- Increase the cooperation with International Organisations and promote the adoption of standardised measures and regimes on Arctic shipping.
- Promote the collection and sharing of hydrographic, meteorological and oceanographic data, as well as data on marine use by indigenous communities.
- Identify areas of “Heightened Ecological and Cultural Significance” in order to protect key Arctic marine areas more effectively.
- Increase environmental response capacity and enhance cooperation on oil spill prevention.
- Assess the impact of climate change and human activity on Arctic fauna, as well as the risk of introducing invasive species.
- Develop practices and innovative technologies in order to reduce air emissions caused by ships.

Many concrete measures by both International Organisations and the Arctic countries followed these recommendations. Part of those will be covered in the next sections. Most significant achievements include:

- **Marine safety:** In 2011, the first binding agreement under the auspices of the AC was signed, the *Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue*

in the Arctic (described in section 4.4). Moreover, the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) adopted the International [Code of Safety for Ships Operating in Polar Water \(Polar Code\)](#), which entered into force in January 2017 and includes mandatory measures about safety and pollution prevention in shipping-related matters.

- **Pollution Prevention and response capacity:** The need for a common action induced the AC to create in 2014 the Task Force on Oil Pollution Prevention (TFOPP), which developed a concrete plan and proposed the necessary cooperative arrangements to implement it. Although not legally binding, the output of the task force - the Framework Plan for Cooperation on Prevention of Oil Pollution from Petroleum and Maritime Activities in the Marine Areas of the Arctic – is a step ahead as it sets a standard of cooperation and information exchange in the field of maritime pollution prevention. EPPR, the working group in charge of emergency prevention and response, has produced guidelines, especially for the oil sector. Further actions are described in the Oil and Gas section.
- **Tourism:** PAME launched in 2015 the [Arctic Marine Tourism Project \(AMTP\)](#), which provides a first set of guidelines which takes into account the regional specificities and vulnerabilities of the Arctic region and expresses the need of promoting business while protecting the ecosystem and the life of indigenous communities.
- **Indigenous communities:** The [Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities \(MEMA\) Project](#) was started by PAME in 2015 and is currently ongoing. The project aims to collect information and provide recommendations for the successful inclusion of indigenous communities in all Arctic marine activities, from shipping to coastal infrastructure development, as well as offshore oil and gas activities and research. The project team is currently proposing to extend the project's duration, so the full report is not yet ready.
- **Ecosystem protection:** in a fragile ecosystem such as the Arctic, the introduction of new species can be dangerous. This can happen because of ships, through the phenomenon of ballast water discharging and hull fouling. In 2015, the Arctic countries followed AMSA's advice and signed IMO's [International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments](#).



Oil and Gas Extraction: threats and opportunities

The Arctic region currently accounts for roughly 10% of the world's oil production and 25% of world's natural gas (of which respectively 80% oil and probably almost all gas are in Russian territory and waters). Moreover, a part of onshore and offshore oil and gas fields are not even in production, yet. The estimates for undiscovered oil reserves located in the Arctic predict that the region holds 30% of the world's untapped natural gas, which is promising for investors and countries alike. However, this opportunity for development comes with dangerous risks for the surrounding ecosystem and preventative measures are needed to avoid unfortunate outcomes. There have been several incidents that have called into question the security of Arctic oil development such as the 2006 Prudhoe Bay oil spills which resulted in over one million liters of oil spilled in the tundra of Alaska. This environmental disaster took five days to be discovered, causing one of the largest oil spills in Alaskan history and widespread environmental damage. The spillage had damaging effects on the biodiversity of the region, including limiting the migratory range and killing individual animals from many migratory species such as caribou.

Although onshore extraction activities can significantly affect the marine ecosystem, PAME's work also focuses on offshore activities. PAME released the [Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines \(AOOGG\)](#) in 2009. The main purpose of these guidelines are to be of use to the Arctic nations for offshore oil and gas activities during planning, exploration, development, production and decommissioning to help secure common policy and practices. However, the goal of the guidelines was to assist regulators in developing standards which should be applied to all offshore Arctic oil and gas operators. The guidelines suggest that oil and gas activities and regulations should be guided by the following principles, stemming from international law (namely the UN's 1992 Rio Declaration) and environmental economics:

- **Precautionary approach:** Absence of scientific consensus should not be a reason for postponing cost effective measures for protecting the environment in case of a threat of serious or irreversible damage.
- **Polluter pays:** The polluter should, within reasonable limits, bear the cost of pollution.
- **Continuous improvement:** Constant effort should be exerted in terms of data collection and technological advancement in order to improve human and environmental safety.
- **Sustainable development:** minimisation of risks and environmental costs should be a priority, to be achieved through the use of best available technologies and environmental practices, as well as through a broad public participation in decision-making.

The report stated that the Arctic marine environment was still “largely pristine” with respect to oil hydrocarbons and that exploration activities were less intense and invasive. However, it also predicted an increase in risk due to the increase in activities in the following years. Oil spills are considered the major threat, and the report pointed out the lack of adequate response standards and practices, especially in conditions of ice and snow: emergency intervention can be impossible or very difficult in harsh conditions - namely during winter - and specific measures and expertise are needed in that case. This problem was later specifically addressed by EPPR in 2015 through a [Guide to Oil Spill Response in Snow and Ice conditions](#). In addition to oil and air emissions from extraction, the use and discharge of various chemicals involved in the extraction activities is described as another potential threat. Close monitoring and constant impact assessment were recommended by PAME in order to minimise damage and intervene when and where necessary.

A milestone in the field of cooperation for Arctic environmental protection was the second binding agreement signed in 2013 by the Arctic states, the *Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic*. According to the treaty, each country has to maintain its own national incident response system for oil pollution, as well as a minimum amount of pre-positioned equipment in order to intervene promptly and a monitoring system. Further details are provided in section 4.4.

PAME followed up the topic through various initiatives, especially on the side of monitoring and prevention. The main outcome of the working group in the field was the [2014 AOOGG Safety Systems Management and Safety Culture](#), which provides a detailed strategy for increasing risk assessment activities and security measures in order to prevent oil spilling episodes. Moreover,

PAME launched a web portal, [AOOG Management, Regulation and Enforcement \(MRE\)](#), a centralized information resource on oil and gas activities accessible to the public, which provides documents, statistics and information by topic and by country.

Sustainable Business Management in Key Areas

In the last decades, a consensus was progressively built around the idea that, as human activities develop and become more complex, only a cross-sectoral approach to planning and management of these activities can be effective in reducing conflicts between different sectors and increase efficiency. The [Ecosystem Approach \(EA\)](#), also called Ecosystem-based Management (EBM), was adopted as an overarching principle and approach by Arctic Council Ministers in 2004 as part of the AMSP. The concept of an Ecosystem Approach to management has been around for 30 years but elaborated and further developed. PAME defines EA as:

"An integrated ecosystem-based management approach requires that development activities be coordinated in a way that minimizes their impact on the environment and integrates thinking across environmental, socioeconomic, political and sectoral realms. The management of resource activities needs to be focused on realistic, practical steps that are directed toward reducing environmental damage, protecting biodiversity and promoting the health and prosperity of local communities. For such an approach to be successful, the relevant ecosystems need to be better understood, monitored and reported on. Actions must be based on clear objectives and a sound management structure, employing best available knowledge and practices, integrated decision-making and, where appropriate, a coordinated, regional approach."

There are 6 elements to PAME's EA to management:

- Identify the Ecosystem
- Describe the Ecosystem
- Setting Ecological Objectives
- Assess the Ecosystem
- Value the Ecosystem
- Manage Human Activities

Complementarily to this approach, the AC and PAME have developed and identified through the years various categories of special zones for the Arctic marine environment, in order to channel efforts more efficiently and develop targeted actions for the most vulnerable parts of the ecosystem.

[Large Marine Ecosystems \(LMEs\)](#) are defined as regions of the Ocean which are larger than 200,000 km² and can include coastal areas and river basins or estuaries. The great advantage of defining a category such as LMEs is that different regions can be monitored and compared on the basis of the same criteria. In addition to this, the concept of Area of Heightened Ecological and Cultural Significance was developed within the LME framework.

In 2015, PAME released the framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of [Marine Protected Areas \(MPAs\)](#). This framework encompasses a common vision for international cooperation in MPA network development and management, based on best practices and previous Arctic Council initiatives. It also aims to inform the development of MPAs (and its networks) that are located within the national jurisdiction of Arctic States, and arranges for future collaborative planning, management and actions for the conservation and protection of the Arctic marine environment.

The two binding agreements

As the rate of Arctic maritime activity increases, so does the need for specialized accident response. The [Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic](#) was put in place in May 2011 and is the first international agreement made by the Arctic Council. The agreement assigns each member state a particular Search and Rescue area that the member state is responsible for. In addition, the agreement seeks to develop specific actions to be taken when accidents occur in the Arctic region. For example, each member state must identify a Search and Rescue authority within its government and commit to working with other signatory countries when appropriate. One significant clause of the Agreement is Article 8, which requires each country to ask permission when a government rescue vessel enters the designated area of another State and that the country which receives the request shall let the requesting vessels know if the request is permitted and under which conditions, if any.

The [Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic](#), the Council's second binding agreement was signed by all eight Arctic nations on May

15, 2013. In the event of an oil spill in the Arctic region, this new agreement will assist countries in working together to handle the situation. This agreement sets out guidelines for things like communication between countries, coordinating workers for the task and laying out the responsibilities for each nation. This agreement also means that the Arctic countries are required to notify each other in the event of an oil spill, regardless of what the source of the oil spill is or where it came from in the Arctic. Moreover, the treaty allows the country to formally request help from each other in the case of an incident. The potential for an oil spill in the Arctic is a very probable situation because of increased economic opportunity in the Arctic from the melting polar ice. For example, more oil and gas development means more oil tankers in Arctic water, which opens up the possibility of an oil spill.

FUTURE PERSPECTIVES FOR THE ARCTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The Arctic Marine Strategic Plan 2015-2025

A [second Arctic Marine Strategic Plan](#) for the next decade has been developed by PAME. The AMSP agrees that climate change, ocean acidification and long range transport of pollution are all mostly a result of activities outside the Arctic region. Social, environmental, and economic changes occurring in many Arctic societies are affecting the culture and ways of life of the people in the Arctic - especially indigenous peoples. These changes can be expected to affect human health and health of the marine environment.

As already mentioned, climate change has affected the Arctic more rapidly and fundamentally than other regions in the world. Following the 2007 UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the AMSP recognizes climate change by far as the most serious threat to the Arctic ecosystem as a whole, including its biodiversity.

As mentioned, increasing economic activity is another driver of change in the Arctic. Oil and gas production, mining, shipping, fishing, aquaculture and tourism is already taking place in the Arctic and can further facilitate social and economic development of the Arctic communities through increased infrastructure investment, increased tax revenues for local and state budgets and other measures aimed at increasing employment and attracting new human capital in the region.

The plan addresses both short-term and long-term challenges and opportunities through 40 Strategic Actions comprised under 4 Strategic Goals:

- Improve **knowledge** of the Arctic Marine Environment.
- Protect the **ecosystem**.
- Continue to promote **sustainable** development.
- Protect the well-being and enhance the inclusion of Arctic **indigenous** people

Strengthening Knowledge

PAME and the whole AC have made remarkable efforts to improve the understanding of the Arctic ecosystem, gathering data and sharing information between countries. The AMSP has the ambition to improve upon all of these points, continuing to promote the creation of standards for data sharing and management and enhance the forecasting capacities. The plan clearly states that the knowledge of Arctic marine ecosystem and biodiversity is still fragmentary. PAME stresses constantly the importance of gathering, sharing and disseminating reliable data in order to improve coordination between states in a constantly changing Arctic environment, and spreading awareness about Arctic issues within and outside the region.

Which further steps should be taken in order to have a full picture of the Arctic marine environment? Which data should be gathered? Which kind of data should be shared between the Member States, and which should be open to the public?

Protecting the Ecosystem

As for the ecosystem protection, the establishment of the EBM approach and, within it, of LMEs and Areas of Heightened Ecological and Cultural Significance provides a powerful framework: further steps are needed in order to identify threats and opportunities within each key area in order to develop short-term and long-term (possibly common) measures to combat climate change and negative externalities from human activities. Crucial, in this, will be the further development of the already mentioned MPEs within each country.

How is the status of implementation of the key areas' mapping process within the Member States? How to actively involve the Arctic communities in both assessing environmental risks and finding solutions?

Sustainable Development

EBM will be the framework through which plans for the conservation and use of living and non-living resources will be assessed and implemented. Data collection and research on polluting activities and pollutants need to be pushed further and cooperation on pollution prevention and shipping safety needs to be strengthened not only between the Arctic countries, but with industries, businesses and all relevant stakeholders, including environmental organizations and Arctic inhabitants. Moreover, since tourism is likely to be a growing part of Arctic economic activities, and the development of the sectors and its externalities (both positive and negatives) must be closely monitored.

What is the status of the research about sustainable resource extraction paths in the Arctic? Which safety protocols should be developed or improved? Which are the best practices for cooperating with industries and businesses?

Supporting indigenous communities

Increasingly fast changes in climate and economy makes it necessary for the AC to work on supporting the adaptation process that the Arctic population will undergo through the years. Projects such as MAME will be crucial as they take care of both collecting data – in order to favor research and monitor the status and well-being of the arctic population – and promoting the inclusion of the Arctic communities in crucial economic activities, including oil and gas extraction. At the same time, traditional knowledge of the indigenous communities should be kept considering as including in promoting their economic, social and cultural well-being.

How are the indigenous communities coping with the changes in the Arctic? Which strategies should be adopted in order to support them and what is the place of traditional knowledge in this process? What strategies have proven to be effective for a successful inclusion of the indigenous communities in the new economic activities in the Arctic?

REFERENCES

Arctic Council - General

[Arctic Council website](#) - The FAQ section offers a good overview of the structure of the Council.

[Arctic Council archive](#)

[Acronym list](#)

Arctic Council - Documents

[Arctic Council Declarations 1996-2015](#)

[*Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic \(2011\)*](#)

[*Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic \(2013\)*](#)

[SAO Final Report 2015](#)

[SAO Summary Report \(Portland Oct. 2016\)](#)

[SAO Plenary Meeting Agenda \(Juneau, Mar. 2017\)](#)

PAME - General

[PAME website](#)

[PAME reports](#)

PAME - Documents and Projects

[Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment \(AMSA 2009\) and related documents](#)

[AMSA 2009 Status of Implementation Report \(2015\)](#)

[Arctic Ocean Review \(AOR\) 2009-2013](#)

[Arctic Marine Tourism Project \(AMTP\)](#)

[Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines \(AOOGG, 2009\)](#)

[AOOGG Safety Systems Management and Safety Culture \(2014\)](#)

[Meaningful Engagement in Marine Activities \(MEMA\) Project](#)

[Ecosystem Approach \(EA\) - Concept Paper](#)

[Marine Protected Areas \(MPAs\) Framework Report 2015](#)

[Arctic Marine Strategic Plan \(AMSP\)](#)

[Pame Work Plan 2015-2017](#)

[PAME first 2017 meeting report](#)

Other Documents

[United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea \(UNCLOS, 1982\)](#)

[Code of Safety for Ships Operating in Polar Water \(Polar Code, 2014\)](#)

[AMAP - Arctic Ocean Acidification Assessment, Summary \(2013\)](#)

[AMAP - Arctic Pollution Issues, Summary \(2015\)](#)

[AMAP - Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic, Summary \(SWIPA, 2015\)](#)

[AMAP - Arctic Climate Issues, Summary \(2015\)](#)

Useful Links

[Arctic Finland](#) - Official website for the Finnish Arctic Policy.

[The Arctic](#) - Website supported by the Russian Geographical Society.

[Arctic Program](#) - NOAA's Arctic Program website.

[UArctic](#) - University of the Arctic website.

[Arctic Circle](#) - The Arctic Circle Forum website.

MANDATORY READING

[Arctic Council Founding Declaration \(Ottawa, 1996\)](#)

[Arctic Council Rules of Procedure](#)

[Working Group Common Operating Guidelines
Arctic Marine Strategic Plan \(AMSP\) 2015-2025](#)

[SAO Final Report 2015](#) - see pages 4-5, 31-35, 68-72, 77-78, 110-117, 131-147

[SAO Summary Report Oct. 2016](#) - See sections 4.1, 5, 6.5, 8, 11.2, 12.1

[SAO Plenary Meeting Agenda \(Juneau, Mar. 2017\)](#) - See section 3.2

It is also required to be familiar with the following documents:

[AMSA 2009 Status of Implementation Report \(2015\)](#)

[Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines \(AOOGG, 2009\)](#)

[Ecosystem Approach \(EA\) - Concept Paper](#) - Also see the [EA Brochure](#)
[Marine Protected Areas \(MPAs\) Framework Report 2015](#)