

## A report on the Arctic Council



On behalf of  
the Norwegian Oil and Gas Association



Prepared by i-Sea AS

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## The Arctic Council

### 1.0 The history

In 1996, the Ottawa Declaration <http://library.arcticportal.org/1270/> formally established the Arctic Council as a high-level intergovernmental forum to provide a means for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, with the involvement of the Arctic Indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues; in particular, issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic <http://www.state.gov/e/oes/ocns/opa/arc/ac/index.htm>.

### 2.0 The Chairmanship

The Chairmanship of the Arctic Council rotates between the eight Arctic States every two years. The Chairmanship coordinates joint projects and meetings between the Member States, Permanent Participants, and the Working Groups. The Chairmanship also represents the Arctic Council externally.

From 2011 until 2013, Sweden was chairing the Arctic Council and leading its work. Norway, Denmark and Sweden has agreed on common objectives and priorities for the three following Chairmanships. In May 2013 Sweden handed over the Chairmanship to Canada, and then the Chairmanship will be followed by USA.

The Deputy Ministers Meeting takes place every second year, the next meeting will take place in 2014. The Ministers Meeting also take place every second year and the last meeting took place in June 2013 where the Chairmanship was given to Canada for the period of 2013-2015. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Chairmanship period.

The SAO<sup>1</sup> meetings takes place regularly and the next meeting take place in October 2013. <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/events/2013-02-22-11-47-54/calendar-view>

The principles of agreement are consensus among the member states of the Arctic Council.

The Arctic Council has no collective vote in other international organisations as the IMO in the United Nations. The member states of the Arctic Council promote their own interest in these forums. Discussions related to United Nations Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and Polar Code <http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/HotTopics/polar/Pages/default.aspx> might be discussed in the Arctic Council but are promoted by the individual states.

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<sup>1</sup> The senior Arctic Officials (senior Arctic officials from the eight Arctic States that comprise the Arctic Council, as well the heads of the Council's six Indigenous Permanent Participants). Mr Patrick Borbey chairs SAO throughout the Canadian Chairmanship period. <http://www.international.gc.ca/media/arctic-arctique/news-communiqués/2013/03/06a.aspx>

## 3.0 The Arctic Council Organisation

### 3.1 The Member States

Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden and United States of America.

### 3.2 Permanent participants

Arctic Athabaskan Council

<http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/about-us/permanent-participants/arctic-athabaskan-council-aac>,

Aleut International Association

<http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/about-us/permanent-participants/aleut-international-association-aia>

Gwich'in Council International

<http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/about-us/permanent-participants/gwich-in-council-international>

Inuit Circumpolar Council

<http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/about-us/permanent-participants/inuit-circumpolar-council>

Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)

<http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/about-us/permanent-participants/russian-association-of-indigenous-peoples-of-the-north-raipon>

Saami Council

<http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/about-us/permanent-participants/saami-council>

### 3.3 Twelve non-arctic countries are permanent observers

France, Germany, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, United Kingdom.

In May 2013 at the Kiruna meeting Italy, People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore and India were admitted as permanent observers.

The Arctic Council received the application of the EU for observer status affirmatively, but defers a final decision on implementation until all the Council ministers have agreed (consensus).

More information:

[http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/press/news/2013/new\\_observers.html?id=727056](http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/press/news/2013/new_observers.html?id=727056)  
<http://barentsobserver.com/en/arctic/2013/05/arctic-councils-international-breakthrough-15-05>

### 3.4 Nine Intergovernmental and Inter-Parliamentary Organizations are observers

International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM)

Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO)

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)  
Standing Committee of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR)  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE)  
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)  
United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

### **3.5 Eleven Non-government organizations are observers**

Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas (ACOPS)  
Arctic Circumpolar Gateway  
Association of World Reindeer Herders (AWRH)  
Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU)  
International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)  
International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA)  
International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH)  
International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)  
Northern Forum (NF)  
University of the Arctic (UArctic)  
World Wide Fund for Nature-Global Arctic Program (WWF)

Separate observers meetings are also held. The last observers meeting was in November 2012 <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/events/meetings-overview/observer-meeting-2012>

### **3.6 The permanent Secretariat in Tromsø**

The permanent Secretariat is located in Tromsø at the Fram Centre, N-9296 Tromsø, Norway and headed by Mr. Magnús Jóhannesson, Director of the Secretariat <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/contact>. Jóhannesson is the former Secretary General of the Icelandic Ministry of the Environment. There are five people working in the permanent secretariat in Tromsø.

Press and media is handled by the Canadian Chairmanship Phone: + Phone: + 1 613 995 1874 and e-mail: [media@international.gc.ca](mailto:media@international.gc.ca) other contact details of the Canadian Chairmanship <http://www.international.gc.ca/wet30-1/arctic-arctique/news-communiques/2013/05/15a.aspx>.

### 3.7 The six working groups

The Council's activities are conducted in six working groups:



ACAP	AMAP	CAFF	EPPR	PAME	SDWG
The Chairmanship rotates. Presently held by Finland.	The Chairmanship rotates. Presently held by Canada.	Governed by a Chair and Management Board that consists of <a href="#">National Representatives</a> assigned by each of the eight Arctic Council Member States and <a href="#">Permanent Participants</a> representing the six Indigenous Peoples' organizations of the circumpolar north.	The Chairmanship rotates. Presently held by Norway.	The Chairmanship rotates. Presently held by Iceland.	The Chairmanship rotates. Presently held by Sweden.
	Permanent Secretariat in Oslo	Permanent Secretariat in Akureyri	The Norwegian Secretariat is in Ålesund	Permanent Secretariat in Akureyri	The Secretariat is in Canada
					Their WEB pages require login access

The working groups are composed of:

- Representatives at expert level from sectorial ministries,
- Government agencies and
- Researchers.

Their work covers a broad field of subjects, from climate change to emergency response and each working group has:

- a specific mandate under which it operates
- a Chair
- a Management Board or Steering Committee, and
- support by a working group Secretariat.

Working Group Management Boards are typically comprised of representatives of national governmental agencies of the Arctic Council Member States, connected to the mandates of the Working Groups and representatives of the Permanent Participants. Observer States and Observer Organizations are likely to attend Working Group meetings and participate in specific projects. In addition, Working Groups regularly have invited guests, or experts attending their meetings.

*It is the responsibility of the Working Groups to execute the programs and projects mandated by the Arctic Council Ministers for each group. These mandates are stated in the Ministerial Declarations, the official documents that result from Ministerial Meetings.*

Decisions are made by the principle of Consensus: "All decisions of the Arctic Council and its subsidiary bodies are by consensus of the eight Arctic Member States".

## 4.0 Information about the six Working Groups, the Experts Group and the Task Forces

### 4.1 Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP)

<http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/acap-home>. ACAP's work is led by Chairmanship that rotates between the countries every second year. The organizational issues are dealt with by Chair, Vice-Chair and Executive Secretary. Traditionally, the Vice-Chair represents the state that will take over the chairmanship in the following term. Presently, ACAP is chaired by Finland by mr Jakko Henttonen, mail: [henttoni@ebrd.com](mailto:henttoni@ebrd.com). The address: NDEP Manager, EBRD RO, 25, Nevsky Prospekt, St Petersburg 191186. Their WEB page is not updated. Either this group are quite inactive or they don't promote their activities and reports on their WEB pages.

The goal of ACAP is to reduce emissions of pollutants into the environment in order to reduce the identified pollution risks. ACAP also encourages national actions for Arctic State governments to take remedial and preventive actions relating to contaminants and other releases of pollutants. ACAP acts as a strengthening and supporting mechanism to encourage national actions to reduce emissions and other releases of pollutants.

ACAP works according to the Work Plan adopted by the Ministers. Documents and reports under the Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP). For more information about the Work Plan; <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/acap-home/acap-documents-and-reports> or <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/document-archive/category/69-acap-documents>.

ACAP currently has six *projects demonstrating practical actions* to reduce the pollution of the Arctic environment.

#### **Obsolete Pesticides**

Environmentally Safe Management of Stocks of Obsolete and Prohibited Pesticides in Russia". <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/acap-home/acap-psgs/obsolete->

[pesticides/307-obsolete-pesticides](http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/acap-home/acap-psgs/obsolete-pesticides/307-obsolete-pesticides). Work plans and other documentation can be found here: <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/acap-home/acap-psgs/obsolete-pesticides/168-obsolete-pesticides-info/370-terms-of-reference-work-plans-and-documentation>. According to their WEB pages their last meeting was in held in 2011.

### ***Mercury***

The ACAP Mercury PSG coordinates and facilitates Arctic Council demonstration projects that reduce the release of mercury into the environment, communicate results, and coordinate synergies between projects. <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/acap-home/acap-psgs/mercury/166-mercury-info/366-terms-of-reference>

The current Mercury PSG chair is Ms. Marianne Bailey, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, e-mail: [bailey.marianne@epa.gov](mailto:bailey.marianne@epa.gov).

### ***PCBs (Polyklorerte bifenyler)***

No information available on their WEB page

### ***Integrated Hazardous Wastes***

No information available on their WEB page

### ***Dioxines/Furans***

No information available on their WEB page

### ***IPCAP***

Industrial development of the Arctic has been accompanied by waste accumulation, especially in the vicinity of indigenous villages. This represents a growing threat to safety and health of the Arctic people who – due to traditional living conditions – are exposed to higher levels of contamination in the air, water, soil and their food supply. The terms of reference <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/acap-home/acap-psgs/ipcap/165-ipcap-info/351-terms-of-reference>

The first meeting took place in November 2011 <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/acap-home/acap-psgs/ipcap/165-ipcap-info/353-first-meeting-of-ipcap>. The PSG is lead by two Co-chairs, one elected by the Member states, and one - by the Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council. <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/acap-home/acap-psgs/ipcap/165-ipcap-info/354-co-chairs-and-contacts>

### ***BFRs Brominated Flammable Retardants.***

The project is closed. No information available on their WEB page

### ***SLCFC***

The primary mandate of the Short Lived Climate Forcers and Contaminants Project Steering Group (PSG) is to facilitate projects with an initial focus on activities that reduce emissions of black carbon contamination that transports and deposits in the Arctic.

SLCFC arranged a workshop in Oslo in June 2013, where issues on how to reduce Black Carbon emissions from residential wood combustion was discussed <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/acap-home/acap-psgs/slcfc/179-short-lived-climate-forcers-and->



[contaminants-info](#). The Carbon Black Feedstock project is co-lead by Norway and Finland and assisted by consultants from SINTEF and Norsk Energi.

#### 4.2 Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)

<http://www.amap.no/>

AMAP's current objective is to "provide reliable and sufficient information on the status of, and threats to, the Arctic environment, and providing scientific advice on actions to be taken in order to support Arctic governments in their efforts to take remedial and preventive actions relating to contaminants".

AMAP is responsible for;

- monitoring and assessing the status of the Arctic region with respect to pollution and climate change issues
- documenting levels and trends, pathways and processes,
- effects on ecosystems and humans,
- proposing actions to reduce associated threats for consideration by governments;
- producing sound science-based, policy-relevant assessments and public outreach products to inform policy and decision-making.
- AMAP is giving advice to Ministers on priority actions needed to improve the Arctic condition.

AMAP's priorities include the following contaminant groups and issues:

- Persistent organic contaminants (POPs)
- Heavy metals (in particular mercury, cadmium, and lead)
- Radioactivity
- Acidification and Arctic haze (in a subregional context)
- Petroleum hydrocarbon pollution (in a subregional context)
- Climate change (environmental consequences and biological effects in the Arctic resulting from global climate change)
- Stratospheric ozone depletion (biological effects due to increased UV-B, etc)
- Effects of pollution on the health of humans living in the Arctic (including effects of increased UV radiation as a result of ozone depletion, and climate change)
- Combined effects of pollutants and other stressors on both ecosystems and humans

AMAP has produced a series of high quality scientifically based assessments of the pollution status of the Arctic. The AMAP assessment reports (both the popular readable versions and detailed scientific background documents) are available here: <http://www.amap.no/documents/18/scientific/21>. AMAP tend to be very research focused and their WEB pages promote a lot of relevant and fact based reports and knowledge.

AMAPs strategic plan for 2013-2015 <http://www.amap.no/documents/doc/amap-work-plan-2013-2015/804>.

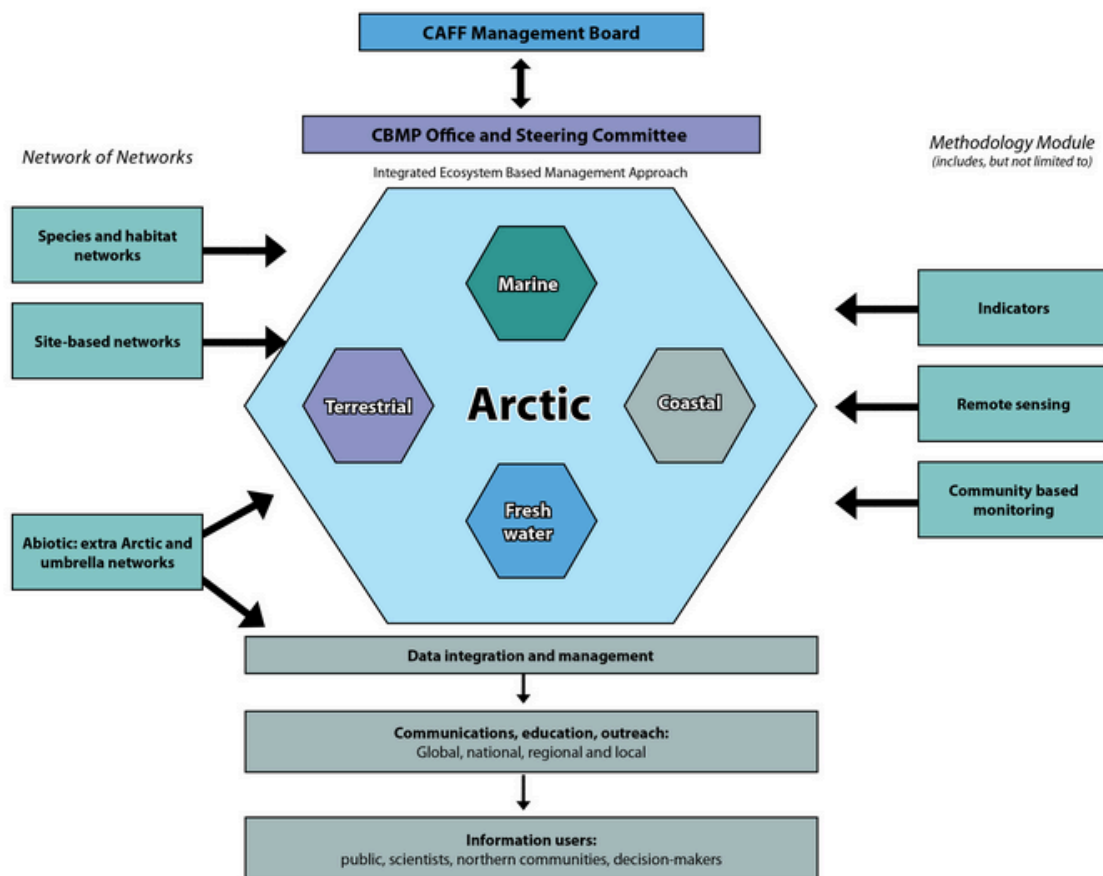
The AMAP Chairmanship is currently held by Canada. The permanent Secretariat is based in Oslo, Norway and the Executive Secretary is Mr Lars-Otto Reiersen <http://www.amap.no/contacts/search>. <http://www.amap.no/about/organisational-structure>

On their contact site <http://www.amap.no/contacts/search>, users can search for participants in all the working and projects groups, expert groups and task forces.

#### 4.3 Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

<http://www.caff.is/> and <http://www.caff.is/about-caff>.

The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) <http://www.caff.is/about-the-cbmp> is an international network of scientists, government agencies, Indigenous organizations and conservation groups working together to harmonize and integrate efforts to monitor the Arctic's living resources.



The Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) is the biodiversity working group of the Arctic Council, and its mandate is to address the conservation of Arctic biodiversity, and to communicate its findings to the governments and residents of the Arctic, helping to promote practices which ensure the sustainability of the Arctic's living resources. It does so through various monitoring, assessment and expert group activities <http://www.caff.is/about-caff>

CAFF's projects provide data for informed decision making in resolving the challenges which are now arising in trying to both conserve the natural environment and permit regional growth. This work is based upon cooperation between all Arctic countries, indigenous organizations, international conventions, and organizations.

CAFF's main strategies are:

### **The Cooperative Strategy for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Arctic Region,**

The Cooperative Strategy for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Arctic Region, Program for the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna <http://www.caff.is/arctic-biodiversity-conservation-strategy>, is designed to provide CAFF with directions to enhance co-operation among Arctic countries and relevant agencies, communities and organizations, in order to secure the natural productive capacity of Arctic ecosystems and secure biological diversity at all levels. This strategy has three goals:

- Support the conservation of Arctic biological diversity, including the diversity of ecosystems, species, populations and their habitats and genetic resources. When Arctic biological resources are used, the use should be at levels that are suitable and meet the needs of local and Indigenous people and do not adversely affect other ecosystem components.
- Promote the participation of local and Indigenous people in the development and implementation of policies and programs relating to the conservation of Arctic biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources.
- Develop and improve public education and awareness programs that support the conservation of Arctic biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources.

**Species Conservation Strategies: Seabirds**  
<http://www.caff.is/species-conservation-strategies>. Some seabird species are in drastic decline, and warrant the need for international cooperation on their conservation, protection and restoration.

### **Community Based Monitoring (CBM) Strategy**

<http://www.caff.is/community-based-monitoring-strategy>. A Strategy for Facilitating and Promoting CBM, click to download A Strategy for Facilitating and Promoting Community-based Monitoring (CBM) Approaches in Arctic Biodiversity Monitoring, identifies how to incorporate CBM activities into the CAFF Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP)

### **Indices and Indicators**

<http://www.caff.is/indices-and-indicators3>. The CBMP developed 22 indicators for the Arctic Biodiversity Trends 2010: Selected Indicators of Change report. Download the full report and learn more about key indicators and indices that the CBMP has already developed.

### **Protected Areas Strategy and Action Plan**

<http://www.caff.is/protected-areas-strategy>. The Circumpolar Protected Areas Network (CPAN) was established as a CAFF Expert Group in 1994 with the aim to ensure sufficient protection of all habitat types in the Arctic. The goal of CPAN's Strategy and Action Plan is to facilitate the implementation of initiatives to establish, within the context of an overall Arctic conservation strategy, an adequate and well managed network of protected areas

that has a high probability of maintaining the dynamic biodiversity of the Arctic region in perpetuity.

CAFF is governed by a Chair and Management Board that consists of National Representatives assigned by each of the eight Arctic Council Member States and Permanent Participants representing the six Indigenous Peoples' organizations of the circumpolar north. The board meets twice year to provide on-going oversight and direction to the work of CAFF. <http://www.caff.is/management-board>.

The CAFF International Secretariat is located in Akureyri, Iceland and is headed by the Executive Secretary mr Tom Barry e-mail: [tom@caff.is](mailto:tom@caff.is).

A list of documents and reports are listed here: <http://www.caff.is/publications>

#### **4.4 Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)**

<http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/about-us/working-groups/emergency-prevention-preparedness-and-response-eppr> and <http://eppr.arctic-council.org/>

The Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response Working Group (EPPR) address various aspects of prevention, preparedness and response to environmental emergencies in the Arctic. Members of the Working Group exchange information on best practices and conduct projects to include development of guidance and risk assessment methodologies, response exercises, and training. The goal of the EPPR Working Group is to contribute to the protection of the Arctic environment from the threat or impact that may result from an accidental release of pollutants or radionuclides. In addition, the Working Group considers issues related to response to the consequences of natural disasters.

During the Swedish Chairmanship from 2011-2013, EPPR focused on:

- Support the work of the Task Force established by the Arctic Council to develop an international instrument on Arctic marine oil pollution preparedness and response
- Develop recommendations and/or best practices in the prevention of marine oil pollution
- Consider the BoHaSa report recommendations for future projects and activities within EPPR
- Arctic Rescue
- Safety Systems in Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural Projects
- Exercises and training in radiological emergency management
- Technical projects to improve capabilities to analyze and respond to radiation related incidents or accidents
- Pilot project “Arctic Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue Network”
- Pilot project “Arctic Region Oil Spill Response Resource and Logistics Guide”
- Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)
- Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)

An agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution, Preparedness and Response in the Arctic was signed in Kiruna <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2013/05/209406.htm> and

<http://barentsobserver.com/en/arctic/2013/05/binding-oil-spill-agreement-signed-15-05>

EPPR approved the Project Framework as an accepted EPPR Business Practice in order to provide the most current information on projects for the required reports to meetings of Senior Arctic Officials, Ministers and Vice Ministers, Heads of Work Groups and EPPR meetings. Current activities and projects <http://www.arctic-council.org/eppr/current-activities-projects/>. EPPR has made guidelines on how to propose new projects <http://www.arctic-council.org/eppr/current-activities-projects/project-framework/>

The EPPR Working Group holds annual meetings to discuss projects, proposals, and guidance from the Ministers and Senior Arctic Officials. In addition, the group uses the meetings as a venue for sharing best practices on the infrastructure and procedures needed to prevent, prepare, and respond to emergencies in the Arctic. EPPR presently meets twice a year: once in a full annual meeting and once where heads of delegation are required but other participants can join at their option. Aiming for efficiency, the smaller semiannual meeting may be held in a convenient location and if possible back to back with another Arctic Council meeting.

The record of decisions and a summary from the EPPR Meetings are available in the Meeting Reports <http://www.arctic-council.org/eppr/reports/working-group-meeting-reports/>. Members of the EPPR working group [http://www.arctic-council.org/eppr/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/EPPR-WG-June\\_2012\\_Final\\_docx.pdf](http://www.arctic-council.org/eppr/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/EPPR-WG-June_2012_Final_docx.pdf).

### **The EPPR plan of action 2013-2015**

The Arctic is an environmentally sensitive area with an extreme climate characterized by low temperatures, winter-time darkness, snow, ice and permafrost. These harsh conditions and the lack of infrastructure in much of the Arctic create a higher vulnerability to emergencies than in more temperate climates. Actions for prevention, preparedness and response must be adapted to the conditions and remoteness of the Arctic.

Accordingly, international co-operation in this area is of major importance. The EPPR plan of action <http://www.arctic-council.org/eppr/about-eppr/strategic-plan-of-action/> and EPPR has the vision to strive to be the premier international forum for the mitigation of risks to the Arctic environment from catastrophic occurrences, whether man-made or natural. The plan was revised in June 2013 and objectives;

*Objective 1:* Define the risk of potential environmental emergencies due to commercial activities, nuclear/radiological material, and natural disasters in the Arctic

*Objective 2:* Improve prevention measures aimed at reducing accidents which could result in environmental emergencies in the Arctic

*Objective 3:* Improve emergency preparedness and response programmes at local, national, regional and international levels, including arrangements for mutual assistance, to ensure they are commensurate with the level of risk that exists.

*Objective 4:* Information sharing

The working groups do also carry the responsibility for execution of the signed declarations. The EPPR work group is responsible for the execution of the Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response declaration signed in Kiruna in June.

#### *Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)*

More action oriented than research based. No permanent secretariat. The present chair is in Ålesund in Norway. Has developed their own WEB page and arrange regularly workshops. The next workshops takes place in Tromsø, Norway, November 5-7, 2013. Focus will be on:

- Oil in ice – to disperse or not to disperse (1 day)
  - Workshop to develop a Circumpolar Marine Environment Risk Assessment (2 days).
- Involved in the task force which prepared the declaration of the Agreement on cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic.

EMPR The present chair of the EPPR working group is Norway and th secretariat is headed by Ole Kristian Bjerkemo in the Norwegian Coastal Administration (Kystverket), Department for Emergency Response in Ålesund. E-mail: [Ole.Bjerkemo@kystverket.no](mailto:Ole.Bjerkemo@kystverket.no)

#### **4.5 Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment - PAME**

<http://www.pame.is/> The PAME Working Group's activities are directed towards protection of the Arctic marine environment. Increased economic activity and significant changes due to climatic processes are resulting in increased use, opportunities and threats to the Arctic marine and coastal environments. These predicted changes require more integrated approaches to address both existing and emerging challenges of the Arctic marine and coastal environments.

The PAME Working Group provides a unique forum for collaboration on a wide range of Arctic marine environment issues and consists of National Representatives from the Arctic Council states responsible for its work in their respective countries and Permanent Participants organizations representing Arctic indigenous peoples. Additionally, the Arctic Council working groups, accredited observers and other relevant organizations contribute to the on-going work of the groups. PAME has six focus groups

#### **ARCTIC SHIPPING – AMSA**

<http://pame.is/about-amsa>

The Arctic Marine shipping Assessment (AMSA) provides policy advice and recommendations on marine safety and marine environmental protection as it related to shipping in the Arctic marine environment. The Arctic Marine shipping Assessment is a direct follow-up to the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan which was adopted by the Arctic Council Ministers at the 4th Arctic Council meeting in November 2004. PAME was accordingly requested to:

“conduct a comprehensive Arctic marine shipping assessment as outlined in the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan under the guidance of Canada, Finland, and the United States as lead countries and in collaboration with the EPPR (Emergency, Prevention, Preparedness and Response) working group and other working groups of the Arctic Council and Permanent Participants as relevant.”

The environmental, economic and socio-cultural changes occurring in the Arctic today are primarily driven by two key factors: climate change and increasing economic activity.

The Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) was endorsed by Arctic Council Ministers in November 2004 <http://pame.is/index.php/arctic-marine-strategic-plan2>. The 29 strategic actions in the AMSP were selected according to its goals, principles and approaches, taking into consideration the current and emerging situation affecting the Arctic marine environment, its ecological integrity and the social, cultural, economic and physical well-being of its peoples.

#### **ARCTIC MARINE STRATEGIC PLAN – AMSP**

<http://pame.is/index.php/arctic-marine-strategic-plan2>

The AMSP considers innovative approaches to integrated Oceans Management Council as a means to support effective governance for the Arctic marine environment through cooperative, coordinated and integrated approaches. The Arctic Council’s vision for the Arctic marine environment is:

“A healthy and productive Arctic Ocean and coasts that support environmental, economic and sociocultural values for current and future generations.”

The goals of this AMSP Strategic Plan are as follows:

- 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 ARCTIC OCEAN REVIEW – AOR**

<http://www.aor.is/>

The AOR project is led by Canada, Iceland, Norway, Russia and the United States and was agreed by the Arctic Council at its 2009 Ministerial Meeting, as a follow up to the 2004 Arctic Marine Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan states that the Council shall:

„Periodically review the status and adequacy of international/regional agreements and standards that have application in the Arctic marine environment, new scientific knowledge of emerging substances of concern, and analyze the applicability of a regional seas agreement to the Arctic“.

#### **THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH**

<http://www.pame.is/ea-arctic>

The concept of the Ecosystem Approach to management (EA) has been around for at least 30 years and has been extensively discussed, elaborated and developed. The EA was adopted as an overarching principle and approach by Arctic Council Ministers in 2004 as part of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) and described in the following manner:

“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.”

### **OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS**

<http://pame.is/index.php/oilandgasreports2/14-offshore-oil-and-gas>.

The Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines are intended to be of use to the Arctic nations for offshore oil and gas activities during planning, exploration, development, production and decommissioning. Learn more about these Guidelines and other relevant oil and gas activities.

The Arctic Council Arctic Offshore oil and gas guidelines (2009) [http://pame.is/images/PAME\\_NEW/Oil%20and%20Gas/Arctic-Guidelines-2009-13th-Mar2009.pdf](http://pame.is/images/PAME_NEW/Oil%20and%20Gas/Arctic-Guidelines-2009-13th-Mar2009.pdf). PAME held a Health Safety and Environmental Management Systems (HSEMS) Workshop in Keflavik, Iceland 10-12 June. The agenda of the workshop was coordinated with the related EPPR Recommended Practices for Prevention oil Pollution (RP3) workshop also held in Keflavik 11-12 June to facilitate the opportunity for oil and gas experts to attend and contribute to both workshops. <http://pame.is/2012-hse-workshop>. The Safety Culture Workshop was held in conjunction with PAME II 2012 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, on the September 16. The purpose of the workshop was to inform the PAME HSEMS Project on “safety culture” in the Arctic offshore oil and gas industry, which was identified as a fundamental issue for safe and environmentally sound operations at the HSEMS workshop <http://pame.is/safety-culture-2012>.

### **REGIONAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ARCTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT (2009)**

<http://pame.is/regional-program-of-action> and [http://pame.is/images/stories/Deliverables\\_to\\_SAOsMinisters/PAME\\_RPA\\_layout\\_031109-leirtt\\_nv\\_09.pdf](http://pame.is/images/stories/Deliverables_to_SAOsMinisters/PAME_RPA_layout_031109-leirtt_nv_09.pdf). Goals and objective for this group:



- Protect Human Health;
- Prevent and Reduce Degradation of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas;
- Remediate Contaminated Areas;
- Support Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Resources;
- Maintain Biodiversity;
- Maintain Cultural Diversity;
- Mitigate the Impact of Climate Change;
- Contribute to the Overall Management and Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment;
- Encourage Compatible National Approaches to Activities Related to Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution;
- Encourage Risk-Management Approaches to Prevent or Mitigate the Impact of Environmental Emergencies; and
- Identify Marine Ecologically Sensitive Areas.

### **PAME`s work plan for 2013-2015**

PAME`s work plan for 2013-2015 was approved by the Ministers in Kiruna in June 2013:  
[http://www.pame.is/images/PAME\\_Ministerial\\_2013/PAME\\_Work\\_Plan\\_2013-2015.pdf](http://www.pame.is/images/PAME_Ministerial_2013/PAME_Work_Plan_2013-2015.pdf)

#### *Objective I:*

Improve knowledge and respond to emerging knowledge of the Arctic marine environment based upon a continuation of the implementation of the recommendations set forward in the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment approved in 2009  
[http://www.arcticparl.org/files/news%20items/presentations%20from%20Helsinki%20Nov%2009/Mr\\_%20Kimmo%20Juurmaa.pdf](http://www.arcticparl.org/files/news%20items/presentations%20from%20Helsinki%20Nov%2009/Mr_%20Kimmo%20Juurmaa.pdf) and the status on the implementation of the AMSA 2009 Report as per May 2011  
[http://www.institutenorth.org/assets/images/uploads/attachments/AMSA\\_StatusOfRecommendations\\_May2011.pdf](http://www.institutenorth.org/assets/images/uploads/attachments/AMSA_StatusOfRecommendations_May2011.pdf)

#### *Objective II:*

Determine the adequacy of applicable international/regional commitments and promote their implementation and compliance

- a) Developing a new Arctic Council Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP). The new AMSP is to be produced for adoption by 2015 Ministerial.
- b) Ecosystem Approach to Management
- c) Framework for an Arctic MPA network. PAME will form a Marine Protected Areas (MPA) expert group to explore the development of a framework for an Arctic marine protected areas network, or consideration by the PAME working group.
- d) Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA)
- e) Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACCA). PAME plans to provide input to the AACCA project Part C in line with the project plan. AMAP leads this work.

#### *Objective III:*

Facilitate partnerships, programmes and technical cooperation and support communication and outreach both within and outside the Arctic Council. There is a need to continue coordinating work with other working groups of the Arctic Council, regional and international organizations and programmes, local authorities and indigenous organizations

in an effort to promote capacity building, sharing of information on the state of the Arctic marine environment.

The CAFF and PAME Arctic Council working groups are developing ArcticData as a means of allowing data developed through their activities to be accessible in a format and manner to allow them to be easily accessible and useable <http://www.arcticdata.is/>.

Has developed their own WEB pages and arrange many workshops and initiates reports. Developing a new Arctic Council Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) which will be produced for adoption by 2015 Ministerial Meeting.

The PAME Working Group generally meets twice a year to assess progress and advance its work. PAME is headed by a chair and vice-chair, which rotate among the Arctic countries and is supported by an International Secretariat. PAME reports to the Senior Arctic Officials, and through them, to the Ministers of the Arctic Council that meets every two years. The secretariat of PAME is headed by the Executive Secretary Soffia Gudmundsdottir, email: [soffia@pame.is](mailto:soffia@pame.is) and is located at Akureyri on Iceland. <http://pame.is/contact-us>.

#### 4.6 Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)

<http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/about-us/working-groups/sustainable-development-working-group-sdwg> and <http://www.sdwg.org/>

The sustainable development program of the Arctic Council objective is:

- to propose and adopt steps to be taken by the Arctic States to advance sustainable development in the Arctic, including opportunities
- to protect and enhance the environment and the economies, culture and health of Indigenous Peoples and Arctic communities, as well as
- to improve the environmental, economic and social conditions of Arctic communities as a whole.

The guiding tenet running throughout the work of the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) is to pursue initiatives that provide practical knowledge and contribute to building the capacity of Indigenous Peoples and Arctic communities to respond to the challenges and benefit from the opportunities emerging in the Arctic Region.

#### **The Major Areas of Activity:**

##### *Arctic Human Health:*

To broaden the scope and strengthen the integration of human health activities within the Council by developing concrete initiatives to improve the health and well-being of Indigenous Peoples and other Arctic residents.

##### *Arctic Socio-Economic Issues:*

To advance on a better understanding of the human influences on the Arctic environment and the socio-economic conditions of Indigenous Peoples and Arctic communities.

#### *Adaptation to Climate Change:*

To strengthen the work of the Council by reducing vulnerability and implementing adaptation initiatives related to climate change in the Arctic, including practical community-based actions.

#### *Energy and Arctic Communities:*

To consider future projects and activities in relation to the Arctic region as an energy consumer, and the importance of environmentally friendly economic activity in the energy sector to ongoing social and economic development in the Arctic region.

#### *Management of Natural Resources:*

To consider that Indigenous Peoples and Arctic communities rely on the sustainable use of natural resources for their health and economic well-being. Increases in shipping, petroleum activities, fishing, mining, climate change and variability require that the management of resources is based on a holistic perspective.

#### *Arctic Cultures and Languages:*

To support Arctic cultures; to reduce the loss of Arctic Indigenous languages and to follow-up on the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium.

SDWG Chairmanship is currently held by Sweden and Canada. The SDWG Secretariat is based in Canada and is headed by Sarah Cox, e-mail [sarah.cox@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca](mailto:sarah.cox@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca).

### **4.7 The Ecobased Management Expert Group**

<http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/about-us/working-groups/expert-groups>

The 2011 Nuuk Declaration of the Arctic Council Ministers decide to establish an expert group on Arctic ecosystem-based management (EBM) for the Arctic environment to recommend further activities in this field for possible consideration by the SAOs before the end of the Swedish chairmanship.

The first meeting of the Arctic Council Ecosystem-based Management Experts Group was hosted by the United States at the U.S. Department of the Interior headquarters in Washington, D.C on October 18-19 2011. Evan Bloom, Director of the Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Magnus Johannesson, Secretary General, Iceland Ministry for the Environment, and Dr Mia Dahlstrom, EBM Specialist, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management co-chaired the meeting, which included nearly two dozen participants from seven of the eight Arctic countries, three permanent participant groups, and representatives from the CAFF and PAME working groups.

### **4.8 Task Forces**

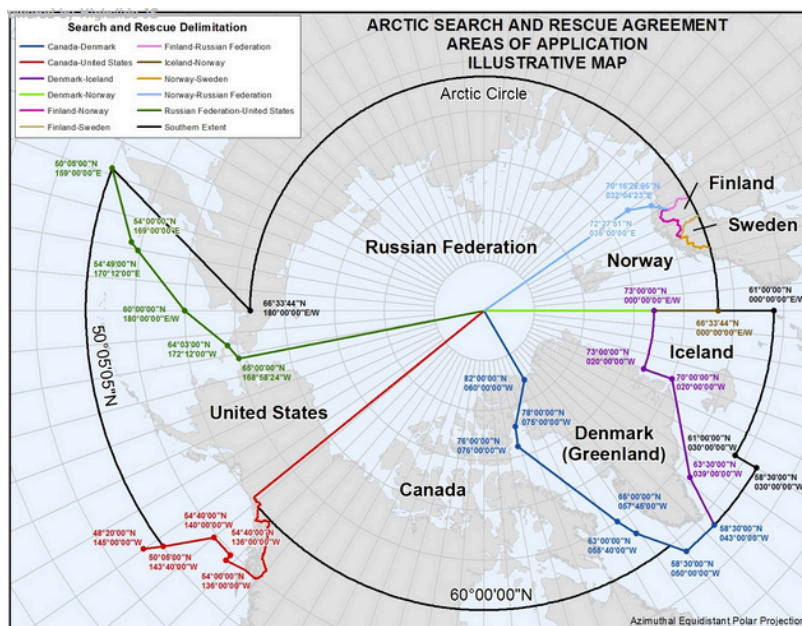
<http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/about-us/working-groups/task-forces>

In addition to the Working Groups there are also several Task Forces that operate within the framework of the Arctic Council. The Task Forces are appointed at the Ministerial meetings to work on specific issues for a limited amount of time. The Task Forces are active until they have produced the desired results, at which point they become inactive. Experts from the

Working Groups and representatives from the member states take part in the Task Forces. Below are articles describing the history and activities of the Arctic Council Task Forces.

### Task Force on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response

In the Nuuk Declaration dated 12 May 2011, the Ministers of the Arctic Council member states decided “to establish a Task Force, reporting to the Senior Arctic Officials, to develop an international instrument on Arctic marine oil pollution preparedness and response, and called for the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) and other relevant working groups to develop recommendations and/or best practices in the prevention of marine oil pollution. The declaration was signed in the ministerial meeting in Kiruna in June 2013.



<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2013/05/209406.htm>

<http://www.ogj.com/articles/2013/05/arctic-nations-adopt-marine-oil-pollution-preparedness-agreement.html>

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2013/05/209406.htm>

<http://barentsobserver.com/en/arctic/2013/05/binding-oil-spill-agreement-signed-15-05>

The declaration is enclosed here: <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/document-archive/category/425-main-documents-from-kiruna-ministerial-meeting>

### Task Force on Search and Rescue

In Nuuk in May 2011, the Ministers of the Arctic Council member states signed “the Agreement on Cooperation in Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic”, as the first legally binding agreement negotiated under the auspices of the Arctic Council. In the Nuuk declaration, the ministers recognized “the important role of the Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic for safe transport and enhancing cooperation in assisting people in distress in the Arctic”.

The Task Force concluded its work by the signing of the Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic. In the Senior Arctic Officials' Report to Ministers in May 2011 in Nuuk, Greenland, the Senior Arctic Officials stated the following:

"The Agreement <http://arcticportal.org/old-news/421-arctic-search-and-rescue-agreement> and <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/idrl/N813EN.pdf> is the first legally binding instrument negotiated under the auspices of the Arctic Council. It also represents the first legally binding agreement on any topic ever negotiated among all the eight Arctic states. The signature of the Agreement in Nuuk demonstrates the commitment of those states to enhance their cooperation in addressing emerging issues in the Arctic region. <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/about-us/working-groups/task-forces/282-task-force-on-search-and-rescue>

### **Task Force for Institutional Issues**

In the Nuuk Declaration dated 12 May 2011, the Ministers of the Arctic Council member states decided to "Strengthen the capacity of the Arctic Council to respond to the challenges and opportunities facing the Arctic by establishing a standing Arctic Council secretariat, hereinafter the Secretariat, in Tromsø, Norway to be operational no later than at the beginning of the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2013".

## **5.0 The Kiruna meeting**

The Ministerial Meeting of the Swedish Chairmanship was held 15 May 2013 in Stadshuset in Kiruna, Northern Sweden.

### **Change of Chairmanship and the Canadian program for 2013-2015**

The Arctic Council Program during Canada's Chairmanship (2013-15) is called the Development for the People of the North. The theme of Canada's chairmanship is "development for the people of the North," with a focus on responsible Arctic resource development, safe Arctic shipping and sustainable circumpolar communities. The program can be downloaded here: <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/resources/news-and-press/the-canadian-chairmanship/740-canadian-chairmanship-program-2013-2016>. The main issues to be addressed under the Canadian Chairmanship period:

- Development for the people of the North
- Strengthening the Arctic Council
- Responsible Arctic resource development
  - Establishing a Circumpolar Business Forum will foster circumpolar economic development and provide opportunities for business to engage with the Arctic Council. A small group/task force will work with the establishment of this forum.
- Safe Arctic shipping
  - establishing guidelines for sustainable tourism and cruise-ship operations, t
  - encourage the International Maritime Organization's efforts to develop a mandatory polar code for the Arctic Ocean.
- Sustainable circumpolar communities
  - facilitate the sharing of communities' knowledge and best practices.

### **Declarations signed in Kiruna**

During the Kiruna Ministerial Meeting 15 May Arctic Ministers signed the Kiruna Declaration, Vision for the Arctic, Senior Arctic Officials Report to Ministers and an Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic. In addition, several scientific assessments and reports by the working groups, task forces, and expert groups of the Arctic Council were also approved.

<http://www.pame.is/component/content/article/2-uncategorised/274-the-kiruna-ministerial-meeting>

### **The Senior Arctic Officials Report to Ministers in Kiruna May 2013**

[http://www.pame.is/images/PAME\\_Ministerial\\_2013/Kiruna\\_SAO\\_Report\\_to\\_Ministers\\_Final.pdf](http://www.pame.is/images/PAME_Ministerial_2013/Kiruna_SAO_Report_to_Ministers_Final.pdf)

### **Signed agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution, Preparedness and Response in the Arctic**

An agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution, Preparedness and Response in the Arctic was signed in Kiruna <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2013/05/209406.htm> and <http://barentsobserver.com/en/arctic/2013/05/binding-oil-spill-agreement-signed-15-05>

### **New States were admitted as permanent observers**

In the Kiruna meeting Italy, People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore and India were admitted as permanent observers. All have sought economic opportunities in the region and viewed participation in the Arctic Council as a means of influencing the decisions of its permanent members.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/16/world/europe/arctic-council-adds-six-members-including-china.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/16/world/europe/arctic-council-adds-six-members-including-china.html?_r=0)

## **6.0 The role of the Arctic Council is changing?**

The Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Espen Barth Eides speech at the opening of the Ministerial Meeting in Kiruna:

“With the Arctic ice melting, the region’s abundant supplies of oil, gas and minerals have become newly accessible, as have shortened shipping routes and open water for commercial fishing, the Arctic region expect to set off for a global competition for influence and economic opportunities far beyond the nations that border the Arctic.”

The full speech:

[http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/whats-new/Speeches-and-articles/e\\_speeches/2013/national-statement-arctic-council.html?id=727060](http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/whats-new/Speeches-and-articles/e_speeches/2013/national-statement-arctic-council.html?id=727060)

The Kiruna declaration:

[http://pame.is/images/PAME\\_Ministerial\\_2013/Final\\_Kiruna\\_declaration\\_w\\_signature.pdf](http://pame.is/images/PAME_Ministerial_2013/Final_Kiruna_declaration_w_signature.pdf).

The senior Arctic Officials Report to the Ministers:

[http://pame.is/images/PAME\\_Ministerial\\_2013/Kiruna\\_SAO\\_Report\\_to\\_Ministers\\_Final.pdf](http://pame.is/images/PAME_Ministerial_2013/Kiruna_SAO_Report_to_Ministers_Final.pdf)

Since 2009, the Arctic Council has strengthened its presence and influence in the Arctic policy discussions and in a very short time, discussions on Arctic governance have moved from being a topic of scholarly attention and NGO advocacy onto the agendas of states and of the European Union (EU) <http://arcticgovernance.custompublish.com/limits-and-possibilities-of-the-arctic-council-in-a-rapidly-changing-scene-of-arctic-governance.4637517-142902.html>

All the task forces mandates have resulted in a declaration and signed by all member states within the Chairmanship period for which the task forces were established.

- Task Force on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response
- Task Force on Search and Rescue
- Task Force for Institutional Issues (establishment of a permanent secretariat in Tromsø)

Since the establishment of the Arctic Council, the different working groups have acquired huge knowledge about different issues related to Arctic. Many research reports have been produced and the increased commercial interest from oil and gas companies as well as mining and shipping companies have also made the Arctic Council more action oriented (ref the task force groups mandate).

The interest for the Arctic Council from states, with no boundaries toward the Arctic, to become permanent observers to the councils meetings, will influence the discussions within the Arctic Council.

The US presence and interest in the Arctic, is followed by huge interest by the other states. US has no traditions of implementing international declarations promoted by the UN Committees, but many “experts” believe that US want to influence the policy in the Arctic and will increase their presence in the Arctic Council in the years to come. They will also sign on for their 2<sup>nd</sup> Chairmanship period, in 2015.

*Worth mentioned:*

In January 2012, members of the international oil and gas industry <http://www.arcticresponsetechnology.org/about-the-jip/who-we-are> launched a collaborative effort (a joint industry program) to enhance the Arctic oil spill capabilities under the auspices of the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP).

<http://www.arcticresponsetechnology.org/about-the-jip>.

*Establish a Circumpolar Business Forum*

So far there has been a lack of interest and presence from the commercial companies and their representing organisations. The Canadian Chairmanship intends to establish a Circumpolar Business Forum to foster circumpolar economic development and provide opportunities for business to engage with the Arctic Council. A small group/task force will work with the establishment of this forum.

*Some links to Arctic maps:*

<http://map.arcticinfrastructure.org/#mapID=49&groupID=&z=1.0&up=160.9&left=2006898.0>

<http://epr.akvaplan.com/intro/catalogue.htm>.

*Some other Arctic Forums*

<http://eu-arctic-forum.org/publications/arctic-council-kiruna-ministerial-meeting-strengthened-role-of-the-arctic-council-in-a-globalized-arctic-china-in-the-eu-on-hold/>

[http://www.beac.st/in\\_English/Barents\\_Euro-Arctic\\_Council.iw3](http://www.beac.st/in_English/Barents_Euro-Arctic_Council.iw3)

[http://www.beac.st/in\\_English/Barents\\_Euro-Arctic\\_Council/Partners\\_and\\_related\\_organisations.iw3](http://www.beac.st/in_English/Barents_Euro-Arctic_Council/Partners_and_related_organisations.iw3)

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