

The Arctic

Increased economic activity and significant changes due to climatic processes are resulting in the increased use of, opportunities in, and threats to the Arctic marine environment. The Arctic marine environment is vulnerable to climate change and its impacts. The Arctic Council is at the forefront of these emerging issues through the development of various in-depth reports and assessments. Because of the work of the Arctic Council, these issues can be better understood and have gained a higher profile on the international agenda in recent years. These predicted changes call for a review of global and regional measures which will take into account both existing and emerging challenges to the Arctic marine environment, and demonstrate the Arctic Council's stewardship efforts to the global community.

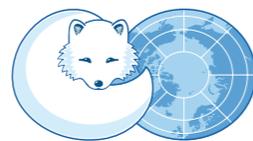
PAME

The Working Group for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) is one of six working groups of the Arctic Council and is responsible for promoting the protection and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment. PAME considers a broad range of policy issues, including pollution prevention, marine biodiversity and marine resource development. The long-term goal is to develop measures related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment from land- and sea-based activities.



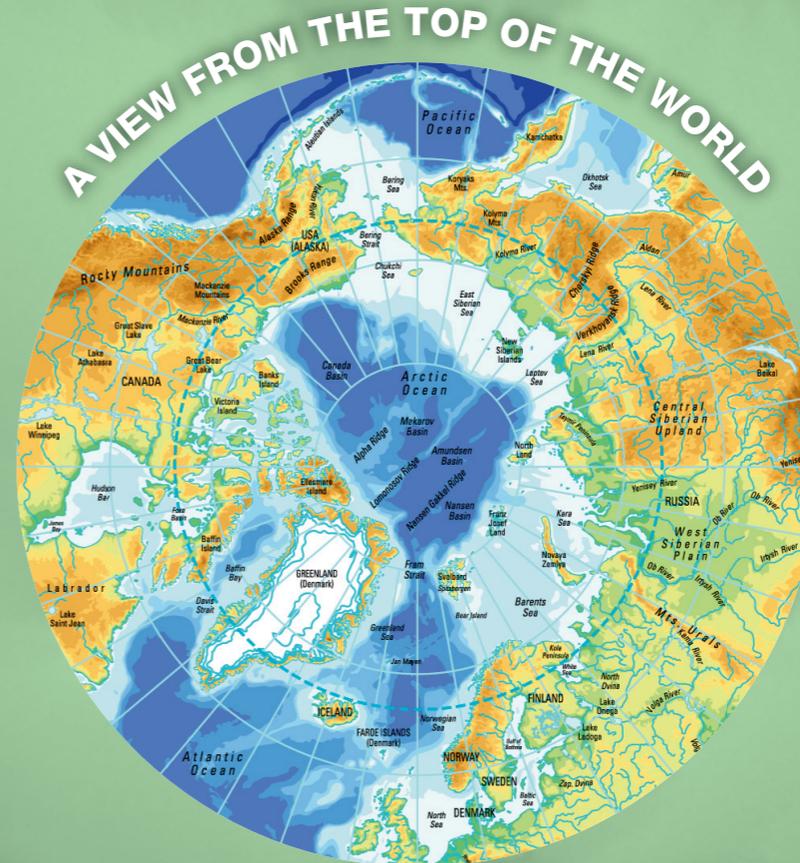
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ARCTIC COUNCIL

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AOR
ARCTIC OCEAN REVIEW
PROJECT
2009 - 2013

VISION: Promote a healthy and productive Arctic Ocean that supports environmental, economic and socio-cultural values for current and future generations.

Overview

The Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) is a multi-phased project that will review the global and regional measures that are in place for the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment, and analyze options to strengthen how the Arctic marine environment is managed. This project will address both sea and land-based activities influencing the state of the Arctic marine environment, and will result in a Phase I report on existing measures (2011) and a final report with recommendations (2013) for endorsement by the Arctic Council Ministers.

Scope

In April 2009, Arctic Council Ministers approved PAME's proposal to conduct an Arctic Ocean Review as follow-up to the 2004 Arctic Marine Strategic Plan which 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(Strategic Action 7.3.4)".

The AOR is especially timely given the climatic, environmental and socio-economic changes occurring in the Arctic which can result in increased pressures on the marine environment. This project will be based on existing assessments and information. The overall objective is to provide guidance to Arctic Council Ministers as a means to support strong governance in the Arctic through a cooperative, coordinated and integrated approach to the management of the Arctic marine environment. The AOR will be an important initiative that will provide a voice for the Arctic Council about how Member States are addressing opportunities and challenges in the Arctic marine environment.



Project Management

The AOR will be co-led by Canada, Iceland, Norway, Russia and the United States. Project leadership will be provided by lead countries' Heads of Delegation (HoD), to whom a Project Manager will report. Through the Project Expert Group, consisting of nominated representatives from Member States, the AOR will be conducted in close cooperation with other Arctic Council Working Groups, Permanent Participants, Observers and other relevant experts.

Work Plan

The AOR is a multi-phased project that will span a four-year period (2009-2013) and will consist of the following main components:

