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Memo on Invasive Alien Species

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Submitted by
CAFF and PAME Chairs

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Invasive Alien Species
For information

CONTEXT:
The Arctic Council has recognized the introduction of invasive alien species to the Arctic as having a significant adverse environmental impact. A range of Arctic Council initiatives have produced reports, recommendations and implementation actions directed towards better understanding the threat and potential ways to prevent, control and manage the introduction of such species in the Arctic. In particular CAFF and PAME are working on follow-up actions as agreed to in the 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA), the 2013 Arctic Ocean Review Final Report, the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) 2015-2025 and the Actions for Arctic Biodiversity 2013-2021:

- CAFF is working to reduce the threat of invasive alien species by developing common measures for early detection and reporting, identification and blocking of pathways of introduction, and sharing best practices and techniques of monitoring, eradication and control. This is a 2 phase initiative with phase 1 scheduled to deliver to the 2017 ministerial a strategy for the prevention and management of invasive alien species across the Arctic. Phase 2 (2017-21) will focus on implementation of this strategy including incorporation of common protocols for early detection and reporting of invasive alien species into the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP). A project Steering Committee has been formed and a workshop focused on the development of an invasive species strategy is scheduled for March 30-April 1 in Iceland.

- PAME has repeatedly encouraged ratification by Arctic States of the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention (BWM Convention) and has reported on progress by Arctic States and other relevant bodies in adopting and implementing management and control measures related to the BWM Convention. Since 2011 through its biennial AMSA implementation progress reports, PAME has highlighted efforts undertaken in this regard and reported on progress. More recently, PAME has collected information from several Arctic States on the nature, extent and impact of aquatic invasive alien species within Arctic marine waters subject to their jurisdiction. PAME has also begun gathering information from Arctic States on their legal frameworks for controlling ballast water as well as additional information on management tools and methods employed to identify risks of introducing invasive species through ballast water and other means. PAME’s aim is to explore potential voluntary best practices/ guidelines for prevention and control measures that states adopt to implement common measures and support research into technologies and techniques for early detection and reporting of aquatic invasive alien species in the Arctic marine environment. PAME deliverables scheduled for the 2017 ministerial on invasive species will be through the AMSA and AMSP implementation status reports.

CAFF and PAME have agreed upon an approach to ensure effective use of resources; avoid duplication of efforts, and ensure activities compliment and contribute to each other as relevant.

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1 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA), Arctic Ocean review (AOR), Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) and the Arctic Marine strategic Plan (AMSP)
CAFFs work on the project entails:
- Development of strategy for the prevention and management of invasive species across the Arctic (terrestrial and marine)
- Building a baseline of data available
- Considering trends in extinction risks for native species impacted by invasive species
- Building a risk atlas
- Developing response options and management recommendations including protocols for early detection and monitoring

PAMEs work on the project entails
- Providing information on aquatic invasive alien species and management measures it has collected and will continue to collect.
- Participating in the Steering Committee and in the March 2016 workshop for the CAFF initiative
- Reviewing and as appropriate providing comments on CAFF project outcomes and key findings
- Helping to develop policy recommendations and any related voluntary best practice guidelines pertaining to aquatic invasive alien species.

Further information:
- [www.caff.is/invasive-species](http://www.caff.is/invasive-species)
- Annex I: PAME background on invasive species

Sincerely,

Reidar Hindrum
CAFF Chair

Renée Sauvé
PAME Chair
Annex I: PAME Background on Invasive Species

**AMSA Report Recommendation II (E) provides:**

“That the Arctic states should consider ratification of the IMO International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water and Sediments, as soon as practical. Arctic states should also assess the risk of introducing invasive species through ballast water and other means so that adequate prevention measures can be implemented in water under their jurisdiction.”

**Follow-up** through the AMSA status reports and tracking matrix as submitted to the Arctic Council Ministerial meetings 2011, 2013 and 2015 in addition to Records of Decisions from previous PAME meetings.

**AOR Final Report Recommendation 3 provides in relevant part:**

“Arctic states should also encourage ratification to enable entry into force and implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention and research into ballast water management systems that are effective in colder settings of polar regions.”

**AOR Chapter 4-Marine Living Resources, Opportunities for cooperative action #4 (page 56):**

Promote the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention: The IMO’s International Convention for the Control and Management of Ship’s Ballast Water and Sediments (the Ballast Water Management Convention) was adopted by the IMO in 2004. Five of the eight Arctic states have ratified it, and the remaining Arctic states should consider doing so. The Ballast Water Management Convention is important to controlling the introduction of alien, invasive species to the Arctic marine environment.

**AMSP 2015-2025**

**Strategic action 7.1.3:** Improve the understanding of cumulative impacts on marine ecosystems from multiple human activity-induced stressors such as climate change, ocean acidification, local and long range transported pollution (land and sea-based), marine litter, noise, eutrophication, biomass overharvesting, invasive alien species and other threats.

**Strategic action 7.1.9:** Strengthen, where feasible, the collection, observation, monitoring and dissemination of relevant data on the Arctic marine environment. This could include hydrographic and bathymetric data; oceanographic data (including tides and currents) and meteorological information for numerical modelling and forecasting; pollutants; climate change-related impacts (especially ocean acidification); and ecosystem and biodiversity status and trends (including invasive species and other metrics of environmental change).

**Strategic Action 7.2.5:** Develop and encourage the Arctic states to implement common measures and support research into technology and techniques for early detection and reporting of marine invasive species in the Arctic marine environment.

**Follow-up** through the AMSP Implementation Plan and tracking matrix with the 1st AMSP status report to be presented to the Arctic Council Ministerial meetings in 2017.

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2 Chapter 3 of the AOR Final Report notes: “Recent growth in Arctic regional marine operations and trans-Arctic voyages, as well as evidence of alien and invasive species in the Arctic, highlight the need for ratification and entry into force of the BWM Convention and/or adoption of other domestic prevention measures as more regular summer voyages are conducted in Arctic waters.” AOR Final Report, p. 32.