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# AMSP (2015-2025) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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## PROCESS, TIMELINE AND OUTLINE

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## **1 Introduction**

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The aim of the Implementation Plan for the AMSP 2015-2025 forty strategic actions is to provide a structured approach that tracks follow-up activities (new and ongoing) over the next 10 years among the Arctic Council working groups with overall guidance from the SAOs.

## **2 Implementation Overview**

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The 9th Arctic Council Ministerial meeting convened on 24th of April 2015 approved the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2025 as a framework to protect Arctic marine and coastal ecosystems and to promote sustainable development in the region.

The AMSP articulates how the Arctic Council can increase its understanding of the impacts of e.g., human activities, climate change and ocean acidification. The AMSP also recognizes the importance of acquiring a better understanding of Arctic change so that actions can be taken that allow Arctic inhabitants, including Arctic indigenous peoples to further adapt to the change. The strategic actions identified in the AMSP guide the work of the Arctic Council and its subsidiary bodies.

This 10-year implementation plan sets forth the methodology, process and approach to execute implementation of the AMSP.

***The aim of the plan of Implementation for the AMSP 2015-2025 forty strategic actions is to provide a structured approach that tracks follow-up activities (new and ongoing) in close coordination and cooperation with other Arctic Council working groups through an with overall guidance from the Arctic Council SAOs and Ministers.***

## **3 Implementation Structure**

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The AMSP sets out a range of actions that can be undertaken by the Arctic Council and its subsidiary bodies, in collaboration with Observers of the Arctic Council and other partners, as appropriate. There is also an opportunity for joint action among the Arctic states to promote these strategic actions in relevant international and regional fora.

The AMSP addresses both short-term and long-term challenges and opportunities. Achieving the goals of this Strategic Plan is dependent on cooperation and coordination among Arctic Council subsidiary bodies on marine-related activities.

## **4 AMSP Vision**

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*Healthy, productive, and resilient Arctic marine ecosystems that support human well-being and sustainable development for current and future generations.*

## **5 AMSP Goals**

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1. Improve knowledge of the Arctic marine environment, and continue to monitor and assess current and future impacts on Arctic marine ecosystems.
2. Conserve and protect ecosystem function and marine biodiversity to enhance resilience and the provision of ecosystem services.
3. Promote safe and sustainable use of the marine environment, taking into account cumulative environmental impacts.
4. Enhance the economic, social and cultural well-being of Arctic inhabitants, including Arctic indigenous peoples and strengthen their capacity to adapt to changes in the Arctic marine environment.

## **6 Roadmap Guiding Implementation**

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A total of 40 strategic actions have been developed. These actions stem from the key findings and recommendations of recently published Arctic Council reports, and are important in a circumpolar Arctic perspective . This is not an exhaustive list of actions. It is anticipated that additional actions may be required as new priorities emerge or new information becomes available through, for example, ongoing or new studies by the Arctic Council working groups and others.

This implementation plan is a living document. The Arctic Council working groups will evaluate progress and agree on priorities and inclusions into respective work plans based on guidance from SAOs and Arctic Council Ministers, using the following roadmap.

### **Roadmap for the AMSP Implementation**

1. Analyze each strategic action and identify ongoing activities/projects/tasks.
2. Identify gaps and needs (by Arctic Council working groups, by other processes).
3. Propose future implementation options/projects (these are tentative and subject to the Arctic Council direction and respective chairmanship priorities).
4. Review options and develop outline of activities as relevant.
5. Include activities in Arctic Council working group biennial work plans as relevant.
6. Utilize criteria for setting priorities:
  - a. New and emerging knowledge affecting the Arctic marine environment (focusing on conservation and the sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment that supports environmental, socio-cultural, and economic values).
  - b. Circumpolar Arctic perspective.
  - c. Key finding and recommendations of ongoing or new studies by the Arctic Council working groups and others.
7. Revisit priorities and provide feedback as required.

## **7 Implementation Steps**

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The Arctic Council working groups will coordinate and cooperate closely in implementing the plan, and the Arctic Council will need to look to governments and agencies for support and participation. There is also an opportunity for joint action among the Arctic states to promote these strategic actions in relevant international and regional fora. The plan is organized in two-year implementation periods, corresponding to the rotation of the chairmanship of the Arctic Council. PAME, in close collaboration with other Arctic Council working groups, will provide a status reporting to the Arctic Council on the AMSP implementation at the end of each implementation period.

AMSP Implementation will be incorporated into the Arctic Council working group's work plans, as relevant, and projects developed based on priorities, needs and guidance as follows:

- 1) Identify priority strategic actions based on decisions from Arctic Council Ministerial meetings, SAOs and working groups.
- 2) Develop specific projects and activities based on the AMSP strategic actions.
- 3) Integrate projects and activities into working groups work plans.
- 4) Develop status reports on the Implementation of the AMSP at the end of each Arctic Council Chairmanship.

- 5) Report to Arctic Council SAOs and Ministers on progress.

## **8 Reporting Template**

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The forty strategic actions can be undertaken by the Arctic Council and its subsidiary bodies, in collaboration with Observers of the Arctic Council and other partners, as appropriate. There is also an opportunity for joint action among the Arctic states to promote these strategic actions in relevant international and regional fora.

Progress will be reported every 2 years for Arctic Council Ministerial meetings. Such reporting will be a cross-working group effort with the aim to provide a one-page summary status per strategic action using a simple template i.e.:

*Strategic Action 7.1.1: Strengthen scientific cooperation and joint monitoring among the Arctic states, and with other states, organizations and stakeholders involved in Arctic research or traditional and local knowledge, with a focus on prioritizing research issues, filling knowledge gaps, and developing mechanisms to share and exchange observational data.*

**Lead & Partners:** to be filled in

**Status:** to be filled in

## **9 Evaluation Progress**

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The plan is organized in two-year implementation periods, corresponding to the rotation of the chairmanship of the Arctic Council. PAME will provide a status reporting on the AMSP implementation at the end of each implementation period. Prioritization of the strategic actions may be re-evaluated based on the prioritization of the Arctic Council and its working groups. A final report will be delivered for the 14<sup>th</sup> Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in 2025.

## 10 Tracking progress: Matrix Outlining the AMSP Strategic Actions

This table is a living document that will be used to track progress of the Arctic Council in implementing the AMSP strategic actions. The “external bodies” column refers to additional relevant work being carried out by individual states, Permanent Participants, Observers and organizations that are external to the Arctic Council and the aim is to provide a reference to such work.

No	Strategic Actions	Follow up/Implementation			Status (started, onging or completed)	Timeline					Notes
		Arctic Council working groups and subsidiary bodies (name)	Arctic Council Activities	External bodies		2015-2017 (USA)	2017-2019 (Finland)	2019-2021 (Iceland)	2021-2023 (Russia)	2023-2025 (Norway)	
7.1.1	Strengthen scientific cooperation and joint monitoring among the Arctic states, and with other states, organizations and stakeholders involved in Arctic research or traditional and local knowledge,-with a focus on prioritizing research issues, filling knowledge gaps, and developing mechanisms to share and exchange observational data.										
7.1.2	Improve, synthesize, and respond to emerging knowledge across all disciplines and sectors to include government, academic and industry information, and traditional and local knowledge.										

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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.										
7.1.4	Improve the predictive capacity and develop a common understanding of the likely future impacts of climate change and other emerging threats, such as ocean acidification.										
7.1.5	Enhance local involvement in the collection of information and monitoring of the marine environment including by using traditional and local knowledge in the work of the Arctic Council..										

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7.1.6	Improve and coordinate communication of knowledge generated in Arctic Council assessments to the circumpolar and global community.										
7.1.7	Continue the development and standardizing of data sharing and management at a circumpolar level.										
7.1.8	Improve awareness of Arctic shipping activity and its impacts, promote expanded information sharing of ship traffic data among Arctic states and, as appropriate, other stakeholders, and update selected parts of the 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Report, including those pertaining to the volume, composition and destination of Arctic shipping, shipping impacts, and key infrastructure needs such as hydrographic surveying and nautical charting.										

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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 modeling 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).										
7.1.10	Strengthen the development of circumpolar procedures for, and improve remote sensing capabilities to support, ice detection, monitoring, and forecasting and improve the provision of near-shore and off-shore ice information (current and forecast conditions).										

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7.1.11	Support continued development of circumpolar indicators of changes and stressors across the Arctic marine environment, as well as metrics for monitoring biodiversity.										
7.2.1	Promote the implementation of the ecosystem approach to management in the Arctic through synthesis and application of the results of relevant work by the Arctic Council and associated efforts by relevant organizations.										
7.2.2	Identify and assess threats and impacts to areas of heightened ecological and cultural significance and how such areas may be influenced in the future by climate change and other human induced changes and activities.										
7.2.3	Identify and develop tools and methodologies for assessing cumulative impacts and risks for Arctic marine ecosystems and areas of heightened ecological and cultural significance with the aim of										

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	using them for integrated assessments.										
7.2.4	Encourage the Arctic states to implement appropriate measures, – or to pursue such measures at relevant international organizations to protect Arctic marine Areas of Heightened Ecological and Cultural Significance. Focus should be on species and ecosystems particularly at risk from climate change and cumulative impacts, including areas of refuge for ice-associated species that are, or are expected to become particularly important to Arctic marine biodiversity under future climate conditions.										
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										

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	marine environment.										
7.2.6	Identify and map areas of the marine environment that are particularly vulnerable to the effects of ocean acidification to inform appropriate monitoring and adaptation measures.										
7.2.7	Promote cooperation among Arctic and non-Arctic states to address threats to the staging and wintering grounds and migrating corridors of migratory species using the marine environment.										
7.2.8	Actively support efforts, in cooperation with indigenous peoples, to: <i>reduce long range pollution accumulating in the Arctic marine food-chains, and; address climate change and ocean acidification by reducing emissions and implementing adaptation measures, as a matter of</i>										

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	<i>urgency.</i>										
7.2.9	Limit the impacts of climate change in the short term through concerted efforts to create inventories of and reduce emissions of short lived climate forcers, in particular black carbon and methane.										
7.2.10	Develop a pan-Arctic network of marine protected areas, based on the best available knowledge, to strengthen marine ecosystem resilience and contribute to human wellbeing, including traditional ways of life.										

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7.3.1	Advance EBM as an overarching framework for conservation and sustainable use of living and non-living resources in the Arctic marine environment, taking into account cumulative impacts on the Arctic and the need for adaptation to climate change.										
7.3.2	Improve the understanding of risks and risk reducing measures related to Arctic shipping and oil and gas exploration and development activities, including gap analysis and sharing of best practices related to oil spill prevention, preparedness and response to emergencies in the Arctic.										
7.3.3	Explore whether there are substances in addition to oil that would benefit from additional pollution preparedness and response cooperation among the Arctic states.										

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7.3.4	Support the research, development, and implementation of oil spill detection, mitigation measures, and response technologies in ice-covered and ice-infested waters.										
7.3.5	Develop recommendations for consideration by Arctic states to promote maritime safety and environmental protection with the objective of reducing risks related to international shipping activities in Arctic waters.										
7.3.6	Advance continuous improvement of safety and environment protection performance and the use of best and most appropriate practices and technology for all marine activities.										
7.3.7	Support and enhance international efforts and cooperation to continue to identify, assess and reduce existing and emerging harmful contaminants.										

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7.3.8	Promote the management of human activities in the circumpolar Arctic in accordance with Ecosystem Based Management and international law to ensure long term sustainability of stocks and ecosystems.										
7.3.9	Strengthen the development of a common Arctic protocol for ecotoxicological assessment and screening of chemicals used in resource extraction activities in the Arctic.										
7.3.10	Support ongoing work to examine and recommend actions to reduce black carbon emissions from activities in Arctic waters. Encourage research that advances technical definitions, measurement standards, and mitigation options with respect to the impact on the Arctic from black carbon.										

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7.3.11	Promote cooperation to improve and expand a) hydrographic and bathymetric data collection and b) Safety of Navigation services and products (including nautical chart and publication production) to support safe and efficient marine shipping in the Arctic.										
7.3.12	Strengthen the dialogue with relevant business, industry and environmental stakeholders and Arctic inhabitants in order to foster conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment.										
7.3.13	Strengthen the dialogue with industry (including through the Arctic Economic Council) in order to foster sustainable development in the Arctic.										

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7.4.1	Improve meaningful engagement of Arctic indigenous peoples and other Arctic inhabitants in relevant decisions, including through the consideration and use of traditional and local knowledge (TLK) in avoiding or mitigating negative environmental, subsistence, and cultural impacts, as well as in maintaining or increasing well-being and socioeconomic opportunities.										
7.4.2	Facilitate coastal community exchanges between Arctic states to improve sharing of knowledge and experiences and to strengthen the dialog with relevant business and industry in the Arctic in order to foster the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment.										
7.4.3	Assess vulnerabilities and adaptation options of Arctic coastal communities to changes in climate and the marine environment, as well as challenges and opportunities related to these changes and										

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	new patterns of activity.										
7.4.4	In cooperation with the Permanent Participants, encourage engagement, as appropriate, with indigenous peoples organizations and bodies, that have specialized in traditional knowledge and that can inform the work of the Arctic Council in the protection of the marine environment and in enhance the well-being and the capacity of Arctic inhabitants, including Arctic indigenous peoples to deal with a changing Arctic and increased activity.										
7.4.5	Strengthen efforts on information, education and outreach with Arctic indigenous peoples and other residents regarding the effects of climate change to strengthen resilience and approaches to adaptation.										

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7.4.6	Strengthen the Arctic Council's communication to the public in Arctic and non-Arctic countries pointing out the importance of ongoing changes in the Arctic and their likely impact on non-Arctic areas, and emphasizing the effects on the wellbeing of all Arctic residents.										