

Status of Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Management in the Arctic; Cover Letter, and Report from the Joint Ecosystem Approach Expert Group

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Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

Arctic Council Secretariat

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Status of Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Management in the Arctic

The Iqaluit declaration (2015) encouraged progress toward implementation of the ecosystem-based management recommendations approved by Ministers in Kiruna, and requested development of practical guidelines for an ecosystem-based approach. The Joint Ecosystem Approach (EA) expert group (EA-EG), led by PAME and with participation of AMAP and CAFF, held an international conference on the status of implementation of EA in the Arctic in Fairbanks, Alaska, 24-26 August 2016. Based on the outcome of this conference, the EA-EG has prepared the report ‘Status of Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Management in the Arctic’. The report provides a short summary of work on the EA in the Arctic Council, including a review of progress on implementing the Kiruna recommendations, presents a framework for EA implementation, and recommendations for possible roles the Arctic Council could play to facilitate EA implementation by Arctic states in marine waters under their national jurisdiction.

The framework for EA implementation outlined in the report can serve as the basis for practical guidelines for an ecosystem-based approach, as requested by Ministers in Kiruna (2013). Nine of the 18 Arctic Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) are transboundary and include waters under the national jurisdiction of two or more Arctic states, while six Arctic LMEs include High Seas areas. This geopolitical setting calls for management cooperation and collaboration among Arctic states on EA implementation, and is an area where the Arctic Council as a forum can play a facilitating role.

Link to a short video: [EA Information video](#)