

September 14, 2018

Re: Statement for the Arctic Environment Ministers Meeting, October 11-12, 2018
Rovaniemi, Finland

Dear Arctic Environment Ministers, Arctic Council Members, and Indigenous Permanent Participants,

Thank you for convening this meeting to discuss the urgent environmental issues and need for shared solutions in the Arctic.

The [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) and their associated indicators are important benchmarks to assist Arctic States' commitment to the well-being of the inhabitants of the Arctic, as well as to sustainable development and the protection of the Arctic environment. The need for realization of these UN Sustainable Development Goals was reaffirmed by the Ministers of the Arctic States and the Permanent Participants in the [2017 Fairbanks Declaration](#) at the 10th Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council.

Amongst many important aspirations was Goal 14.5, to conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas by 2020, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information. Oceana urges the Arctic States to report their progress towards this goal. Oceana further urges the Arctic Council to help evaluate that progress in the context of representativeness and connectivity across the Large Marine Ecosystems of the Arctic. The Arctic Council and its workgroups have developed reports, tools and frameworks to support national and international processes to identify and conserve these areas and to undergo these evaluations. We are optimistic that Arctic States will continue and expand upon such substantive efforts.

Oceana appreciates the work of the Arctic Council to encourage collaboration and the sharing of information and ideas amongst all Arctic peoples and stakeholders. This work is key in advancing a global Arctic vision based on sustainable development and environmental protection for the region's remarkable ecosystems and vibrant communities. We appreciate the opportunity to play a role in that process, and we look forward to working together to ensure a vibrant, healthy and sustainable Arctic for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Susan Murray, Deputy Vice President, Pacific
Oceana