

# SAO Marine Mechanism Fall 2020 Webinar Series

29 September-29 October 2020

Draft concept and modalities note

## Background

At the 2019 Rovaniemi Ministerial meeting, SAOs were tasked to implement a SAO-based mechanism (SMM) to improve coordination of, and strategic guidance on, Arctic marine issues. It was concluded later that year that the mechanisms' format would take the shape of dedicated sessions within the framework of SAO plenary meetings, and give SAOs, Permanent Participants (PPs), Working Groups (WGs) and Observers the opportunity to call attention to ocean-related matters they believe to be of particular relevance for the Arctic Council. The first such meeting was planned for the Akureyri SAO plenary in March 2020, that was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak.

With the unfavorable travel conditions caused by Covid-19 – preventing in person Arctic Council gatherings –, the Chairmanship has decided to move forward with the SMM as a series of webinar thematic discussions in the fall of 2020, **based on the original agenda previously developed for the Akureyri SAO plenary**. The SMM is designed to create a frame for discussion on Arctic marine matters with marine experts from the Arctic States, PPs, WGs and Observers. The virtual meetings will be tailored to facilitate policy, expert and knowledge-holder interactions.

## Calendar

The SMM webinar series will be launched on Tuesday 29 September with a kick-off plenary session intended to set the stage for the four thematic sessions that will follow on Thursdays throughout October. The concluding wrap-up plenary session will take place on Thursday 29 October with summary reporting from all four thematic sessions, and followed by a discussion amongst SAOs, PPs and WGs.

**The SMM calendar is as follows:**

Tuesday, 29 September, <u>13:30-15:00</u> GMT	<b>Setting the scene: SMM plenary session (One 90-minutes segment);</b>
Thursday, 1 October, <u>13:30-16:00</u> GMT	<b>Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (Two 60-minutes segments);</b>
Thursday, 8 October, <u>13:30-16:00</u> GMT	<b>Sustainable Arctic Shipping (Two 60-minutes segments);</b>
Thursday, 15 October, <u>13:30-16:00</u> GMT	<b>Regional Coordination of Marine Issues and Global Commitments (Two 60-minutes segments);</b>
Thursday, 22 October, <u>13:30-16:00</u> GMT	<b>Ecosystem-Based Management (Two 60-minutes segments);</b>
Thursday, 29 October, <u>13:30-17:00</u> GMT	<b>Concluding/wrap-up session (Two 90-minutes segments).</b>

## Format

**The opening and concluding sessions** of the SMM will be held in a SAO plenary format adapted for virtual purposes. The Chairmanship, the HoD for the eight Arctic States and the six Permanent Participants will be on camera while other participants will be expected to be in listening mode except when invited to take the floor.

The format of **the thematic sessions** will be an interactive panel discussion between the moderator, the keynote speaker, and expert presenters. The moderator and panelists will be on camera during the whole session while other participants will be expected to be in listening mode except when invited to take the floor.

Keynote speakers will pre-record their 10-12 minutes opening statements one week in advance. Expert presenters will also have the opportunity to pre-record their 8-10 minutes presentations up until the day before their respective session. Recordings will be shared with all participants before each session.

The Moderator of each session will open the panel discussion with a brief overview of the pre-recorded keynote and expert presentations before engaging the panelists directly without them delivering scripted opening statements. The first one-hour segment will be dedicated to the moderated interactive panel discussion, but the latter one-hour segment will be used for interaction with other participants.

Requests for the floor may be submitted from the day before. Priority will be given to Arctic States, Permanent Participants and Arctic Council WGs. Observer participants will be given the floor as time allows. Priority will be given to grouped interventions.

Each thematic session will have a dedicated online chatroom where participants can make comments and pose questions that the moderator and panelists will address as needed during and within 24-hours following the session.

The webinar series will be organized on the [GoToMeeting](#) platform.

## Composition of panels

The proposed schedule of events and topics and composition of the panels for the thematic sessions is based on the agenda for the postponed Akureyri SMM. As before, the intention is to conduct a targeted discussion on the selected topics with the ambition to provide basis for policy guidance from SAOs on all marine related activities of the Arctic Council. Invitations for keynote speakers and expert presenters were carefully placed in order to draw upon expertise from various directions in a balanced manner. As the format and timing of the SMM has changed from earlier plans, **all contributors (i.e., moderators, keynote speakers and expert presenters) will need to be reconfirmed** with the help of the ACS.

### Role of moderators

Moderators are responsible for directing and guiding the flow of discussion. They will be in contact with each speaker and presenter prior to the meeting to discuss the structure of the webinar session and answer any questions they might have regarding the format and content.

The moderators will present the main findings from their respective thematic sessions during the concluding plenary session on Thursday 29 October. These feedback summaries should be no longer than 8-10 minutes in length and will be followed by a discussion.

## Delegation sizes

The delegation size for this SMM webinar is **1 + 8 for the States and PPs, 1 + 2 for Working Groups and 1 + 2 for Observers**. Marine experts are included in the number of each delegation.

## Registration

The registration for the webinar series will open on **Friday 11 September**, and close on **Friday 25 September**. Participants are required to register to each plenary opening/closing and thematic sessions. Upon registration, a meeting code will be provided for the login of each session on the GoToMeeting platform, via your computer, tablet or smartphone.

## Guidelines for remote participation

The ACS will conduct GoToMeeting platform tests in advance with all presenters.

Guidelines for remote participation will be made available to all participants in advance on SharePoint.

## Interpretation

Interpretation will be provided between English and Russian language.

## Communications

To enhance public engagement on marine coordination in the Arctic Council, the ACS communications department will be in contact with all panel participants before or after the webinar to discuss how to best communicate each speaker's main message on the Council's different social media platforms.

## Reporting

A report from the meeting will be prepared by the ACS. Speakers and moderators are strongly encouraged to share their meeting notes with the ACS after the webinar for reporting accuracy.

## Contact

If you have any questions, please contact the Arctic Council Secretariat ([acs@arctic-council.org](mailto:acs@arctic-council.org)).