Setting the scene: SMM plenary session

- Chair: Einar Gunnarsson, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials
- Invited speaker: Peter Winsor, WWF —Global Arctic Programme
Creating an Effective SAO Marine Mechanism

WWF Arctic Programme
Dr. Peter Winsor, Director
September 29, 2020
Good Arctic Marine Management:

- Implement Ecosystem-Based Marine Management
- Implement the forthcoming BBNJ Agreement in the Arctic Ocean
- Establish an Arctic-wide network of priority areas for conservation based on ecological principles reaching across national boundaries
- Support other efforts to strengthen governance, such as the new Arctic Fisheries Agreement (International Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean).
We have identified a network of priority areas for marine conservation across the entire Arctic Ocean, considering and prioritizing the needs of marine life, and the important functions of all the region’s unique ecosystems.

- A unique resource for conservation planning, advocacy, and engagement for establishing effective conservation measures across an entire ocean.
What is ArcNet?

- A mapped vision of an Arctic Ocean network of Priority Areas for Conservation as a concrete proposal to governments and marine stakeholders
- A comprehensive and reproducible approach to identify and establish an ocean-spanning conservation network
- An invitation to engage and an offering of tools for establishing and adjusting the network
- When implemented will enable >30% of the Arctic to be under protection and management
Principals to guide the SAO Marine Mechanism:

- Involve the participation of officials from Arctic Council Members with decision-making authority

- Base decisions on the best available science, especially Indigenous and local knowledge

- Address practical concerns and generate concrete and actionable measures for implementation

- Have the capacity to recommend actions to be undertaken by Arctic governments in real-time in the event of an emergency affecting the Arctic Ocean.
- How will SMM operationalize Ministerial decisions?

- How does SMM advance establishing EBM including Networks of Marine Protected Areas as a key tool for Sustainable Development, Resilience and Adaptation?

- How can the SMM support efforts by other bodies to strengthen governance of the Arctic Ocean, such as the BBNJ negotiations and the new Arctic Fisheries Agreement?

- How can SMM promote compressed timelines for carbon neutrality to minimize the profound effects of climate change on Arctic communities and biodiversity?

- What actions and decisions are needed to enable the SMM to deliver at the end of the Icelandic Chairmanship and to continue the substantive focus during the Russian Chairmanship and beyond?

- How can the SMM act on mandate and agenda despite the COVID-19 pandemic challenges for international collaboration, and demonstrate inspiring governance leadership?