

Progress Best Practices in Ecosystem-Based Ocean Management in the Arctic (BePOMAr)

Lead country: Norway

Project coordinator: Alf Håkon Hoel
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The project is a joint SDWG/PAME project.

1. Background and objective

The aggregate effects of multiple uses of the oceans – fishing, transportation, petroleum development, waste disposal, etc. – call for an ecosystems-based approach to oceans management in order to ensure sustainable development and protection of the Arctic marine environment.

The objective of the project is to present the concepts and practices the Arctic countries have developed for the application of an ecosystem-based approach to oceans management. By reviewing how countries actually put to use such concepts and practices, lessons can be drawn on how to effectively do ecosystems-based oceans management. Such lessons can foster mutual learning and understanding.

The project build upon existing Arctic Council work, adopted strategies and programs, including the work of the LME expert group and relevant PAME, SDWG and CAFF projects.

2, Progress report

Since the adoption of the project by the SAO meeting in April 2007, the project has been revised to accommodate the comments made by SAOs at that meeting.

Lead authors for the participating countries have been identified. Sweden is not participating in case study writing. Authors are:

Alf Håkon Hoel (Norway)
Vladimir Denisov (Russia)
Tom Laughlin (USA)
Robert Siron (Canada)
Steinar Mathiasson (Iceland)
Hermann Kaartokallio (Finland)
Eskild Lund Sørensen (Denmark)
Henry Huntington/ Caleb Pungowiyi (Indigenous chapter)
Ken Sherman (LME´s)

The draft country chapters and the indigenous chapter were (with one exception) written during fall 2007 and early 2008. A draft analysis was also prepared early 2008. An authors' meeting was in Washington DC 20-21 February 2008, doing a review of the chapters. The meeting concluded that the project report with the country studies will be of a technical nature. In addition, a short document "Observed Best Practices" will be produced, specifying core elements and common themes in ecosystems-based oceans management.

Based on the draft chapters and discussions at the February meeting, a draft report from the project will be prepared by April 2008, along with draft Observed Best Practices, for discussion at SDWG and PAME.

The Washington meeting also revised the workplan for the project. Following input from PAME and SDWG the draft report will be revised. A meeting will be held in October to finalise the report and the Observed Best Practices.

Timing for a conference addressing the issues raised in the project is being considered, possibly in conjunction with the Ministerial meeting spring 2009.

The project will be an information only item for the SAOs at their April 2008 meeting, as its products will have to be considered by PAME and SDWG before being presented to SAOs at their November meeting.

Anticipated deliveries for the 2009 ministerial meeting is the project report and the Observed Best Practices document.