

15.11.07

**Doc#: 11/07-11.2b**

**Progress report to SAO meeting in Narvik –  
Best Practices in Ecosystem-Based Ocean Management in the Arctic  
(BePOMAr)**

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 way of reviewing how countries actually put to use such concepts and practices, lessons can be drawn on how to effectively do ecosystems-based oceans management.

The project will 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, the project has been revised to accommodate the comments made by SAOs.

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 (Indigenous chapter)  
Ken Sherman (LME's)

The project is just now in the process of collecting the chapters. An analysis based on the country chapters will be prepared for a first review at an authors' meeting in Washington DC 20-21 February 2008. The meeting will review country chapters, a chapter on indigenous issues, in addition to the draft analysis based on country chapters.

Based on the draft chapters and discussions at the February meeting, a draft report from the project will be prepared by May 2008.

The schedule for fall 2008 is as envisioned in the project document adopted at the April 2007 SAO meeting:

- 1) Finalization by SDWG and PAME.
- 2) A final draft to be presented at the SAO meeting.
- 3) A manuscript ready for copy-editing and processing ready by end of the year.

Timing for a conference addressing the issues raised in the project is being considered, possibly for late 2008 or in conjunction with the Ministerial meeting spring 2009.

A website for the project is in the process of being established and will be operative when draft country chapters are all submitted.