



Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) Project Plan

The Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) is a multi-phased project that will result in a review of the global and regional measures that are in place for the protection of the Arctic marine environment, and options to address any gaps or weaknesses. This project will address both sea and land-based activities influencing the state of the Arctic marine environment, and will result in a phase I report on existing measures (2011) and a final report with recommendations (2013) for endorsement by the Arctic Council Ministers.

1. Introduction

The Arctic marine environment is subject to increasing pressures, resulting from climate change and pollution on the one hand, and from economic activities on the other. The Arctic Council is at the forefront of these emerging issues through the development of various in-depth reports and assessments, such as the State of the Arctic Environment Report, Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment, and Arctic Oil and Gas Assessment among others. Because of the work of the Arctic Council, the pressures to the Arctic marine environment can be better understood and are higher on the international agenda than in recent years. It is therefore timely to undertake a review of global and regional measures (voluntary and mandatory) that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment, as well as activities of the Arctic Council in order to clearly demonstrate Arctic states' stewardship efforts to the global community.

The AOR is encouraged by:

- The Arctic Marine Strategic Plan, adopted by the Arctic Council in 2004, provides the foundation for both the Arctic Council and PAME's mission and objectives. It specifically requires PAME to "Periodically review the status and adequacy of international/regional agreements and standards that have application in the Arctic marine environment, new scientific knowledge of emerging substances of concern, and analyze the applicability of a regional seas agreement to the Arctic" (Strategic Action 7.3.4).
- The Danish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council (2009-2011) proposes to identify "Megatrends in the Arctic" based on key past and upcoming Arctic Council reports and assessments. The intention of this report is to provide a broad picture of needs and possibilities for environmental protection, prevention of human health effects,

and the sustainable development of the Arctic region. The AOR could significantly contribute to the environmental portion of this compilation report.

- The common objectives and priorities for the Norwegian, Danish and Swedish chairmanships of the Arctic Council (2006-2013) has given high priority to the theme of integrated management, as well as ensuring a sustainable and ecosystem-based approach to resource development in the Arctic.
- Objective II of the PAME Work Plan 2009-2011 asks PAME to “Determine the adequacy of applicable international/regional commitments and promote their implementation and compliance”.
- Commitments by the global community to sustainable development and protection of marine biodiversity and the marine environment through the application of the ecosystem approach and integrated coastal and ocean management.

2. Objectives

The overall objective of the AOR is to provide guidance to Arctic Council Ministers as a means to strengthen governance in the Arctic through a cooperative, coordinated, and integrated approach to the management of Arctic marine environment. The AOR will also play an important role in demonstrating Arctic States’ stewardship efforts in the Arctic.

Phase I Objectives (2009-2011):

- Compile information on global and regional measures that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment;
- Survey the status and trends in the Arctic marine environment in cooperation with other working groups of the Arctic Council;
- Disseminate compiled information through communication products/tools, and conduct outreach to both communicate efforts and obtain input;
- Prepare a compilation document that will review global and regional measures that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment and identify and highlight potential weaknesses. (This document will form the basis of discussion for the technical workshop); and,
- Develop a status report for Arctic Council Ministers.

Phase II Objectives (2011-2013):

- Take into account major new developments;
- Analyze potential weaknesses and/or impediments in global and regional instruments and measures to achieving environmental, economic and socio-cultural outcomes;
- Outline options to address potential weaknesses and/or impediments; and,

- Produce a final AOR Report to Arctic Council Ministers that will: summarize potential weaknesses and/or impediments in the global and regional instruments and measures for management of the Arctic marine environment; outline options to address these weaknesses and/or impediments; and, make agreed recommendations to help ensure a healthy and productive Arctic marine environment in light of current and emerging trends.

3. Scope and Approach

The AOR will not initiate a new assessment, but will produce a report on the global and regional measures in place for the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment. The report will also include recent and ongoing activities of the Arctic Council. It may be necessary for the lead countries to revisit the scope and approach at a later date and whether the activities of other organizations need to be included. In its first phase (2009-2011), the project will survey the status and trends in the Arctic marine environment, which will require close cooperation with other working groups of the Arctic Council. A special effort will be made to ensure that the report will take into account a variety of relevant initiatives.

Based on a thorough understanding of the status and trends, Phase I will then review relevant, existing global and regional instruments and measures (voluntary and mandatory) that apply to the Arctic marine environment, in particular with regard to its conservation and sustainable use.

Phase II (2011 – 2013) will further develop the work conducted in Phase I with an emphasis on areas where the Arctic Council can effectively add value to the existing mechanisms of governance for the Arctic marine environment. An important question here is how the members of the Arctic Council can further develop and build on existing mechanisms that have proven to be effective.

4. Project Management

The AOR will be led by Canada, Iceland, Norway, Russia, and the United States. Project leadership will be provided by lead countries' Heads of Delegation (HoD) to whom a Project Manager will report (see project structure - Annex A).

PAME HoD will be asked to provide points of contact within their respective governments to form the Project Expert Group. This expert group will contribute to the organization of the technical workshop and international conference, and the production of various documents and solicit input from Permanent Participants and other Arctic Council Working Groups.

5. Outcomes

- Outreach/Communication Strategy;
- Report summarizing the status, context, and instruments and measures relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment. (This will include input from a workshop – captured in a workshop report);

- Communication products demonstrating Arctic Council's stewardship efforts;
- Report – analyzed potential weaknesses and/or impediments; and,
- Recommendations to Arctic Council Ministers – guidance to policy-makers.

Phase I will entail a workshop (Fall 2010) to address the status of the Arctic marine environment and the potential weaknesses and/or impediments identified through reviewing global and regional measures that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment. Based on the outcomes of this workshop, and other material, a report will be presented to Arctic Council Ministers in 2011, including an outline for Phase II.

In its second phase, an international conference will be arranged in 2011, as a follow-up to the technical workshop held in Phase I, and will provide the basis for the work on areas for further involvement on the part of the Arctic Council, as well as modalities for such work. A final AOR Report will be presented to Arctic Council Ministers in 2013, which will include recommendations for their endorsement.

6. Main Components, Timeline and Major Milestones

Phase I: 2009-2011 – Information gathering and Outreach

The first phase of this project will be comprised of scoping, outreach, communication and compiling information about global and regional instruments and measures related to the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment. It will be done in close coordination with Permanent Participants and the Working Groups of the Arctic Council. Deliverables for Phase I will be a status report to Arctic Council Ministers and communications products for outreach purposes (see AOR Phase I Milestones - Annex B).

Timeline	AOR Phase I <i>Project Expert Group in close cooperation with Lead Countries and PAME Secretariat</i>	AOR Technical Expert Workshop <i>Lead Countries and PAME Secretariat</i>
YEAR 2009		
Ongoing throughout phase I	Disseminate compiled information through communication products/tools Lead countries, with the Project Manager, will be responsible for soliciting input from relevant stakeholders and communicating the details of the AOR using existing national and regional forums.	
Aug 31	Finalize AOR Project Plan for submission prior to PAME I-2009	
Sept 8	Project Manager to provide lead countries with first draft of AOR Table of Contents (ToC).	
Sept 15	PAME Secretariat to send draft ToC to PAME HoDs and PPs.	
Sept 30 – Oct 2 (PAME I-2009)	PAME to approve AOR Project Plan and draft ToC.	
October 19	Send letter of invitation from the PAME Chair to AC working groups and PPs to request relevant information. Project Manager to send letter to PAME members and observers to request relevant information. Lead countries to review first draft of Outreach/Communication Strategy.	
Nov 1	Lead countries to finalize Outreach/Communication Strategy	

	PAME Heads of Delegation to confirm representatives on AOR Project Group.	
Nov 12-13 SAO Meeting	PAME Chair to update SAOs on the AOR and seek guidance/input if needed.	
Dec 15	Project expert group to provide first draft of the compilation document to lead countries and PAME Secretariat.	
YEAR 2010		
Jan 15	Conference call between Project expert group and lead countries to discuss and revise first draft of the compilation document	
Feb Arctic Council Working Group Chairs/ Secretariats meeting (TBC)	Project Manager to consult with Working Group Chairs and Secretariats in preparation for technical workshop.	
Mid-Feb	Revised draft of the compilation document to be distributed to PAME HoDs, PPs, and AC working groups	First draft of workshop agenda, letter of invite, list of participants, themes etc. by lead countries (workshop partially verifying the compilation and linkages to the AC working groups)
Mar 2	Project Manager to meet with experts from the Working Groups.	
Mar 12-16 PAME I-2010 Meeting (TBC)	Revised 1st draft AOR and the Workshop content/logistics	Lead countries to present workshop content/logistics
Apr 12-16 SAO Meeting	PAME Chair to update SAOs on the AOR and seek guidance/input if needed.	
May	Project expert group to provide second draft of compilation document to lead countries	Leads to finalize workshop package
Jun 1	Send revised second draft of compilation document to PAME HoDs and PPs.	PAME Secretariat to send workshop package (letter of invite, draft annotated agenda, etc)
Sept	Project expert group to provide the third draft of AOR – for distribution to the PAME II-2010 meeting	
Sept/Oct PAME II-2010 Meeting	PAME to provide input on the third draft of the compilation document.	AOR Technical Expert Workshop (status and trends). To be held back-

(TBC)		to-back with the PAME II-2010 meeting)
Nov SAO Meeting (TBC)	Third draft of the compilation document and workshop outcomes to be presented by PAME Chair.	Project expert group to draft workshop report and summary of outcomes.
Nov-Jan 2011	Project expert group to prepare final draft of the compilation document to be submitted 1 month prior to PAME I-2011	Lead countries to approve workshop report and send to PAME, PPs and workshop participants.
Year 2011		
Jan/Feb PAME I-2011 Meeting (TBC)	PAME to approve final report for Phase I	Lead countries to present workshop outcomes.
Mar	Finalize phase I AOR Report including guidance/description of Phase II AOR.	
Apr Arctic Council Ministerial	PAME Chair to present final Phase I AOR Report and AOR Workshop Report	

Phase II (2011-2013): Analysis of information and Reporting to the Arctic Council

The second phase of this project will follow-up on the information collected in Phase I by analyzing potential weaknesses and/or impediments in global and regional measures in place for the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment, including Arctic Council activities, and outline options to address these weaknesses and/or impediments. The major deliverable for Phase II will be a final report to Arctic Council Ministers that will summarize potential weaknesses and the options to address them, as well as recommendations for endorsement by Arctic Council Ministers to help ensure a healthy, productive and safe Arctic marine environment in light of current and emerging trends.

Timeline	AOR Phase II	AOR Conference
	<i>Project Expert group in close cooperation with Lead Countries and PAME Secretariat</i>	<i>Lead Countries and PAME Secretariat</i>
Year 2011		
May	Project expert group to draft AOR Project Plan Phase II and consult with lead countries.	
June-July	Project expert group to finalize AOR Project Plan Phase II.	
August	PAME Secretariat to send AOR Project Plan Phase II to PAME and PPs.	
Sep/Oct 2011 PAME II-2011 (TBC)	PAME to approve AOR Project Plan for Phase II.	
Oct 2011-	Project expert group and leads to address	

Apr 2012	drivers and needs.	
Oct – Nov		Project expert group to develop agenda for international conference and consult with lead countries.
Dec		Project expert group to finalize conference agenda.
Year 2012		
January		PAME Secretariat to send conference package
Apr (TBC)		AOR International Conference (possibly back-to-back with a SAO meeting).
Apr– Dec	Continue analysis, develop findings and recommendations	
Year 2013		
Apr	Arctic Council Ministerial meeting: Final AOR Report with findings and recommendations	

7. Financial Considerations

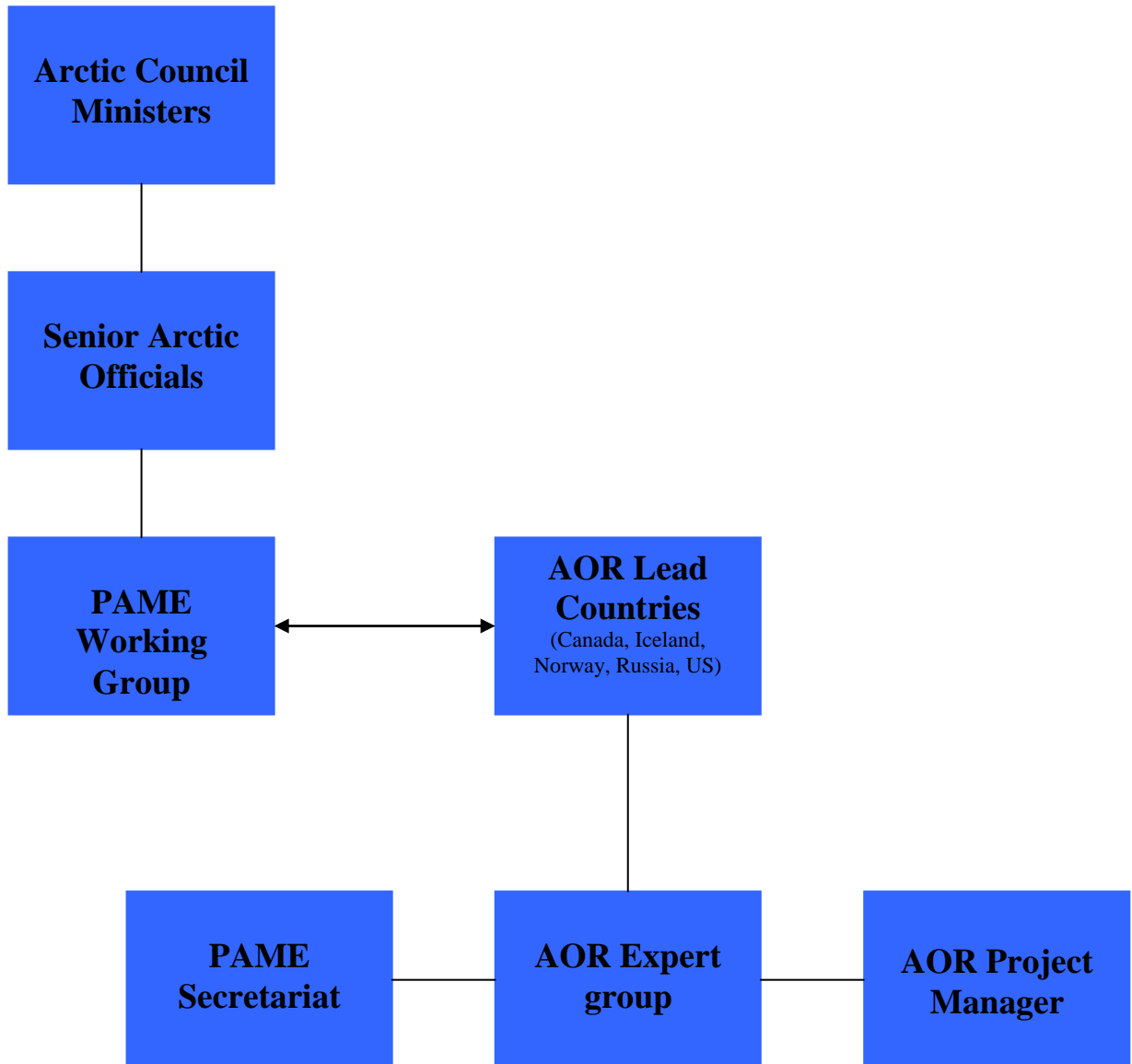
Consistent with the over-all Arctic Council approach, the AOR will be financed through voluntary contributions from member states. As this project does not require the collection of new data and is being implemented over a 4 year period, the total cost and cost per year are expected to be fairly modest. The proposed stepwise approach with SAO approval required for each phase will facilitate financial planning and budgets. Arctic country participation will be through in-kind support. The cost for Permanent Participants to participate will need to be determined in consultation with them. The PAME Secretariat will provide administrative support from its normal annual budget.

Given this is a multi-year, multi-phased project, it is difficult at this stage to propose a budget for Phase II, however, it is expected to be similar to Phase I.

Budget for Phase I (2009-2011)

ACTION / ITEM	Responsibility	COST (Approx.) *cost in USD
Overall project coordination and research, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compile a list of all ocean-related initiatives of the Arctic Council and other relevant fora since 2002; and, - Consult with Working Group Chairs and Secretariats in preparation for the technical workshop. 	Project Manger and Project Assistant	\$40,000 (TBC)
Information package including an overview brochure profiling all initiatives/measures and a fact sheet on each activity.	PAME Secretariat and lead countries	\$20,000
Technical workshop	Iceland (TBC)	\$40,000
Printing and layout of the Phase I report.	PAME Secretariat and lead countries	\$20,000
Support for Permanent Participants to participate in the project and workshops.	TBC	\$20,000 (TBC)
TOTAL		\$140,000 (TBC)

ANNEX A – Project Management Structure



Project Contact List:

<p>Project Co-Leads <i>*Co-leads will designate contact person to the Project Manager</i></p>	<p><u>Canada:</u> Renée Sauvé Renee.Sauve@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</p>
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ANNEX B - Major Milestones – Phase I 2009-2011

