



PAME-led Ecosystem Approach Expert Group

Contributions to the follow-up on implementing the EBM recommendations from the 2013 Kiruna Ministerial meeting

PAME established in 2007 an EA expert group (EA-EG) with the USA and Norway as co-lead countries. The EA-EG was broadened in 2011 when other Arctic Council working groups were invited to contribute to a joint the EA-EG. The EA-EG has arranged three workshops, the last in Reykjavik in June 2013 on data issues in relation to EA and integrated assessment.

The work of the EA-EG is very much in line with the recommendations from the EbM group.

On the institutional side, PAME II-2013 recognized the leading role that the EA-EG could play in assuring coordination of a common approach to the work of the Arctic Council on EBM in the marine part of the Arctic.

For the Science and Information aspects, the EA-EG works directly with all the listed points except the point on valuation of significant Arctic ecosystem services. We are using LMEs; we have identified areas of heightened significance and will be considering how these can be used in an EA context; we are working on data issues and the issue of integrated ecosystem assessment (IEA). The next (4th) EA workshop is likely to focus on these issues.

On the Policy and Implementation side, the work of the EA-EG can contribute to the encouragement for cooperation by two or more states in implementing EA to management for transboundary LMEs such as the Barents Sea (shared by Norway and Russia), the Beaufort Sea (shared by Canada and the USA), and the Northern Bering-Chukchi Sea (shared by Russia and the USA). We are starting work on the issue of ecological objectives which are an essential component of the EA to management. In this work and in the work on IEA we will encourage participation of Permanent Participants with information and views on application of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in the context of the EA.