

Instructions for Observers subject to review

Introduction

This document provides the reporting template and accompanying instructions for Observers to be reviewed during the **Icelandic Chairmanship (2019-2021)**.

The deadline for submission is **1 June 2020**.

According to the "[Arctic Council Rules of Procedure](#)" (Annex 2), every **two years** Observers are requested to submit to the Chairmanship up-to-date information about relevant activities and their contributions to the work of the Arctic Council. Every four years, from the date of being granted Observer status, Observers will be reviewed at the Ministerial meeting. The following **20 Observers** will be reviewed at the next Ministerial meeting, and are requested to submit their review report by **1 June 2020**:¹

- Germany;
- The Netherlands;
- Poland;
- Switzerland;
- United Kingdom;
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
- Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM);
- OSPAR Commission (OSPAR);
- Standing Committee of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Regions (SCPAR);
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE);
- United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment);
- West Nordic Council (WNC);
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO);
- Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Seas (ACOPS);
- International Arctic Science Committee (IASC);
- International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES);
- International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH);
- Northern Forum (NF);
- Oceana; and,
- World Wildlife Fund for Nature – Global Arctic Program (WWF).

¹ These include the Observers reviewed before the Fairbanks Ministerial meeting in 2017 as well as Observers admitted that year.

Role of Observers

The role and responsibilities of Observers, as well as criteria for admission to the Arctic Council, can be found in the “Arctic Council Rules of Procedure” (Annex 2) and the “[Observer Manual for Subsidiary Bodies](#).”

The primary role of Observers is to observe the work of the Arctic Council. Observers contribute to the Arctic Council primarily through engagement at the level of Working Groups, Task Forces, and/or Expert Groups. Observers are invited to the meetings and other activities of the Arctic Council unless the Senior Arctic Officials decide otherwise. Observers may also propose projects through an Arctic State or a Permanent Participant.

Report submission

Observer review reports should include the relevant information described below and in the template.

- (a) A description of the Observer’s contributions to the work of the Arctic Council since the time of the Observer’s most recent submission, or in the previous two years, with special focus on contributions to the subsidiary bodies through project participation and support, as well as collaboration with Permanent Participants;
- (b) If applicable, a description of the Observer’s future plans to contribute to the work of the Arctic Council, with special focus on contributions to the subsidiary bodies through project participation and support, as well as collaboration with Permanent Participants; and,
- (c) If applicable, a description of the Observer’s contributions to other aspects of the Arctic Council and its goals not covered in the previous sections since the time of the Observer’s most recent submission, or in the previous two years.

Observer review reports should be submitted electronically to the **Arctic Council Secretariat** via email: acs@arctic-council.org not later than **1 June 2020**. Please bear in mind while preparing your report that all Observer reports will be published online in the *Observer* section of the [Arctic Council online Library](#).

If an Observer fails to submit a report during the review process, the Arctic Council will consider this to mean that the Observer **is no longer interested in maintaining its status** as an accredited Observer to the Arctic Council.

Cover sheet

Full name of state or organization:

Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS)

Date of submission:

6 July 2020

Observer's website, if appropriate:

www.acops.org.uk

Information for appropriate contact person

Full name: Youna LYONS

Email: yol@acops.org.uk or younalyons@nus.edu.sg

Telephone: +447871 056856

Organization or department: ACOPS

Job Title: Trustee and Chair of the Board

Full mailing address:
ACOPS
One Bartholomew Close,
Barts Square,
London EC1A 7BL
UK

Is your state or organization interested in continuing as an Observer of the Arctic Council?

Yes No

Observer Review Report

Please describe in no more than two pages your state's or organization's contributions to the work of the Arctic Council's Working Groups, Task Forces, and/or Expert Groups since the time of your most recent report, or in the previous two years. Please highlight contributions to specific projects, such as through proposals, concept development, in-kind and financial support, and hosting of meetings. Please detail any collaboration with Permanent Participants, such as project proposal endorsement and support.

ACOPS engagement with the protection of the arctic marine environment predates the establishment of the Arctic Council. It has since supported the Ottawa Declaration as well as the work of the Arctic Council and of its subsidiary bodies for matters that relate to the arctic marine environment and climate issues.

ACOPS participated to PAME in-person workshop on the development of a framework for more systematically engaging Arctic Council Observers in PAME's shipping-related work.

Due to budget limitations, ACOPS has had little resources to send representatives to in-person meetings in the last few years. ACOPS has also undergone a change of the entire management team and review of the governing documents. As ACOPS' activities evolved since the early 80s to respond to the context of its time, these documents which dated from the early 80 needed updating. This important stream of work and the subsequent Covid 19 crisis have limited the support that ACOPS could provide to the Arctic Council during that period.

ACOPS is now in a position to resume greater engagement and visibility in its support of the work of the Arctic Council and its subsidiary body, especially PAME. In this respect, maintenance of virtual participation to meetings would be extremely useful.



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If applicable, please describe in no more than one page your state's or organization's future plans for contributing to the work of the Arctic Council's Working Groups, Task Forces, and/or Expert Groups. Please highlight intentions to contribute to specific projects and to collaborate with Permanent Participants.

Topics in the work of the Arctic Council and its subsidiary bodies that are within the area of expertise and concern of ACOPS are the following projects of (independently or jointly) PAME, CAFF and EPPR:

- Low-impact marine corridor initiatives;
- MPAs;
- Ecosystem approach to management;
- Improved engagement with observers in shipping related matters;
- Understanding, governance and management of pollution from marine plastics, including the implementation of ML-RAP;
- Underwater noise in the Arctic;
- Interpretation of the Polar Code (common ground for interpretation and remaining challenges);
- Black carbon emissions from shipping activity in the Arctic and Technology; and
- Environmental toxicity and fate of light and intermediate fuel when spilled in cold waters.

For most of these topics, parallel work streams are on-going in other intergovernmental organisations including the IMO, the LC/LP and OSPAR. ACOPS also takes part in parallel working groups established in these other fora thereby allowing for enhanced sharing of the work across the bodies and supporting the development of an overall consistent governance framework.

ACOPS' network also includes young researchers who focus on marine arctic issues. ACOPS brings the work of the Arctic Council to their attention and where relevant can provide their work to the WGs as relevant and useful. An example is ongoing work in Singapore on the ecological and/or physiological adaptation of a *Micromonas Spp* in the Arctic (a pico-phytoplankton species).

If applicable, please describe in no more than one page your state's or organization's contributions to other aspects of the Arctic Council and its goals not covered by the previous sections since the time of your most recent report, or in the previous two years.

ACOPS is a non-campaigning UK-based environmental NGO established in 1952 by Lord Callaghan. It functions as a pathway for information and dialogue at the interface of science, law and policy across academia, governments, IOs and relevant private and public stakeholders and NGO which depend on the marine or maritime issues being focused on.

In addition to the Arctic Council, ACOPS has consultative status with four intergovernmental organisations: The International Maritime Organisation, the governing bodies of the London Convention and its Protocol, the International Seabed Authority and OSPAR.

As an NGO and an advisory committee composed primarily of research academics specialised in ocean law and policy and oceanography, ACOPS supports the work of the Arctic Council in a number of ways including:

- Following the work of the Arctic Council and PAME and communicating it to its wide network of stakeholders, including through social media platforms;
- Declaring its support to ministerial statements and projects of WGs;
- Providing technical contributions to working groups on specific issues. Examples of current areas for such contribution are combatting pollution from marine plastics and the identification of marine sensitive areas in the arctic that take into account international law and examples of such identification and criteria for identification around the world;
- Budget permitting, contributing to research projects in the context of the PAME.