



# **Inter-institutional Collaboration for Integrated Ecosystem Assessment in the Central Arctic Ocean: ICES and the Arctic Council**

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# I. Introduction

- Scientific cooperation on Inter-state level and on Inter-Institutional level
- The focus: the Inter-institutional collaboration between the **ICES** and the **Arctic Council** (AC) for **integrated ecosystem assessment** (IEA) in the central Arctic Ocean (CAO)
- What is **IEA**?

“IEA provides information on status and trends of the main ecosystem components including evaluation of impacts by various human activities such as fishing, pollution, coastal development and others, as well as the overall or cumulative impacts of those activities.” (**PAME, Ecosystem Approach Progress Report 2013-2015 (2015 April), p.11**)

# II. Overview of the Collaboration (1)

## 1. PAME-I 2014 meeting held in February 2014

PAME invited EA-EG to consider the possible areas of cooperation with ICES on IEA.

## 2. ICES's decision to hold ICES/ AMAP/ CAFF/ PAME workshop on IEA for CAO (WIKICA)

## 3. WKICA held on 28- 29 May 2015

- AMAP, CAFF and PAME joined the workshop
- Task of the workshop: to consider the purpose and scope of an IEA to be conducted for the CAO
- Geographical Scope: Central Arctic Ocean large marine ecosystem (LME) and the slope regions

# II. Overview of the Collaboration (2)

## 3. WKICA was held on 28- 29 May 2015 (cont'd)

- Thematic Scope: **climate change, shipping and fisheries**
- Recommendation of the workshop: ICES should establish ICES/ Arctic Council working group on IEA for CAO (WGICA)
- The workshop invited Pacific Arctic Group (PAG) to take part in the work
- AMAP and CAFF will join the WGICA in a substantive manner from 2017

## 4. ICES's decision to establish WGICA (2015)

## 5. WGICA 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was held on 24-26 MAY 2016

# III. Why is the Collaboration Necessary?



- Long-standing engagement in fisheries issues (e.g. AFWG since 1959) and the expertise in IEA for other parts of the Ocean (e.g. Barents Sea, Norwegian sea)
- So far, ICES has not substantially engaged in the CAO



- Expertise in the ecosystem approach to management in the Arctic , Arctic shipping issues, climate change  
e.g. EA-EG, AMSA
- No Involvement with fisheries issues in the Arctic Ocean so far

## IV. The Possible Significance of the Collaboration

1. Possible contribution to the ongoing discussion in 5 plus 5 negotiation and 4th meeting of scientific experts on fish stocks in the CAO to be held in 26-28 September 2016.
2. Expansion of Geographical Scope of the ICES  
⇔ “The Council shall be concerned with the Atlantic Ocean and **its adjacent seas** and primarily concerned with the North Atlantic”  
([Art.2 of the Convention for the ICES](#))
3. AC’s Indirect involvement with fisheries issue?