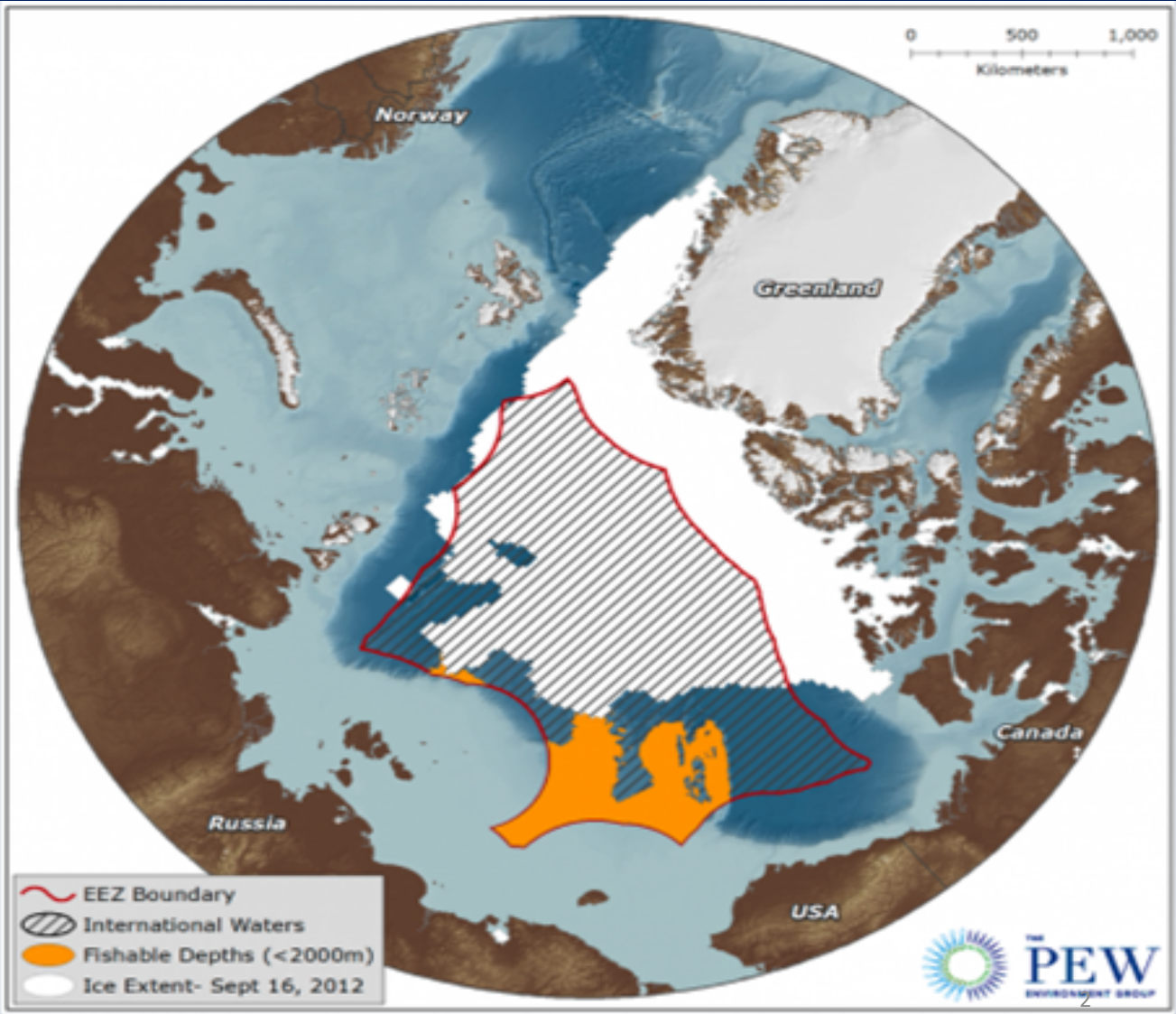




TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COORDINATING MECHANISM FOR THE HIGH SEAS REGION OF THE CENTRAL ARCTIC OCEAN (CAO)

Arctic Science Summit Week 2017

High Seas Region of the Central Arctic Ocean



PURPOSE

Inform You

- OSLO Declaration (July 2015).
- Current negotiations with additional jurisdictions.
- On-going meetings to define the science questions.
- **Parallel initiative - science coordination mechanism/organization.**
- **Conclusions from 3 experts events (one in 2015, two in 2016).**
- Encourage interest from international arctic science community.
- avoid duplication and foster collaborations and partnerships.
- **Presentation at April 5 p.m. ASSW 2017 Science Session.**

CAO INITIATIVE DRIVERS

Drivers

- Rapid diminishing summer sea ice cover in the region - extended ice-free period.
- Application of the “Precautionary Principle”.
- Implications and sensitivities for northern communities.
- Pressure from science community.
- Consensus of 5 Arctic Coastal States on prevention of unregulated high seas fishing in the CAO.
- Collaboration of Arctic and non-Arctic jurisdictions.

OSLO DECLARATION (2015)

OSLO Declaration (July 2015)

- Signatories: Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Norway, Russia, United States.
- Consensus/acknowledgement on crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems and sustainable fisheries for food and nutrition.
- Obligations of states (international law) – cooperation, conservation, management of living resources in high seas – apply “precautionary approach”.
- Implement interim measures to deter unregulated fishing in CAO High Seas.
- **Promote scientific research - Integrate scientific, local, traditional knowledge.**

OSLO Declaration (July 2015) Con't

- (Future) conduct of commercial fishing only pursuant to regional/sub-regional fisheries management arrangements (in accordance with international standards).
- **Establish joint program of scientific research, cooperation with relevant scientific bodies including ICES, PICES.**
- Compliance: coordinate monitoring, control, surveillance in area (signatories).
- **Continue to engage Arctic residents, particularly Arctic Indigenous peoples.**
- **Working with other states to develop commitments consistent with Declaration. (Note: Negotiations in progress with China, European Union, Iceland, Japan, South Korea)**

COLLABORATION WITH NON-ARCTIC STATES

Negotiations With Additional Jurisdictions

- Working with other states – developing commitments consistent with OSLO Declaration.
- Advanced state of negotiations with China, European Union, Iceland, Japan, South Korea (5 sessions):
 - Washington, D.C. - December 1-3, 2015
 - Washington, D.C. - April 19-21 2016
 - Iqaluit, Canada - July 6-8, 2016
 - Tórshavn, The Faeroe Islands) - November 29-December 1, 2016
 - Reykjavik, Iceland - March 15-18, 2017
- Agreement imminent.

ACQUIRING CAO KNOWLEDGE

Acquiring knowledge: CAO High Seas Region

1. Scientists from 10 jurisdictions have been meeting to define/input “Science Questions” for region:
 - 4th meeting held in TROMSø in September 2016.
 - Spring 2017 meeting likely.
2. Determining International Scientific Coordinating Mechanism (Initiative)
 - In parallel to official negotiations.
 - Series of “dialogues” in: Shanghai, China; Incheon, South Korea; Sapporo, Japan.
 - Broad group of experts (mostly non-government)
 - Outline issues of the CAO & how to move forward on organizing scientific effort.
 - **Support from International Arctic Program of the PEW Charitable Trusts and “dialogues” host academic and research institutions.**
 - **Note Co-Chairs’ Summaries from each event (3) and Compilation document.**

EXPERTS' DIALOGUES – 2015/2016

Consensus From All 3 Events

- “Stand-alone” organization focusing on research, established by signatories’ governments – all parties have equal standing;
- Ecosystems approach to research (oceanography, biology, sea ice loss effects, other ecosystem processes in CAO) – inform decisions regarding potential future fisheries in region;
- Active participation from Arctic Indigenous peoples and organizations in development and implementation of science programs. Sharing of Traditional & Local Knowledge important.

Defining International Scientific Coordinating Mechanism/Organization

- Cooperation/Collaboration between “parties/signatories” & existing Arctic Ocean research organizations.
- Scientific support to the governance (signatories) of the CAO Agreement
- Mandate/Tasks:
 - Platform for signatories participation on equal terms;
 - Scientific priorities for research and monitoring;
 - **Facilitate integration of CAO research and monitoring (components) in existing and planned efforts, including data management and access.**
 - **Leverage efforts;**
 - Share, analyze, interpret available data
 - Evidence to governance (signatories) of the CAO
 - **Role limited to coordination, analysis, etc. - not finance or undertake research.**

Key Principles Underlying Mechanism/Organization

- Arctic Focus with High Visibility;
- Ecosystems approach to research;
- Geographical scope is the CAO - with reference to the EEZs as ecologically relevant;
- Equal terms participation by signatories – scientists/science managers authorized by their respective government;
- Involvement of Indigenous Peoples (Arctic) and associated knowledge;
- (Open, transparent) data sharing acquired in CAO under provisions of the agreement;
- Meetings and activities can also include experts from other countries as appropriate;
- **Maximize effective use of existing international scientific platforms, resources and capacity (intellectual, logistical, organizational) – must avoid duplication.**

CONCLUSIONS/NEXT STEPS

Conclusions

- No decisions on international scientific coordinating mechanism/organization.
- Experts have advanced thinking on scientific support for the signatories.
- Resources invested by signatories into leveraging CAO components into arctic research and monitoring activities - necessary condition for success.
- Use of an ecosystem-based approach inclusive of “fish” in CAO research efforts.

Next Steps

- Engagement of (Arctic) indigenous peoples and associated organizations.
- Reaching out more formally to the parties/signatories of (imminent) agreement on international scientific coordinating mechanism/organization considerations.
- Governance and administration associated with scientific coordinating mechanism/organization to be defined then addressed and determined by signatories.
- Small secretariat required to serve as coordinator, repository of records, window/point of contact – located in one of (imminent) signatories' territory, on a rotational basis.

NOTE

**Presentation on CAO International
Scientific Coordinating mechanism
during
ASSW 2017 Science Session
“Security and Governance in a Global
Arctic” (Session #21)
Afternoon of April 5, 2017**

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THANK YOU

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