

AMAP/EU-PolarNet Stakeholder Workshop on Research Needs on Arctic Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services

Riga, Latvia, September 2016

Background

AMAP, as a partner in the Horizon 2020 project EU-PolarNet, is responsible for promoting trans-Atlantic research activities between EU countries and the USA and Canada and, as one aspect of this, to hold stakeholder workshops to determine common research needs that can be provided as input to the central EU-PolarNet requirement, namely, to develop an Integrated European Polar Research Programme together with an implementation plan. An important aspect of EU-PolarNet is 'connecting science with society', under which dialogue and cooperation with relevant Arctic stakeholders will ensure their input to the formulation of this research programme. AMAP will organize four annual stakeholder workshops to identify and formulate key Arctic research needs over the next five years. The second workshop will be held in September 2016 in Riga, Latvia in association with the Annual Science Conference of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). The central theme of this workshop is research needs for a better understanding of Arctic ecosystems and ecosystem services in the light of the many changes occurring in the Arctic associated with climate change and increasing human activities.

Format of the event

The stakeholder workshop will be part of a full-day event, which will begin with a morning scientific session entitled 'AMAP/EU-PolarNet/ICES Session on Arctic Ecosystem Services: Challenges and Opportunities', which is Theme Session P of the ICES Annual Science Conference. Based on the scientific presentations in this session, the AMAP/EU-PolarNet Stakeholder Workshop on Research Needs on Arctic Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services will be held in the afternoon, with participants representing not only scientists and the research community but also various other stakeholders with interests associated with Arctic marine ecosystem services, including fisheries, shipping, and tourism. The program for this workshop will be prepared after the full roster of presentations in the scientific session have been determined.

Call for papers for the scientific session

A description of the AMAP/EU-PolarNet/ICES Session on Arctic Ecosystem Services: Challenges and Opportunities is given below and is also available at:

<http://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/asc/ASC2016/Pages/Theme-session-P.aspx>

The call for papers for this and the other sessions at the conference can be found at:

<http://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/asc/ASC2016/Pages/Call-for-papers.aspx>

This website also indicates how to submit abstracts for papers for this conference. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 30 April.

AMAP/EU-PolarNet/ICES Session on Arctic Ecosystem Services: Challenges and Opportunities

Co-conveners: Jeremy Mathis (USA) and Kriss Rokkan Iversen (Norway)

This session will cover issues related to Arctic marine ecosystems, ecosystem services, especially living marine resources, and the factors that influence their functioning, from oceanographic and biogeochemical processes to the many human uses of this area, including fisheries and shipping. The Arctic Council Working Group the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) and the EU Horizon 2020 Coordination and Support Action EU-PolarNet will co-convene this session along with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). AMAP has coordinated monitoring and assessment activities in the Arctic for over 25 years and EU-PolarNet is a five-year project with the ultimate objective of developing an Integrated European Polar Research Programme (including also the Antarctic) together with an implementation plan based on extensive consultations with scientists, governments, businesses and other relevant stakeholders. One of AMAP's roles as a partner in this project is to hold stakeholder workshops to identify needs for Arctic research on various themes as well as to enhance international cooperation in polar research in implementation of the Trans-Atlantic Research Alliance. Accordingly, following this session, a half-day stakeholder workshop will be held to discuss and identify needs for Arctic research on marine issues based on the scientific presentations in this session.

There are many challenges affecting Arctic marine ecosystems, from the rapidly changing climate to the increase in human activities. These challenges are being addressed in three Arctic regions in the ongoing Arctic Council project Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACCA). However, opportunities are also arising as the Arctic is opening up to new activities. Papers are invited on relevant topics such as:

- Arctic marine ecosystems and their living marine resources, including fish, marine mammals, benthos, etc., and their vulnerability to increased human activities and climate change;
- Arctic oceanographic processes affecting ecosystems and fisheries and the influence of ongoing changes in the cryosphere on these processes;
- Influence of biogeochemical processes, including ocean acidification, on Arctic ecosystems and their living resources;
- Influence of human activities (for example, shipping, oil and gas extraction, tourism) on Arctic ecosystems

In addition to the presentation of the results of research, it would be useful if papers also included identification of gaps in knowledge that need to be explored or related new issues that require research.

Further information on this event may be obtained from:

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