

Commission Vision Statement

The Commission envisions a future Arctic as a healthy ecosystem with management and governance that is responsive to the needs of its residents, that supports conservation of its sensitive habitats, and that ensures sustainable development of its resources. To optimize economic fairness and environmental sustainability in the Arctic marine environment, the Commission envisions a regional conservation and sustainable development planning process utilizing an ecosystem-based management approach and an Arctic marine network linking all interested and affected constituencies, including Indigenous Peoples, Arctic communities, governments and the business sector. Anticipating continued, dramatic impacts in the Arctic marine environment due to climate change, the Commission envisions the development of a highly adaptive management approach to its ecosystems, based on close and consistent monitoring of environmental conditions and a constantly evolving plan that seeks to maximize the resilience of ecological and human systems in the region. To that end, the Commission envisions a far-reaching commitment by Arctic governments to cooperate more fully and broadly among themselves and with the broader international community in an effort to mitigate the damaging effects of climate change in the Arctic and to support optimal adaptation of its inhabitants.

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Building on this vision, the Commission proposes active engagement of civil society by governments to support the rapid synthesis of scientific knowledge and effective policy making. Such governmental and non-governmental networks can help identify policy gaps and develop innovative solutions to the complex challenges facing the Arctic marine environment. These partnerships among all levels of civil society, governments and commercial institutions, when connected in an open-source network of information sharing, activity reporting, and decision making, will work together toward enhancing the capacity of Arctic governments to sustainably preserve what is unique and valuable in the Arctic marine environment -- promoting adaptation to the inevitable environmental changes to come.