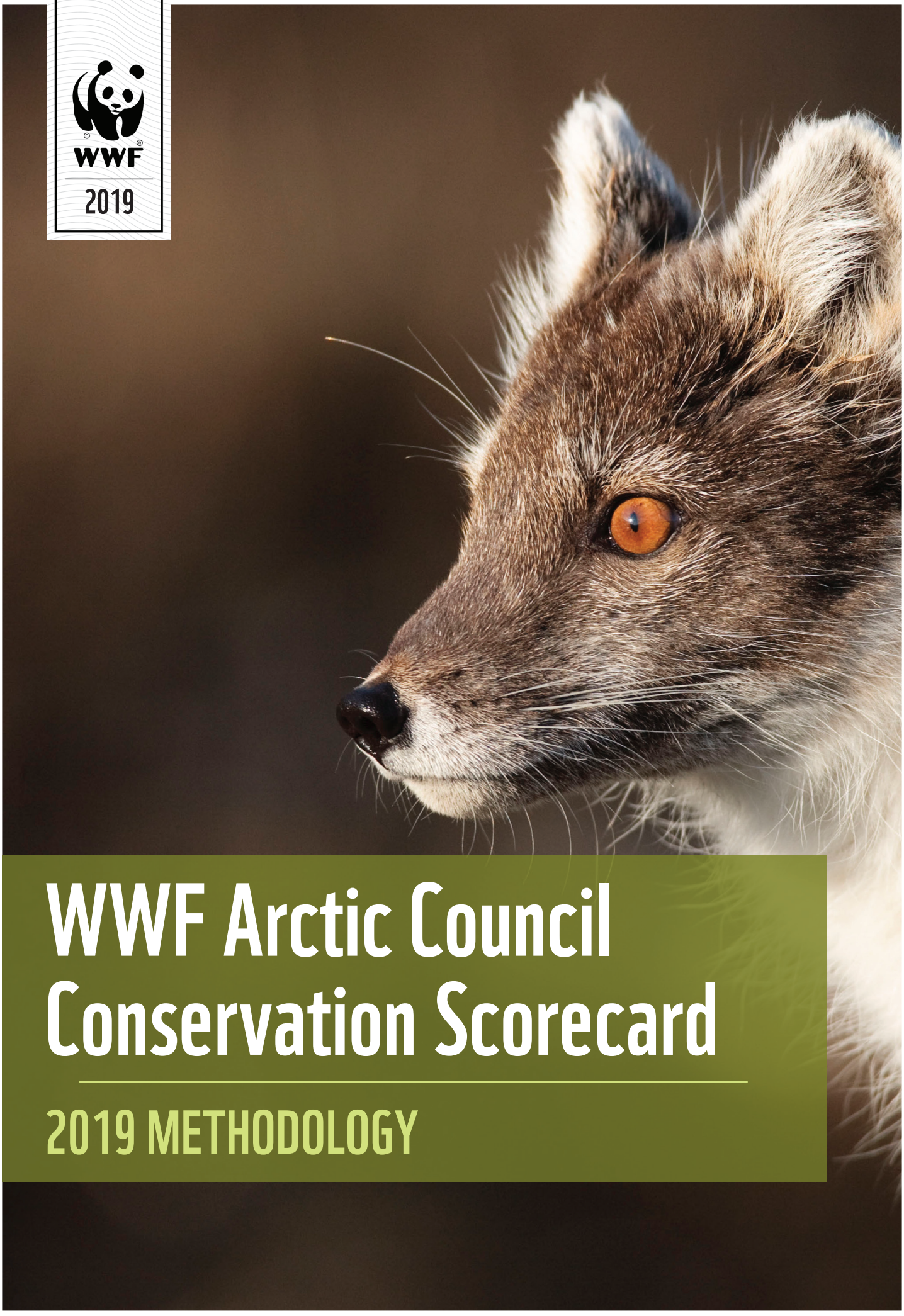

WWF
2019

WWF Arctic Council Conservation Scorecard

2019 METHODOLOGY

For more information, please visit panda.org/acscorecard

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WWF-Canada
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WWF-Netherlands
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WWF-Russia
WWF-Sweden
WWF-United Kingdom
WWF-United States

About the WWF Arctic Programme
WWF's work spans seven Arctic countries and beyond. WWF has had a programme focused on the circumpolar world since 1992. WWF's Arctic Programme is the only circumpolar Environmental NGO present at the Arctic Council, where we hold observer status.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY

The Arctic Council Scorecard provides an overview of the Arctic states' progress on implementing the recommendations agreed to in the Arctic Council from 2015-2018.

HOW DATA WERE COLLECTED

Research on the indicators and criteria was conducted as a desktop analysis of publicly available material, mostly provided by the Arctic states themselves. All sources have been listed for each country and criterion. In addition, national experts in the administrations of all Arctic states and in all Arctic Council working groups were approached for feedback and additional information. Local WWF offices in the Arctic states reviewed the final results.

The research shows that the public availability of information still poses a challenge in its own right. Not all states provide information sources like databases, websites or articles that allow for a transparent overview. Direct exchange with national experts closed these gaps in the research, but the public availability of information should be improved.

Data-gathering for the Scorecard focused on policies, plans and regulation at the federal and national levels. For some indicators or criteria, subnational or regional activities were also included when they were particularly relevant for the assessment, for instance due to local competencies.

LIMITATIONS

- The indicators and criteria were streamlined to reflect similar ambition levels within the Scorecards. As a result, the overall scores allow comparisons between different states scored on the same indicators and criteria.
- The Scorecard does not always reflect the complexity or amount of effort required to implement an action. For example, it is likely that a state could implement an ecosystem-based management (EBM) initiative shared with a neighbouring state more quickly than it could develop a regional-scale risk assessment. This may result in some countries receiving higher scores despite taking on fewer challenging initiatives.
- It is important to note that the Scorecard is only a snapshot in time of any given state's progress. There is lag time between the adoption of policies and implementation and our assessment of those policies or the realities of political change that may be occurring in a country. For instance, a country like the USA may receive a high score in a protection area based on policies currently in place, but political leaders may be actively trying to claw back or change those protections.
- The Scorecard does not assess all actions taken by Arctic states. For instance, actions to prevent impacts on Indigenous People and local communities, human health and social science indicators in general have not been assessed. Terrestrial ecosystems were only partially included where the respective Arctic Council recommendations specifically included them. As well, the focus on the Arctic Ocean puts less emphasis on Finland and Sweden and their actions in the Baltic Sea.

COMPARISON WITH THE 2017 SCORECARD

Due to significant changes in the approach, a direct comparison between countries' 2017 and 2019 scores is of limited use due to the following:

- The 2017 methodology scored historic achievements between 2006 and 2013, while the 2019 version focuses on more recent developments, and includes new Arctic Council recommendations from 2015 and 2017.
- The revised indicator selection aims to be easily adjusted to monitor developments in future scorecards. Indicators and criteria were streamlined to better reflect progress that countries may have made in implementing recommendations, including the creation of policies, plans and regulations, the implementation of these decisions and the monitoring of their implementation.
- Scores now range from 0 to 2 for each criterion, allowing for more nuanced grading compared with the previous 0 to 1 range. This changes the absolute number of available points, meaning that indicators used in both Scorecards may not be comparable.
- Unlike the first edition of the Scorecard, which assessed the Arctic Council's overall implementation of initiatives, the 2019 edition provides only individual assessments of each Arctic Council state's actions.

SCORING

Assessments considered indicators related to Arctic Council recommendations. Each indicator includes one or several criteria related to an implementation action. Points for individual criteria were summed for each indicator, then aggregated for each assessment area for each Arctic state. WWF assigned an overall rating (using letter rankings A to D) based on the percentage of the maximum possible score achieved for each assessment area.

Details about the efforts of individual Arctic states and Arctic Council actions for each indicator and criterion are available upon request through the WWF Arctic Programme website at panda.org/acscorecard.

More than 80% of the maximum score

Full or substantive implementation of the recommendations.

60-80% of the maximum score

Encouraging progress on implementation of the recommendations.

40-60% of the maximum score

Some progress on implementation of the recommendations.

Less than 40% of the maximum score

Little progress on implementation of the recommendations.

INDICATORS AND CRITERIA

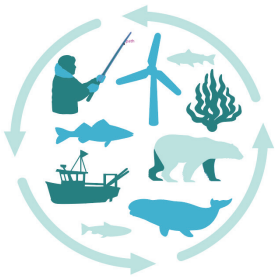
The methodology of this Scorecard, including the indicators and criteria, is based on work done for WWF's 2017 Scorecard, and has been restructured and adjusted based on feedback from Arctic Council States and the Ecologic Institute.

The main focus of the Scorecard indicators is on policy recommendations in the marine area—the Arctic Ocean in particular—but also includes some indicators on terrestrial biodiversity protection. Indicator sets were developed and refined for six Scorecards, with three focusing on biodiversity protection activities and the other three focusing on protection from industrial impacts:

Biodiversity protection

Biodiversity

Conservation areas



Ecosystem-based management (EBM)

Protection from industrial impacts

Black carbon and methane

Oil spills

Shipping

Potential scores: Biodiversity protection

	Biodiversity			Conservation areas			EBM			Total
	Ind 1	**Ind 2**	**Ind 3**	**Ind 1**	**Ind 2**	**Ind 3**	**Ind 1**	**Ind 2**	**Ind 3**	
Canada	0/6	0/4	0/4	0/6	0/4	0/6	0/8	0/2	0/2	0/42
Kingdom of Denmark	0/6	0/4	0/4	0/6	0/4	0/6	0/8	0/2	0/2	0/42
Finland	0/6	0/4	0/4	0/2	0/4	0/2	0/6	0/2	0/2	0/32
Iceland	0/6	0/4	0/4	0/6	0/4	0/2	0/8	0/2	0/2	0/38
Norway	0/6	0/4	0/4	0/6	0/4	0/6	0/8	0/2	0/2	0/42
Russia	0/6	0/4	0/4	0/6	0/4	0/6	0/8	0/2	0/2	0/42
Sweden	0/6	0/4	0/4	0/2	0/4	0/2	0/6	0/2	0/2	0/32
USA	0/6	0/4	0/4	0/6	0/4	0/4	0/8	0/2	0/2	0/40

1. BIODIVERSITY

1.1 MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY AND ITS RESILIENCE

Criterion 1	State incorporates biodiversity objectives and provisions into plan(s) specific to development in the Arctic for terrestrial areas or marine areas.	0-2
Criterion 2	State has a plan (or plans) for Arctic development that incorporate resilience and adaptation of biodiversity to climate change for terrestrial areas or marine areas.	0-2
Criterion 3	State has a plan to implement the recommendations of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA).	0-2

1.2 SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING RESOURCES AND HABITAT

Criterion 1	State has developed fishing practices to avoid significant adverse impacts to the seabed and to reduce bycatch of marine mammals, seabirds and non-target fish.	0-2
Criterion 2	Sustainable fishing practices are mandatory pursuant to specific legislation and or similar act.	0-2

1.3 MONITORING BIODIVERSITY

Criterion 1	State has researched and monitored stressors and drivers of relevance to Arctic biodiversity.	0-2
Criterion 2	State supports traditional knowledge holders and scientists to contribute to the Arctic Council's Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program. [1]	0-2

2. CONSERVATION AREAS

2.1 IDENTIFICATION OF CONSERVATION AREAS

Criterion 1	State has identified marine areas of heightened ecological significance which are sensitive to oil spills.	0-2
Criterion 2	State has identified threats to the staging and wintering grounds and migrating corridors of species that use the marine environment.[2]	0-2
Criterion 3	State has identified marine areas of heightened cultural significance.	0-2

2.2 ASSESSING EXTENT OF PROTECTED NETWORK

Criterion 1	State has completed a gap analysis for networks of terrestrial protected areas.	0-2
Criterion 2	State has filled geographic gaps for networks of terrestrial protected areas.	0-2

2.3 PROTECTING AREAS OF ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

Criterion 1	State has implemented protection measures for identified ecologically and biologically important marine areas covering some or all national Arctic waters.	0-2
Criterion 2	State has implemented protection measures in areas that can act as refuges for unique biodiversity in the high Arctic. *Only applies to Russia, Canada, Greenland and Norway.*	0-2
Criterion 3	State promotes the active involvement of Indigenous Peoples in the management and sustainable use of protected areas.	0-2

3. ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS, STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

Criterion 1	State has carried out impact assessments, including environmental impact and risk assessments, of petroleum and maritime activity that could result in the pollution of the Arctic marine environment by oil.[3]	0-2
Criterion 2	Regulations requiring that environmental impact assessments be completed prior to approval of new exploration and/or exploitation activities are in place.	0-2
Criterion 3	Regulations requiring that strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) be completed prior to the approval of new exploration and/or exploitation activities are in place.	0-2
Criterion 4	Regulations requiring that risk assessments (RAs) be completed prior to the approval of new exploration and/or exploitation activities are in place.	0-2

3.2 ASSESSMENTS OF COMBINED EFFECTS OF MULTIPLE STRESSORS

Criterion 1	State has identified the combined effects of multiple stressors on marine species and ecosystems.	0-2

3.3 ARCTIC STATE COOPERATION IN ADVANCING IMPLEMENTATION OF EBM

Criterion 1	State has at least one shared EBM initiative with a neighboring state or states.	0-2

Potential scores: Industrial Impacts

	Black carbon and methane			Oil spills			Shipping			Total
	Ind 1	**Ind 2**	**Ind 3**	**Ind 1**	**Ind 2**	**Ind 3**	**Ind 1**	**Ind 2**	**Ind 3**	
Canada	0/10	0/6	0/2	0/2	0/4	0/8	0/6	0/8	0/2	0/48
Kingdom of Denmark	0/10	0/6	0/2	0/2	0/4	0/8	0/6	0/8	0/2	0/48
Finland	0/6	0/6	0/2	0/2	0/2	0/2	0/2	0/4	N/A	0/26
Iceland	0/10	0/6	0/2	0/2	0/4	0/8	0/6	0/8	0/2	0/48
Norway	0/10	0/6	0/2	0/2	0/4	0/8	0/6	0/8	0/2	0/48
Russia	0/10	0/6	0/2	0/2	0/4	0/8	0/6	0/8	0/2	0/48
Sweden	0/6	0/6	0/2	0/2	0/2	0/2	0/2	0/4	N/A	0/26
USA	0/10	0/6	0/2	0/2	0/4	0/8	0/6	0/8	0/2	0/48

4. BLACK CARBON AND METHANE

4.1 SHORT-LIVED CLIMATE FORCERS: BLACK CARBON AND METHANE EMISSIONS

Criterion 1	State has developed and submitted to the Arctic Council an inventory of black carbon emissions.	0-2
Criterion 2	State has adopted mandatory particulate matter exhaust emission standards for new diesel vehicles and engines that require the use of best available control technologies (such as diesel particulate filters or alternative fuels).[4]	0-2
Criterion 3	State has developed a national oil/gas methane emission reduction strategy, including steps to improve emissions data.[5]	0-2
Criterion 4	State requires licenses or permits for any operations requiring the flaring of gas. A point was awarded if the terms at least mentioned gas flaring. *Does not apply to Finland or Sweden, as these states do not have Arctic Ocean shoreline/waters.*	0-2
Criterion 5	State has developed an implementation plan for achieving the objective of zero routine flaring by 2030.[6] *Does not apply to Finland or Sweden, as these states do not have Arctic Ocean shoreline/waters.*	0-2

4.2 CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Criterion 1	State has developed short- and long-term projections for the Arctic under different future greenhouse gas emission and development scenarios using natural and social sciences and Indigenous/traditional and local knowledge.[7]	0-2
Criterion 2	State has developed regional-scale assessments of cryospheric change and associated risks.	0-2
Criterion 3	State has developed and implemented Arctic adaptation strategies.	0-2

4.3 CLIMATE CHANGE OBSERVATION

Criterion 1	State has systematic, comprehensive, surface-based monitoring of the cryosphere and has supported development of remote sensing methods for observing the cryosphere.	0-2

5. OIL SPILLS

5.1 NATIONAL ACTION FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Criterion 1	State's national system and contingency plan (or plans) are equipped and prepared to respond promptly and effectively to oil pollution incidents in the Arctic, including mechanisms to coordinate response actions.[8]	0-2

5.2 OIL SPILL MONITORING

Criterion 1 .	State has a system to monitor oil pollution incidents under its jurisdiction. *Does not apply to Finland or Sweden, as these states do not have Arctic Ocean shoreline/waters.*	0-2
Criterion 2	State cooperates with other Arctic Council state(s) to improve hazardous ice detection through satellite services, production and dissemination of ice maps in real time, and through the use of unmanned aerial vehicles.	0-2

5.3 OIL SPILL PREVENTION

Criterion 1	State applies in national regulations the precautionary approach and "polluter pays" principle, and does not permit oil and gas activities in conservation areas. *Does not apply to Finland or Sweden, as these states do not have oil and gas activities in the Arctic.*	0-2
Criterion 2	State has a legal base that allows for regulatory agency personnel to access the installations and to see all relevant documentation and equipment at any time, as well as to take appropriate action in cases of violation or non-compliance or if the operator fails to react adequately to dangerous situations. *Does not apply to Finland or Sweden, as these states do not have Arctic Ocean shoreline/ waters.*	0-2
Criterion 3	State has assessed whether existing and proposed standards for petroleum activity are sufficient to meet Arctic challenges.[9] *Does not apply to Finland or Sweden, as these states do not have Arctic Ocean shoreline/waters.*	0-2
Criterion 4	State participates in the Arctic Offshore Regulators Forum (AORF).[10]	0-2

6. SHIPPING

6.1 PROTECTION FROM VARIOUS SHIPPING RISKS

Criterion 1	State has implemented protection measures to prevent and manage marine invasive alien species in Arctic marine shipping.	0-2
Criterion 2	State has implemented measures to protect areas of heightened cultural significance from the impacts of Arctic marine shipping. *Does not apply to Finland or Sweden, as these states do not have Arctic Ocean shoreline/ waters.*	0-2
Criterion 3	State has implemented routing measures to protect conservation areas in Arctic waters. *Does not apply to Finland or Sweden, as these states do not have Arctic Ocean shoreline/waters.*	0-2

6.2 ACTIONS TO REDUCE AIR EMISSIONS FROM SHIPPING

Criterion 1	State has regulatory requirements, including economic incentives (e.g., tax breaks), to switch to lower-emission technologies (e.g., scrubbers, liquefied natural gas).	0-2
Criterion 2	State has regulatory requirements to adopt practices to lower air emissions in Arctic waters (e.g., slow steaming).	0-2
Criterion 3	State has sulfur and nitrogen emission control areas and/or emissions restrictions for all Arctic waters. *Does not apply to Finland or Sweden, as these states do not have Arctic Ocean shoreline/waters.*	0-2
Criterion 4	State bans heavy fuel oil use in all Arctic waters. *Does not apply to Finland or Sweden, as these states do not have Arctic Ocean shoreline/waters.*	0-2

6.3 ARCTIC MARINE TRAFFIC SYSTEM

Criterion 1	State has national marine monitoring traffic systems that cover Arctic waters. *Does not apply to Finland or Sweden, as these states do not have Arctic Ocean shoreline/waters.*	

Endnotes

1 Addition from State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report (section 1.4), social indicator.

2 Addition from the Arctic Council Arctic Marine Strategic Plan 2015-2025.

3 Added from the Framework Plan for Cooperation on Prevention of Oil Pollution from Petroleum and Maritime Activities in the Marine Areas of the Arctic, section 1.5.1. The three criteria after that are assessing the states' activities at a later stage and – with their focus on existing regulation before resource exploration or exploitation – go beyond the Framework's wording.

4 Added from the Report of the Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane – Summary of Progress and Recommendations 2017, p. 20 (part of Recommendation 1a).

5 Added from the Report of the Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane – Summary of Progress and Recommendations 2017, p. 25 (part of Recommendation 2a).

6 Added from the Report of the Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane – Summary of Progress and Recommendations 2017, p. 25 (part of Recommendation 2b).

7 Added from the Arctic Resilience Action Framework 2017, p. 9 (Action Area 1.3, also linking to Action Area 2.1).

8 Combined actions of (2017 Scorecards') criteria 1-4 of indicator 2

9 Added from the Framework Plan for Cooperation on Prevention of Oil Pollution from Petroleum and Maritime Activities in the Marine Areas of the Arctic, section 2.2 b).

10 Cooperation of Arctic offshore petroleum regulators is encouraged via "further actions" in the Iqaluit Declaration (2015), p. 9. Applicable to all Arctic states (whether or not they have marine waters or active offshore oil and gas operations)

ARCTIC

This polar region is the size of Africa and is an ocean surrounded by three continents.

A "NEW" OCEAN

Climate change is melting glaciers, increasing ocean acidification, and decreasing sea ice and snow cover in the Arctic –all of which is affecting the environment. Redistribution of species is changing local economies.

SHIPPING

Scientists predict that by 2030, the Arctic Ocean will be largely ice-free in the summer. This will open up new shipping routes that can decrease costs and travel times by up to 30%.

LIVING ON THE EDGE

Iconic species like bowhead whales, narwhals, polar bears and walruses have evolved over time to thrive in a very harsh environment. They are culturally important for Indigenous People as well as being a source of food.

Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

panda.org/arctic

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