

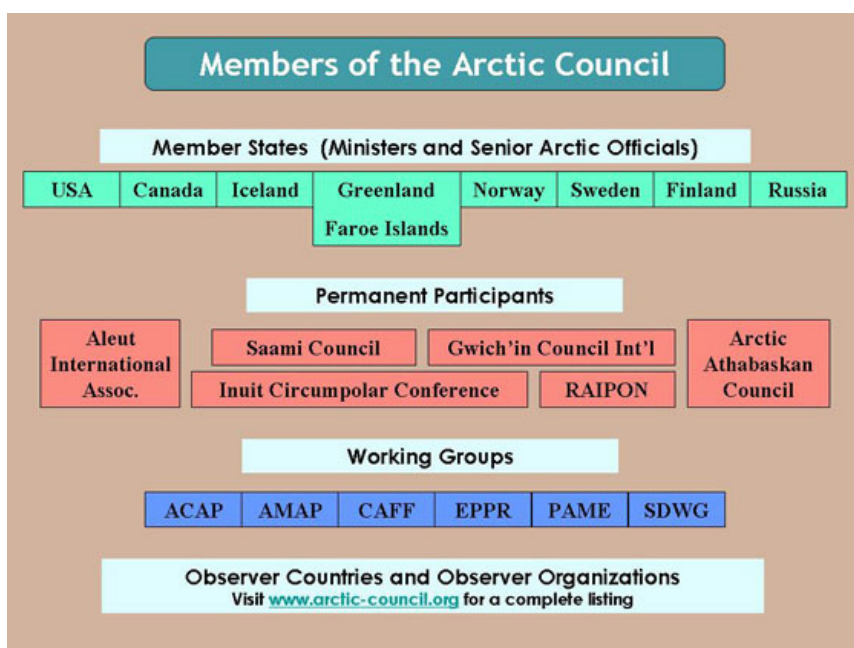
ISTAS workshop session :

Authors

Overview

When it comes to discussions on the law in the Arctic, different topics such as sovereignty, territorial claims, extended continental shelf, navigation, the interests of the European Union, and scientific research are important to investigate, in addition to certain common issues such as the states' jurisdiction, cooperations, and the legal scope of regulations.

Whatever is the topic studied, cooperation is a central concern regarding the fragility of the environment and the introduction of third parties to the discussions. Cooperation occurs at the local, regional and international level, and all stakeholders are involved: international organizations, states, local communities, and scientists. There are real interactions between the states' plenipotentiaries and exper-



the states' plenipotentiaries and experts of international and non-governmental organizations.

The ISTAS interdisciplinary and international workshop (Integrating spatial and temporal scales in the changing Arctic System: towards future research priorities) was organized in October 2014 by the Arctic in Rapid Transition (ART) network at the IUEM in Plouzané, France. The overarching objective of the workshop was to bring together Arctic scientists of different areas of expertise and experience level in order to discuss future research priorities for the Arctic Ocean and adjacent coasts from an early and mid career researchers' perspective. This set of priority sheets summarizing the workshop's discussions is one of the contributions of the ART network to the 3rd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III) in Japan.



LAW IN THE ARCTIC

RESEARCH PRIORITIES APPROACHES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

► Find and Study the legal framework

- Collect and study the regulations in force in the coastal states concerning the coastal areas and the sea nearby in order to identify unruled fields and gaps
- Study the legal cooperation and collect the bilateral and regional agreements between interested states
- Study the division of competences between national groups in order to determine the levels of governance
- Lawyer's difficulties: access to documentary sources due to the lack of dissemination of these documents and their writing languages

► Study the involvement of non-Arctic states in the region

- Study the non-Arctic states' interests in the Arctic region (states and international organizations such as the European Union)
- Evaluate the added-value of non-Arctic states in the Arctic region future
- Evaluate the multilevel impact of non-Arctic states on the Arctic region

► Inventory of the most immediate threats to the environment and its biodiversity

- Better knowledge of bio-geography (survival of marine mammals, areas of concentration of heavy metals, migration of macro-pollutants etc.)
- Comparison of the current regulations with the environmental needs in order to deduce new or additional rules adapted to the state of the environment (e.g., emergency measures to safeguard the ecosystem)

► Study the overall impact of Arctic navigation

- Inventory of the potential impacts of navigation on the environment and people
- Collect and study the regulations that apply to navigation in the area (national and international rules, polar code)
- Study the efficiency of the current regulations

► Inventory of the pollution sources

- Inventory of the means of integrated coastal zone management related to pollution sources for numerous activities occurring in the Arctic (fisheries, tourism, exploitation of non-living resources, navigation, military activities, research and governance).
- Related question of whether it is necessary to establish a regional system of coastal zone management (MPA, various type of MPA and ecological corridors).

► Study the proposal de lege ferenda of a «regional sea» convention type in order to meet the specificities of the Arctic environment.

- Inventory of the perception of Arctic states and local stakeholders over a regional sea convention for the Arctic
- Inventory of how this type of convention has been applied in other regions of the world
- Necessity to take into account the specificities of the Arctic environment

Keywords

- Jurisdiction of coastal states
- Continental shelves
- Environmental issues
- Legal cooperation
- Polar code
- Montego Bay convention
- European Union
- Ecological transition

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