

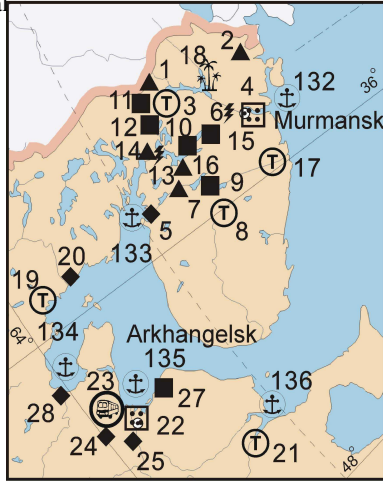
## NPA - Arctic

The newly developed Russian National Plan of Action for Protection of Arctic Marine Environment (NPA-Arctic) was incorporated into and is an integral part of the federal targeted Russian State Programme “World Ocean” executed by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation.

The goals and measures included in the NPA-Arctic were developed based on: legislative and regulatory acts of the Russian Federation relating to environmental protection; the Russian Federation's obligations for protection of the Arctic environment ensuing from the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) adopted by the Arctic countries; the results of development of NPA-Arctic in the Russian Federation, 1999-2001; and current federal target-oriented programmes in the Russian Arctic.

Goals include:

1. Monitoring and assessment of the level of anthropogenic pollution of the Arctic seas of the Russian Federation including internationally standardized database available to the public through access to regional information networks.
2. Development of legislative and regulatory measures to establish a system of rational use of natural resources in the Arctic and protect the arctic seas from anthropogenic impact from pollution and unsustainable, unbalanced use of the mineral, fuel and biological resources of the coastal zone and Arctic seas.
3. Development of investment projects for the implementation of measures to prevent anthropogenic pollution and protect the Arctic seas of the Russian Federation from pollution and unsustainable, unbalanced use of the mineral, fuel and biological resources of the coastal zone and Arctic seas.
4. Initiate measures to protect the Arctic seas from pollution and minimise its impacts, encourage tourism, and monitor and improve the sanitation and health standards in human settlements in the Arctic Region.



## What is ACOPS?

Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) was established in 1952 as one of the world's first environmental Non-Governmental Organisations. ACOPS originally concentrated on encouraging international agreements to reduce marine oil pollution. Since then, ACOPS has expanded its interests to include land-based sources of marine pollution, as well as other aspects of degradation of the coastal and marine environment. Our operations now include:

- assisting national governments and regional organisations to develop and implement projects, activities, and mechanisms to protect the coastal and marine environment;
- researching marine pollution problems, and formulation of concrete proposals for their resolution;
- designing policy options and conducting studies in co-operation with central and local governments and intergovernmental agencies, as well as regional and global organisations;
- preparing project proposals for Partnership Conferences which bring together all stakeholders;
- developing educational programmes covering all scientific, legal and political aspects of the marine and coastal environment;
- promoting the North-South dialogue; and
- building public awareness campaigns, through high-level international conferences.

ACOPS is an international, private, independent, non-political organisation enjoying UK charitable status, funded by a variety of foundations, governmental and intergovernmental institutions, companies and private individuals. It has a broad constituent base, including international associations of local authorities, wildlife and environmental protection organisations, trade unions, academic bodies, ports and harbours, tourist and shipping industries, as well as eminent individual members who represent some of the world's leading politicians, administrators, scientists, economists and lawyers.

ACOPS is based in London, with overseas offices in Bogotá and Tauranga (New Zealand). Employing a network of experts gives it a strong world-wide presence in both the south and the north, which is vital to the success of its work. A strong team of world renowned experts, many of whom have held or hold high-level positions in key organisations at the national, regional, and global level, work closely with ACOPS on its various programmes. Their fields of expertise cover such vital fields as policy development, fisheries, corporate environmental management, oceanography, pollution research and control, biology, and tourism, thus providing a very solid basis to the multidisciplinary, trans-sectoral approaches favoured by ACOPS.

For more information visit <http://www.acops.org>



## ACOPS and the Russian National Plan of Action for the Arctic

*NPA Arctic has the overall goal of protecting and improving the marine environment, including its bioresources and biodiversity, goals it shares with the regional and global plans of action for the protection of the marine environment.*

The government of the Russian Federation has taken steps towards the creation of a National Plan of Action for the Arctic (NPA-Arctic) in accordance with wide ranging international efforts to protect the unique and sensitive ecology of this critical ocean system. The Russian National Plan of Action for the Arctic includes concrete goals and objectives to improve the lives of the human populations in the Arctic region, while also taking steps for sustained development of the bountiful and delicate natural resources of the broad expanse of this territory.

Since 1993 the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS), an international non-governmental organisation, has worked closely to support the development of NPA-Arctic through conferences, reviews, scientific studies of the human impacts in the Arctic, and identification of priority hot spots. ACOPS is now developing innovative strategies to improve the challenged ecological conditions of this sensitive region.

These efforts have been instrumental in the development of NPA-Arctic and key to the development of NPA-Arctic through support from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), a collaborative organization drawing from UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank.

The Regional Plan of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities was developed by the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) working group and adopted by the Arctic Council. The ACOPS has provided considerable support to the development of the NPA-Arctic and its integration into the Arctic Council's Regional Plan of Action.

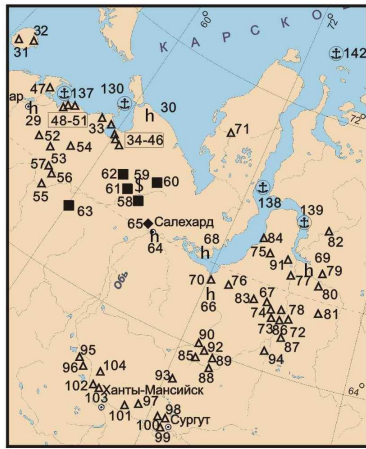
## History of ACOPS and NPA Arctic

ACOPS has been active in the Russian Arctic since 1993, facilitating a wide array of conferences, working groups and tasks teams that focus on identifying and addressing the challenges of environmental management, economic development and social transitions. This long term dedication to the Russian Arctic addresses the complex ecological issues in this sensitive region with a compiled knowledge, enabling ACOPS to take steps to assist in remedying untenable conditions and improving opportunities for all stakeholders.

Between 1998 and 2001 ACOPS, in collaboration with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), initiated a project development fund to review and evaluate relevant legislation and administrative arrangements at federal and regional levels; identify, characterize, and prioritize environmental hot spots in the Russian Arctic; analyze pollutant transport mechanisms and zones of impact in the Russian Arctic; and analyze existing practices in preparation of pre-investment studies in the Russian Federation and development of guidelines for their future preparation.

These initial studies marked more than 140 sites being of priority environmental concern (so called hot spots) because of the impacts of the following industrial activities:

- ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy (6 hot spots)
- oil and gas extraction (63 hot spots)
- the mining industry (25 hot spots)
- transport centres (20 hot spots)
- the power generation (2 hot spots)
- mechanical engineering (1 hot spot)
- food production (1 hot spot)
- building and construction materials production (1 hot spot)
- timber processing and the pulp and paper industry (7 hot spots)



(7 hot spots)

These priority issues were the main focus of the “Russian National Plan of Action – Arctic” a programme supported by GEF, and to be implemented by UNEP and executed by Minekonomrazvitiya of Russia, with ACOPS as the partner agency. Additional support comes from Canada, USA, Italy and Iceland. This project has initiated activities to address the goals identified in July 2005 with the GEF Full Project. Activities are ongoing to date.



## Current ACOPS and NPA Arctic

To reach the overall goal of protecting and improving the Arctic marine environment, including its bioresources and biodiversity, the GEF Full Project is divided into four major components:

The first component of the project is the development of Strategic Action Programme (SAP). The SAP will include measures to attain improved environmental protection in the Arctic region of the Russian Federation and will provide for sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment.

The second component, the Preparation of Pre-Investment Studies, is focused on the determination of criteria for selection of the best pre-investment studies and to make the optimum choices for investment projects dealing with environmental damage and threats in the Arctic stemming from activities within the Russian Federation.

The third component on Legislative, Administrative and Institutional Capacity Improvements represents needed action at the federal and regional levels to provide the necessary set of environmental laws and regulations that will effectively protect the Arctic marine and coastal environment from the detrimental consequences of all types of anthropogenic activities.

The fourth component includes Demonstration Projects designed to involve indigenous community in co-management with the extraction industry for successful production coupled with protection of traditional social and environmental values. Co-management activities are foreseen on three fronts: enhanced involvement in industrial governance; enhanced public participation in making decisions on environmental issues; and the creation of protected zones of traditional nature uses.

Test Russian developed bio-remediation techniques for the cleanup of contaminated marine areas. This involves the use of brown algae

(*Fucus*) that can be deployed for oil decontamination and other economic purposes. These mats of brown algae can effectively limit the areas of oil pollution and support the oil degradation processes.

Rehabilitation of two decommissioned military bases (DMB) in the Arctic is needed for future civilian applications. The current damage to the environment associated with abandoned military bases poses substantial threats to international waters resulting from waste containment failures. Prior to transferring military bases to the civilian sector for beneficial uses, the wastes and chemical pollutants at these sites must be collected and disposed of in a safe manner. The conditions require attention in the short term. This is a unique opportunity to develop beneficial civilian uses of former military bases that could be achieved in an environmentally sensitive manner and would in turn support communities for the cleanup costs, while creating economic opportunities.

## New perspectives for ACOPS

Currently ACOPS is providing the necessary input for identification of environmental problems in Russian Arctic and elaboration of SAP. Further additional concrete contributions must be made through the development of pre-investment studies for the projects which feature both economic and environmental benefits and implement actual “win-win” scenarios.

The next step towards achieving concrete results from development of NPA-Arctic is the broad attraction of funds on a greater scale, both from governments and private sector for “win-win” projects in this critical region. A Partnership Conference of all interested countries and the private sector will be held following the completion of the first phase of Full GEF Project. From the beginning, the NPA-Arctic project has been supported through the Working Group of the Arctic Council on Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME). To prepare for the Partnership Conference PAME will organize a series of “round table” meetings with U.S., European and Russian businesses, international financial institutions, governmental agencies, and NGOs with a stake in the environment of the Arctic and the industries located there, to catalyze new economic developments in the Arctic. ACOPS relies on years of experience in such activities in many regions of our planet.

