

SJR 16
ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL

WHY SHOULD ALASKA CARE?

- Globally, all our eyes are on the Arctic
 - * Our eyes must be on it too, because
 - * Alaska's Future is in the Arctic
- Changing Conditions will bring new opportunities
 - * Shipping
 - * Tourism
 - * Resource Development
 - * Fisheries
 - * International Trade



WHY IS THE ARCTIC IMPORTANT

- The arctic is changing, with that change comes
 - New opportunities, and
 - New challenges
- There is an estimated 100 billion of private Sector Funds looking for investment opportunities in the Arctic
- Alaska is Americas Arctic



ARCTIC COUNCIL VS ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL

AC

- Established by the Ottawa Declaration of 1996
- Function as a high level intergovernmental forum
- Goals to promote cooperation, coordination, and interaction across the Arctic

AEC

- Charged with fostering business development
- Engaging in deeper circumpolar cooperation
- Providing a business perspective to the work of the AC

THE ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL (AEC) IS CREATED TO:

- Serve as primary forum for interaction between the Arctic Council and the Circumpolar business community
- Provide advice and a business perspective on specific areas in the circumpolar region
- Facilitate Arctic business-to-business and economic development



OBJECTIVES OF THE AEC ARE TO:

- Strengthen the Arctic Council by enhancing regional economic cooperation
- Inform the work of AC through the view of business
- Facilitate responsible trade and investment in the Arctic
- Maximize the potential for Arctic economic activities to take into account environmental protection
- Positively impact the communities, lives, and culture of Arctic Indigenous peoples



GOVERNANCE

- The AEC is an independent, self-funding body of business representatives
- Established in accordance with recommendation accepted by the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials

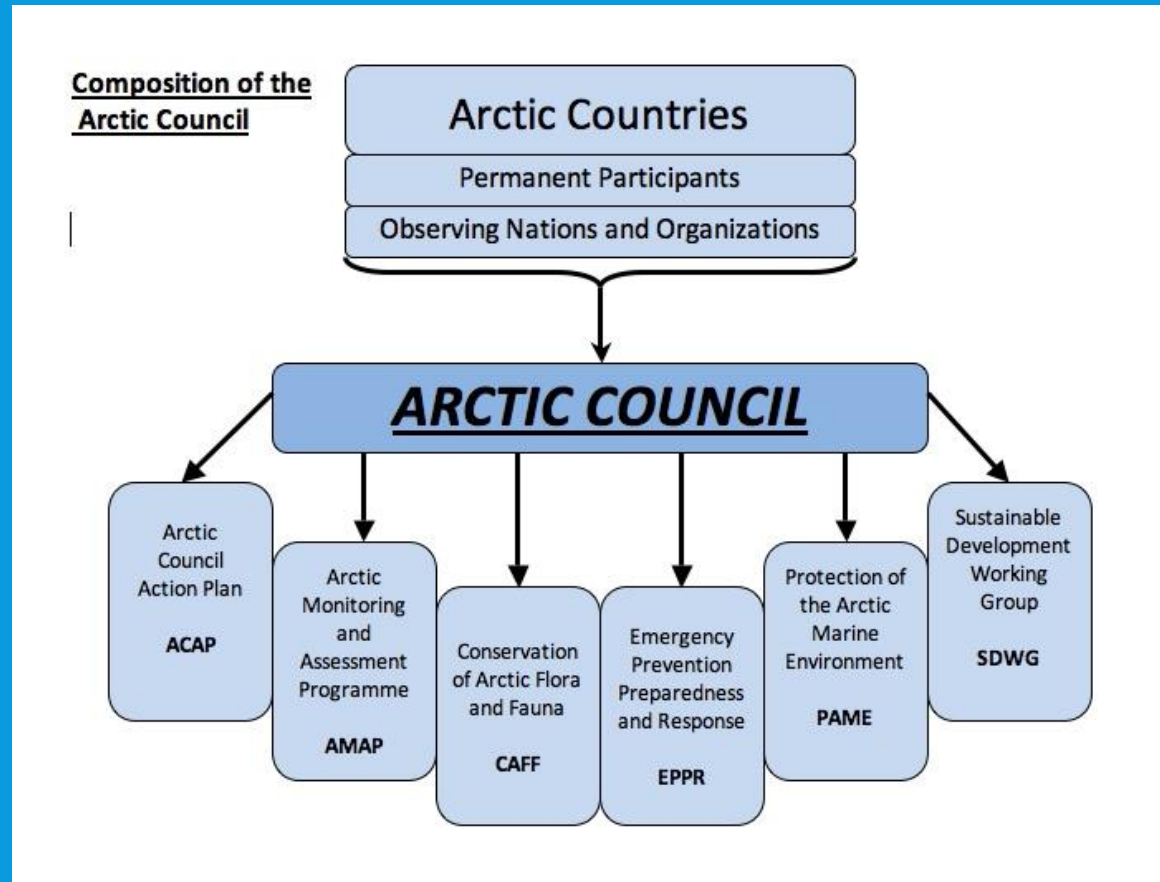


MEETINGS

- The AEC meets twice a year
- In person or through electronic conferencing
- International decisions or consultations may be made through written correspondence or other appropriate means.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE AC



ARCTIC COUNTRIES

- Canada
- Denmark
- Finland
- Iceland
- Norway
- Russia
- Sweden
- **United States**



PERMANENT PARTICIPANTS

- Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC)
- Aleut International Association (AIA)
- Gwich'in Council International (GCI)
- Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)
- Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)
- Saami Council (SC)



PERMANENT PARTICIPANTS

- Indigenous people
- Alaskans are represented in 4 of the 6 permanent participant organizations



OBSERVING NATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Twelve non-arctic countries have been admitted as observers to the Arctic Council:

- France
- Germany
- The Netherlands
- Poland
- Spain
- United Kingdom
- Peoples Republic of China
- Italian Republic
- State of Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Republic of Singapore
- Republic of India

OBSERVING NATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Nine Intergovernmental and Inter-Parliamentary Organizations have been given observer:

- International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM)
- Nordic Environmental Finance Corporation (NEFCO)
- North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)
- Standing Committee of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE)
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

OBSERVING NATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Eleven Non-governmental Organizations are observers in the Arctic Council:

- Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas (ACOPS)
- Arctic Institute of North America (AINA)
- Association of World Reindeer Herders (AWRH)
- Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU)
- International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)
- International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA)
- International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH)
- International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)
- Northern Forum (NF)
- University of the Arctic (UArctic)
- World Wide Fund for Nature-Global Arctic Program (WWF)

ARCTIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS

- Arctic Council Action Plan (ACAP)
- Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)
- Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)
- Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response (EPPR)
- Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)
- Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)



SJR 16: ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

- Recognizes the importance of the Arctic Economic Council in providing a forum for residents of the state to give input on policies
- The state of Alaska holds a strategic position as the gateway to the Arctic
- Alaska will benefit from the efforts of the AEC
- Seeks to empower the United States economic council delegation which consists entirely of residents of this state

CONCLUSION

- The Alaska State legislature expresses its confidence in and support for the AEC
- The Alaska State legislature respectfully request that the U.S. Congress express support for AEC
- For the Chair of the AEC to be a resident of this state
- For the Structure of the Arctic Economic Council leadership to mirror the rotation of the chair of the Arctic Council