

Abstract

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A NEED FOR MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING IN THE ARCTIC: A PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING A MARINE PROTECTED AREA NETWORK

“Regardless of where we live, all of us depend upon healthy ocean ecosystems: either as a source of food or revenue, as a key shaper and regulator of climate and weather. This dependency and the need to embrace sustainable development led nations of the world to agree to a series of high-level political commitments for marine conservation and marine protected areas” (IUCN - World Commission on Protected Areas, 2008). However, the increasing dependence on energy (oil and gas) and other resources by humans has led to an increase in marine activities, which if left unchecked managed effectively may result in irreversible damage to our oceans, considering the vast amount of services and human well-being provided by the oceans.