

Contribution to the CBD Arctic Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), Helsinki, Finland, 3 - 7 March 2014

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In relation to the Marine environment around Greenland it is relevant to mention that over the past decade considerable effort has been invested in identifying marine areas and coastlines vulnerable to oil spills as well as key habitats, migration routes, and the population size and ecology of sensitive species and resources in Greenland, resulting in a number of strategic environmental impact assessments (SEIAs) for hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation activities. The SEIAs are conducted for the Greenland Bureau of Minerals and Petroleum by scientific environmental institutions (Danish Center for Environment and Energy, Århus University (formerly the Danish National Environmental Research Institute, NERI and the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources). The SEIAs build on peer-reviewed scientific literature and supplementary scientific studies. Each SEIA states the sources to primary literature. Through recent years these SEIAs have been used as platform for different initiatives to identify valuable ecosystems and biodiversity areas and we find these reports relevant to submit as scientific baseline information for that part of the Arctic.

Two recent parallel studies that build on the SEIAs have been made recently to identify ecologically valuable and sensitive marine areas around Greenland. These were based on the IMO's Criteria for Particular Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) (Christensen et al., 2012, and Mosbech, Christensen & Falk in AMAP/ CAFF/ SDWG, 2013 – the AMSA II C report). These two reports are also found relevant for the workshop.

Please find below the reference and the links to the abovementioned scientific reports:

Boertmann, D. & Mosbech, A. (eds.) 2011. Eastern Baffin Bay - A strategic environmental impact assessment of hydrocarbon activities. Aarhus University, DCE – Danish Centre for Environment and Energy, 270 pp. - Scientific Report from DCE – Danish Centre for Environment and Energy no. 9. <http://www2.dmu.dk/Pub/SR9.pdf>

Boertmann, D., Mosbech, A., Schiedek, D. & Dünweber, M. (Eds.) 2013. Disko West. A strategic environmental impact assessment of hydrocarbon activities. Aarhus University, DCE – Danish Centre for Environment and Energy, 306 pp. Scientific Report from DCE – Danish Centre for Environment and Energy No. 71. <http://dce2.au.dk/pub/SR71.pdf>

Boertmann, D. & Mosbech, A. (eds.) 2011. The western Greenland Sea, a strategic environmental impact assessment of hydrocarbon activities. Aarhus University, DCE – Danish Centre for Environment and Energy, 268 pp. - Scientific Report from DCE – Danish Centre for Environment and Energy no. 22. <http://www2.dmu.dk/Pub/SR22.pdf>

Frederiksen, M., Boertmann, D., Ugarte, F. & Mosbech, A. (eds) 2012. South Greenland. A Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment of hydrocarbon activities in the Greenland sector of the Labrador Sea and the southeast Davis Strait. Aarhus University, DCE – Danish Centre for Environment and Energy, 220 pp. Scientific Report from DCE – Danish Centre for Environment and Energy No. 23 <http://www.dmu.dk/Pub/SR23.pdf>

Merkel, F., Boertmann, D., Mosbech, A. & Ugarte, F (eds). 2012. The Davis Strait. A preliminary strategic environmental impact assessment of hydrocarbon activities in the eastern Davis Strait. Aarhus University, DCE – Danish Centre for Environment and Energy, 280 pp. Scientific Report from DCE – Danish Centre for Environment and Energy No. 15. <http://www.dmu.dk/Pub/SR15.pdf>

AMAP/CAFF/SDWG, 2013. Identification of Arctic marine areas of heightened ecological and cultural significance: Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) IIc. Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), Oslo. 114 pp. ISBN-978-82-7971-081-3
<http://www.amap.no/documents/download/1548>

Christensen, T., Falk, K., Boye, T., Ugarte, F., Boertmann, D. & Mosbech, A. (2012). Identifikation af sårbare marine områder i den grønlandske/danske del af Arktis. Aarhus Universitet, DCE – Nationalt Center for Miljø og Energi. 72 pp. <http://www2.dmu.dk/pub/sr43.pdf>