

Mindful further that indigenous peoples, local communities, local and regional governments, and individual Arctic residents can provide valuable resources and knowledge regarding the Arctic marine environment in support of oil pollution preparedness and response,

Recognizing also the expertise and roles of various stakeholders relating to oil pollution preparedness and response,

Aware of the Parties' obligation to protect the Arctic marine environment and *mindful* of the importance of precautionary measures to avoid oil pollution in the first instance,

Recognizing further the importance of the Arctic marine ecosystem and of cooperation to promote and encourage the conservation and sustainable use of the marine and coastal environment and its natural resources,

Emphasizing the importance of exchanging information, data and experience in the field of marine oil pollution preparedness and response, especially regarding the Arctic environment, and on the effects of pollution on the environment, and of regularly conducting joint training and exercises, as well as joint research and development,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Objective of this Agreement

The objective of this Agreement is to strengthen cooperation, coordination and mutual assistance among the Parties on oil pollution preparedness and response in the Arctic in order to protect the marine environment from pollution by oil.

Article 2

Terms and Definitions

For the purposes of this Agreement:

1. "Oil" means petroleum in any form including crude oil, fuel oil, sludge, oil refuse and refined products.
2. "Oil pollution incident" means an occurrence or series of occurrences having the same origin, which results or may result in a discharge of oil and which poses or may pose a threat to the marine environment, or to the coastline or related interests of one or more states, and which requires emergency action or other immediate response.