



**Environmental assessments in the Arctic
Ocean: International legal obligations and gaps
in existing instruments**

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Abbreviations and explanation of expressions

The list contains abbreviations used in the main text. There are also short explanations of some terms that may be technical for some readers, without trying to provide authoritative definitions.

ABNJ: Areas beyond national jurisdiction. In the AO, it comprises a central area of high seas and the deep seabed.

AC: Arctic Council.

AEPS: Arctic environmental protection strategy. This is the Arctic collaboration process that started in 1991 and was brought further by the AC.

Affected state: Used in transboundary assessments about a state that is affected by activities in another state (the state of origin).

AO: Arctic Ocean

Arctic relevant states: Used in this discussion about states (+European Commission) that have signalled an interest towards Arctic issues by some affiliation to AC (membership, observatory status or application for observatory status). See appendix 1.

Arctic states: Members of Arctic Council

(The) “Area”: The deep seabed as defined by LOSC art 1(1)(1)

AWNJ: Areas within national jurisdiction In the AO proper, it consists of the maritime zones of the coastal states. Under other circumstances than the limitations in the discussion here (Arctic Ocean), it will of course also include the land territories of states.

COP: Conference of the parties to a convention

CEE: Comprehensive environmental evaluation. This is the most comprehensive type of EIA under the Madrid protocol to the Antarctic treaty.

CMS: Convention on Migratory Species

EA: Environmental assessment

ECE: See UNECE

Effect: This is used synonymous with impacts (explained below) and consequences

EIA: Environmental impact assessment

EIS: Environmental impact statement: The term used for the EIA report in the NEPA and some other jurisdictions.

ICJ: International Court of Justice

IEE: Initial Environmental Evaluation. This is the “middle type” of EIA under the Madrid protocol to the Antarctic treaty.

IMO: International Maritime Organization

ISA: International Seabed Authority (“The Authority” in LOSC art 156)

ITLOS: International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

Impacts: This is used synonymous with effects and consequences. A more technical definition is the difference between the future development *with* a proposed development (PPPP) and *without* the same (not the situation today). This implies a need to determine a 0-alternative.

LOSC: UN Convention on the Law of the Seas. LOSC is used as abbreviation not to confuse with the negotiation process, UNCLOS.

MEA: Multilateral environmental agreement

NEAFC: The Convention on Future Multilateral Co-operation in the North-East Atlantic Fisheries. NEAFC really is the name of the commission established, but is used as a short-hand term also for the convention

NEPA: The National Environmental Policy Act of the United States

OSPAR: Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (1992). OSPAR really is the name of the commission established, but is used as a short-hand term also for the convention

PA: Preliminary Assessment. This is the least onerous type of EIA under the Madrid protocol to the Antarctic treaty.

PPPP: Policy, plan, programme, project

RFB: Regional fisheries bodies. RFBs include fisheries related organizations with different mandates, including management of fisheries (RFMOs), scientific investigations and advice or development of the fisheries industry.

RFMO: Regional fisheries management organization. RFBs that manage fisheries

Scoping: The determination of the content in an EA study in an early stage of the process

Screening: The determination of whether a development (policy, plan, programme or project) is subject to SEA or EIA

SEA: Strategic environmental assessment

State of origin: Used in transboundary assessments about the state in which a proposed activity is to be located (ref also “affected state”).

TEA: Transboundary environmental assessment. This is a common term for transboundary SEA and EIA

TEIA: Transboundary environmental impact assessment

Transboundary: extraterritorial, beyond the border

Transnational: across all borders, universal

UN: United Nations

UNECE: UN Economic commission for Europe

UNEP: United Nations Environmental Programme

UNFCCC: UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNFSA: United Nations Fish Stock agreement (1995 implementation agreement to LOSC)

UNGA: UN General Assembly

US: United States of America