

Reflections on the Arctic Ocean, the South China Sea, the Protection of the Marine Environment, And Competent International Organisations

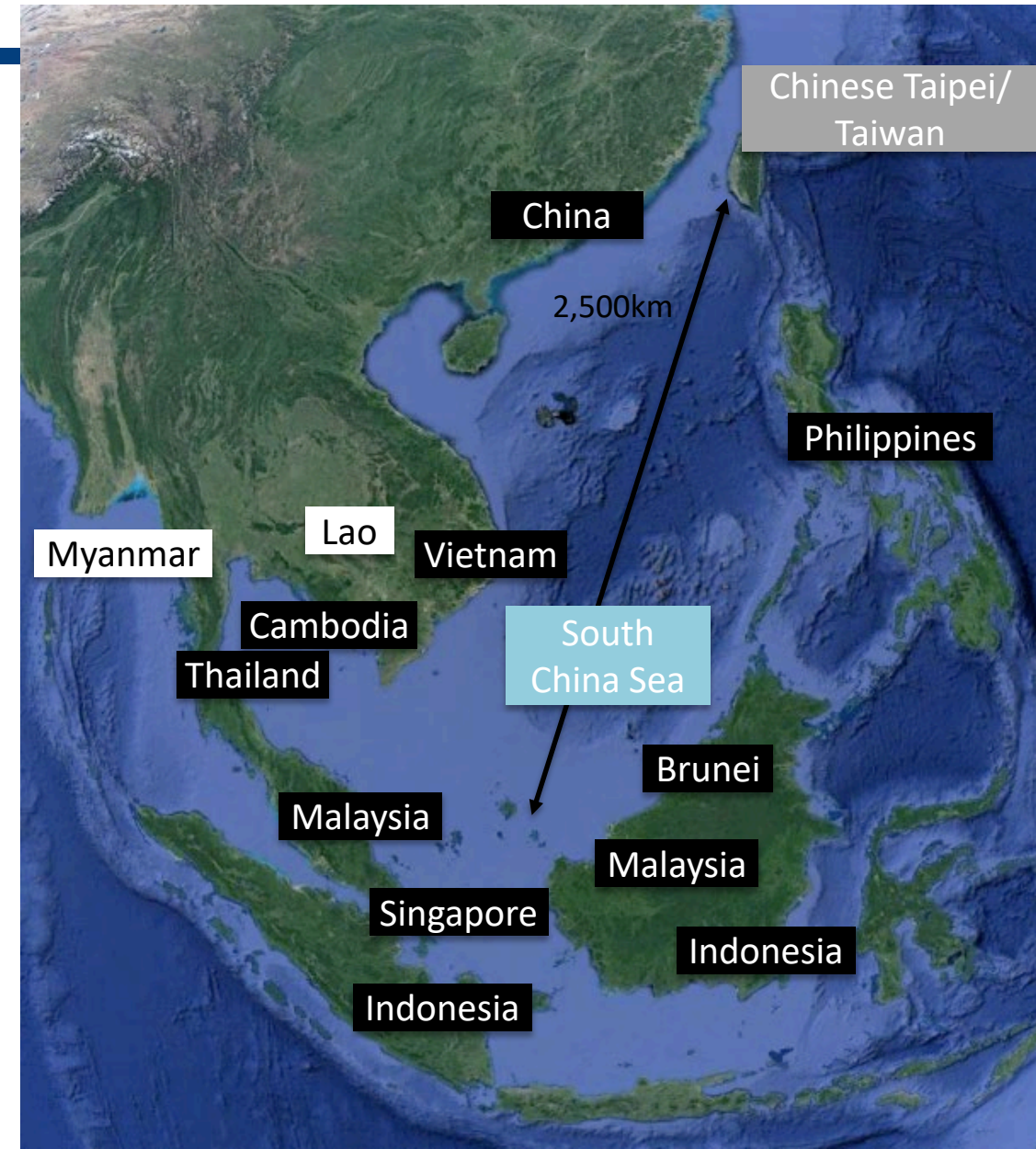
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1 – Common Features

- Semi-enclosed sea and comparable basins although the Arctic is an Ocean whereas the South China Sea (SCS) is a (large) marginal sea of Southeast Asia
- The Arctic Council and the ASEAN both have members that are not coastal states of the Arctic Ocean / SCS
- Less than 10 (6/9) coastal states but involvement of the global community
- Serious, deep, long-lasting political tensions and maritime disputes
- Existential climate crisis: Vulnerable systems, SLR, etc
- Focus on political dialogue / no delegation of authority to reg'l body
- Several regional institutions / overlapping mandates
- Indigenous populations ?

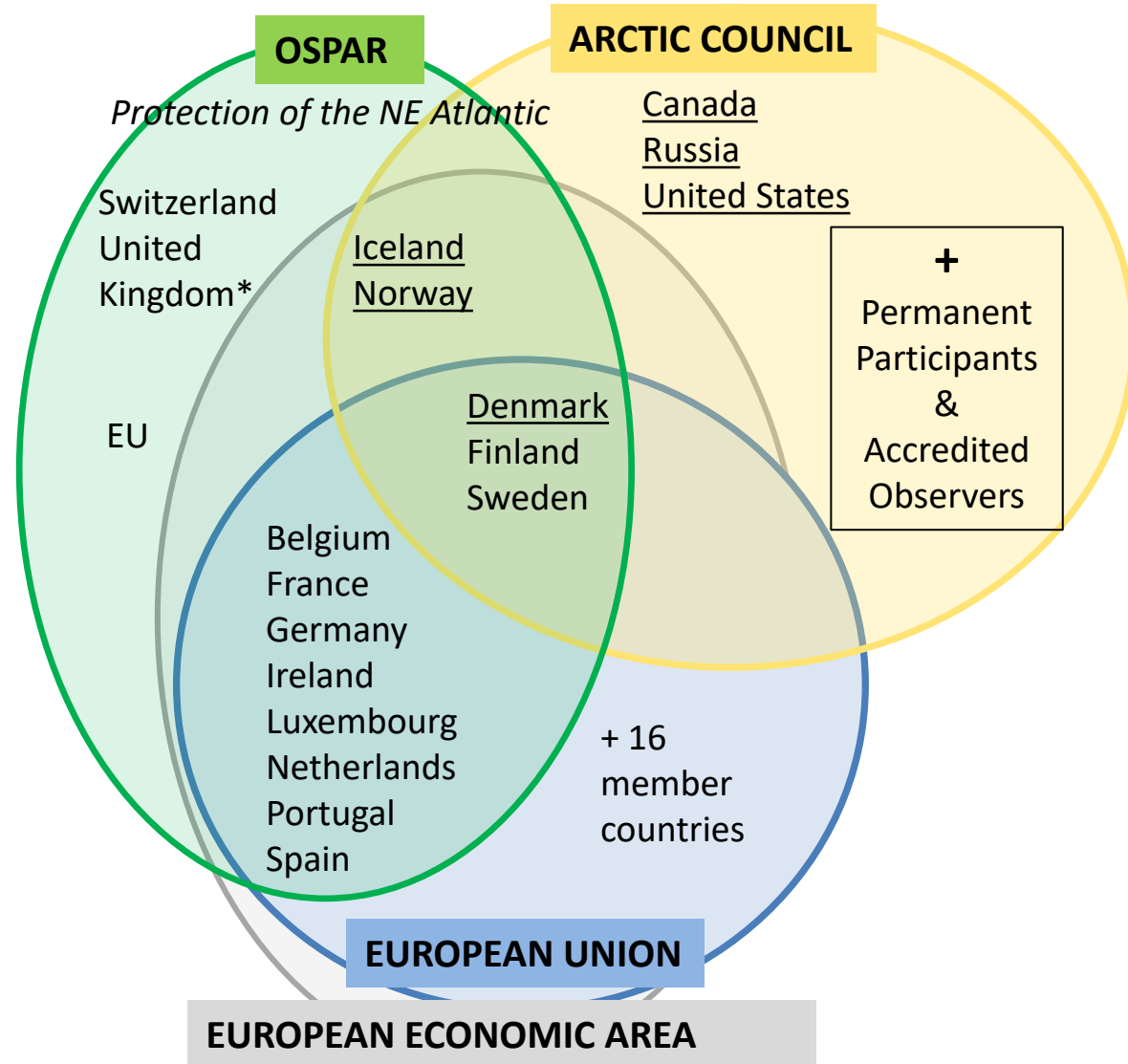
2 – Geography : Semi-enclosed seas



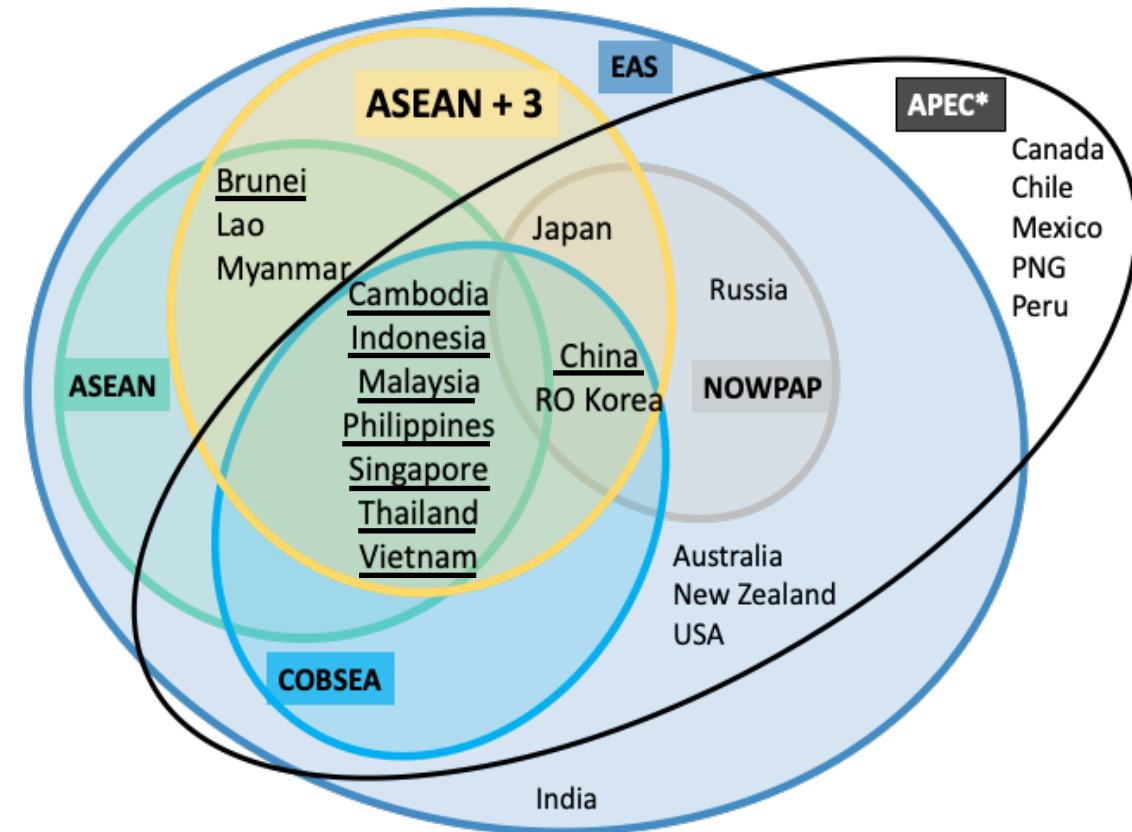
3 – Regional competent organizations (intergovernmental)

ARCTIC OCEAN

Coastal states are underlined



SOUTH CHINA SEA



APEC: Asia-Pacific Economic Community
ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations
COBSEA: Coordinated Body on the Seas of East Asia (UNEP)
EAS: East Asia Summit
NOWPAP: Northwest Pacific Action Plan (UNEP)

3 – Regional competent organizations (intergovernmental)

ARCTIC OCEAN

OSPAR

Protection of the NE Atlantic

Switzerland
United Kingdom*

EU

Belgium
France
Germany
Ireland
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Portugal
Spain

Iceland
Norway

Denmark
Finland
Sweden

EUROPEAN UNION

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

ARCTIC COUNCIL

Canada
Russia
United States

+
Permanent
Participants
&
Accredited
Observers

+ 16
member
countries

SEAFDEC – Southeast Asia Fisheries
Development Commission
WCPFC – Western and Central
Pacific Fisheries Commission
IOTC – Indian Ocean Tuna
Commission

... + RFMOs / RFBs...

NEAFC – Northeast Atlantic
Fisheries Commission
NASCO – North Atlantic
Salmon Conservation
Organization

SOUTH CHINA SEA

ASEAN + 3

Brunei
Lao
Myanmar

Cambodia
Indonesia
Malaysia
Philippines
Singapore
Thailand
Vietnam

Japan

China
RO Korea

Russia

NOWPAP

Australia
New Zealand
USA

COBSEA

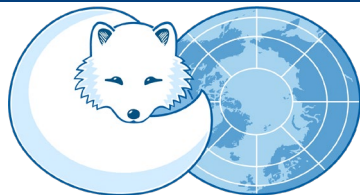
India

APEC*

Canada
Chile
Mexico
PNG
Peru

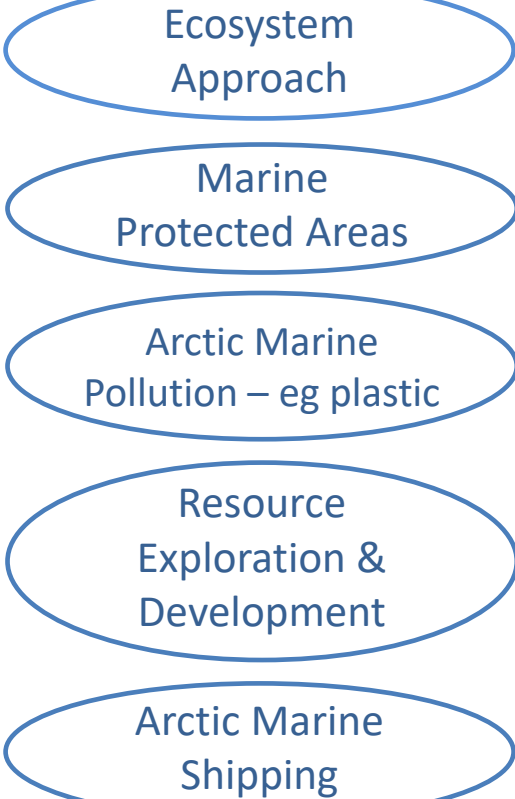
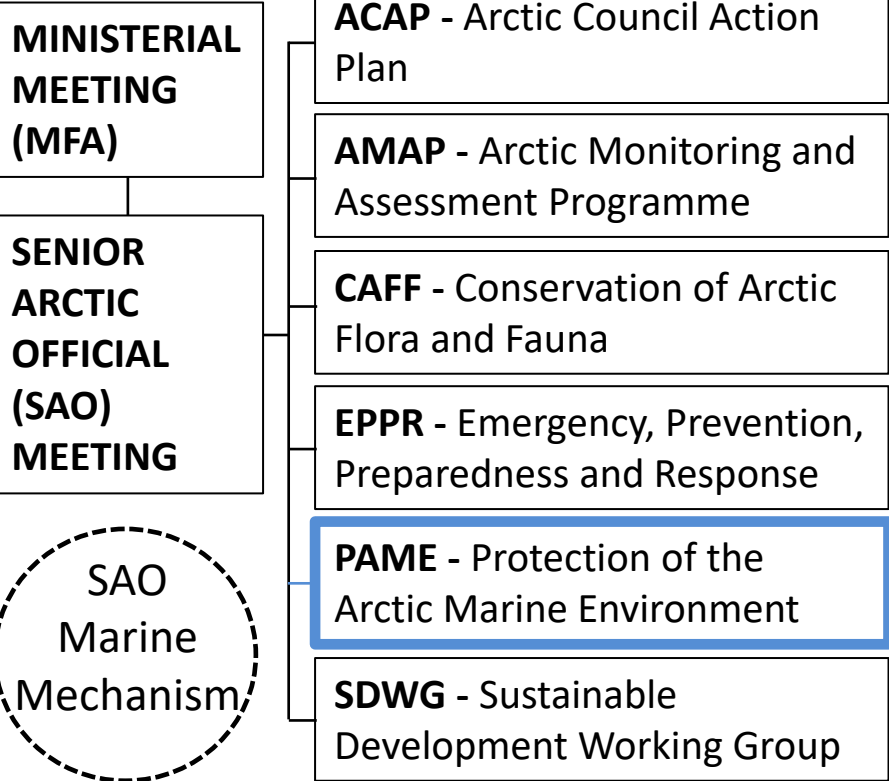
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4 – Arctic Council vs ASEAN

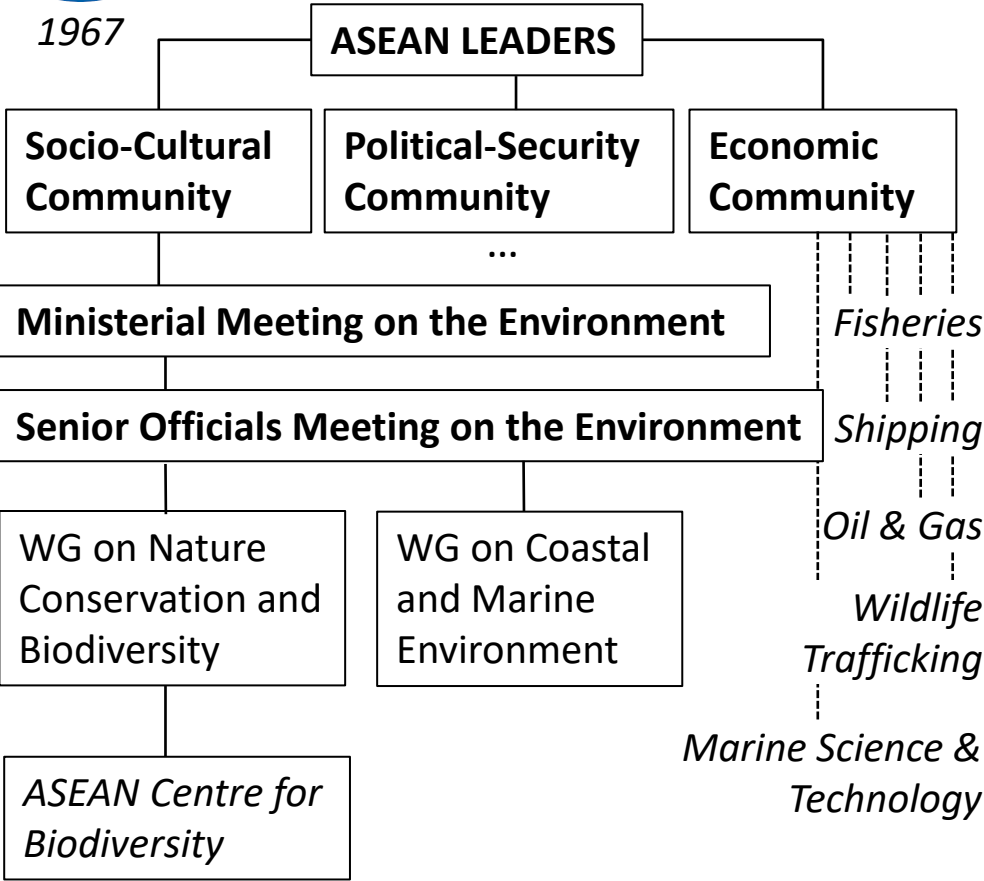


ARCTIC COUNCIL
1996

Arctic Countries
Permanent Participants
(indigenous peoples and organizations)
Observers (countries, IOs, NGOs)



ASEAN Countries
Invited observers



5 – Important differences

- Low coastal population of the Arctic Ocean compared to high in the SCS
- Overall mandate of ASEAN and political momentum / greater frequency of meetings in the ASEAN (ASEAN Leaders twice per year) vs specialized mandate of Arctic Council and Ministerial Meeting once every two years (AC – ASEAN)
- Limited number of binding agreements (AC – ASEAN)
- Development of regional scientific knowledge (AC – ASEAN) *not including capacity building*
- Publication of regional and project reports (AC – ASEAN) *except SEAFDEC's*
- Involvement of the civil society, NGOs and technical experts from the region at working level (AC – ASEAN)
- Level of economic development / financial resources (AC – ASEAN)
- WG devoted specifically to the protection of the marine environment (AC – ASEAN)

6 – Prospects for the ASEAN and Southeast Asia

- **Build on ASEAN's political and policy-making momentum**
- **Greater involvement of academic, industry and civil society without interfering with political processes, but to inform it**
- **Issue-specific research and reports on the marine environment jointly prepared by regional expert networks**
- **Development of regional databases and regional knowledge management systems**
- **Establishment of regional task forces on specific marine environmental issues such as climate change, marine litters, invasive species, threatened species and their habitat, impact of human activities, etc.**

Questions?

Comments?

Happy to engage to discuss further:

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