



Press Release – **New information on Arctic Pollution and Contaminant Issues**

Issued by: Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)

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New observations confirm continued rapid warming in the Arctic, driving many of the changes underway in the region, including loss of sea ice and glacier coverage, as well as changes in terrestrial and marine ecosystems. This affects Arctic communities and economies. Arctic Ocean acidification is an emerging threat – with models predicting the possible collapse of some important Arctic commercial and subsistence fisheries. Biological effects of contaminants that are transported to the Arctic by winds and ocean currents, including some contaminants that are now globally banned, continue to pose threats to the health of Arctic wildlife and ecosystems, raising concerns for the viability of some Arctic animal populations.

Ministers of the eight Arctic States will meet for the eleventh Arctic Council Ministerial in Rovaniemi, Finland, 7 May 2019 to consider, amongst other things, new information produced by the Council's Working Groups. The Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) is the Arctic Council Working Group responsible for monitoring and assessing the status of pollution and climate change and their impacts in the Arctic, and for developing science-based recommendations for subsequent action.

AMAP has produced two new assessments during the Finnish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council, addressing pollution effects on wildlife, and Arctic Ocean acidification - and updated its information tracking Arctic climate change. These products will be presented at the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting. One-pagers describing the key findings of these new assessments are attached; the associated summary reports for policy-makers – which include recommendations – together with the peer-reviewed technical background to the assessments can be found on the AMAP website on 7 May at 11.30 PM CEST (www.amap.no) (for access to materials for media use in advance of their release – subject to embargo – please contact the AMAP Secretariat).

For more information contact: AMAP Secretariat, The Fram Centre, P.O. Box 6606 Langnes, N-9296 Tromsø, Norway (tel: +47 2108 0480; e-mail: amap@amap.no; website: www.amap.no). The AMAP Secretariat can also provide the contact details for experts responsible for the new assessments for follow-up interviews. Point of contacts at the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting: AMAP Chair Marianne Kroglund (+47 480 05 055 / marianne.kroglund@miljodir.no) and Executive Secretary Rolf Rødven (+47 905 28 605 / rolf.rodven@amap.no).