



Санкт-Петербургский  
государственный  
университет  
[www.spbu.ru](http://www.spbu.ru)

# Planning for Innovation and Sustainability: An Emerging Blue Economy in Russia' Coastal Arctic?

**Alexander Sergunin**  
**St. Petersburg State University**

Green and Blue Urban Infrastructure Innovation for Northern Eurasia  
Transfer, Regionalisation, Planning Strategies and Development  
Directions  
Workshop and roundtable  
St.-Petersburg, 19-20 April 2021



The main research objective of this study is to examine how coastal urban communities in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation (AZRF) organize the sustainable development (and emerging blue economy) strategy planning process.

Specific questions: First, to examine whether the sustainable development and blue economy concepts are integrated into the urban development strategies and whether they are a real priority for the northern coastal communities? Second, to figure out which local government and civil society institutions are involved in the policy planning process and whether this sphere of local politics is transparent and open to public discussions? Third, to find out which specific aspects of the sustainable development and coastal blue economy concepts are given priority in the municipal development strategies? Finally, to discuss whether the AZRF coastal sustainable development/blue economy strategies aim to solve short-term/most pressing problems or they suggest long-term policies built on sustainability principles and oriented to solve fundamental socioeconomic and ecological problems of the AZRF coastal communities?



# Definitions:

The World Bank: the BE is the “sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem”.

However, this approach ignores the fact that the marine-based economic activities, such as fisheries, aquaculture, shipping, offshore oil and gas extraction, offshore wind energy, ocean energy, desalination, and marine tourism, are to a greater extent depend on marine-related coastal activities.



## Definitions

According to the European Commission, the BE concept embraces “All economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts. It covers a wide range of interlinked established and emerging sectors”.

In the EU’s view, the BE’s coastal component includes the marine-related activities which use products and/or produce products and services for the ocean and marine-based activities; for example, seafood processing, marine biotechnology, shipbuilding and repair, port activities, communication, equipment, maritime insurance and maritime surveillance.

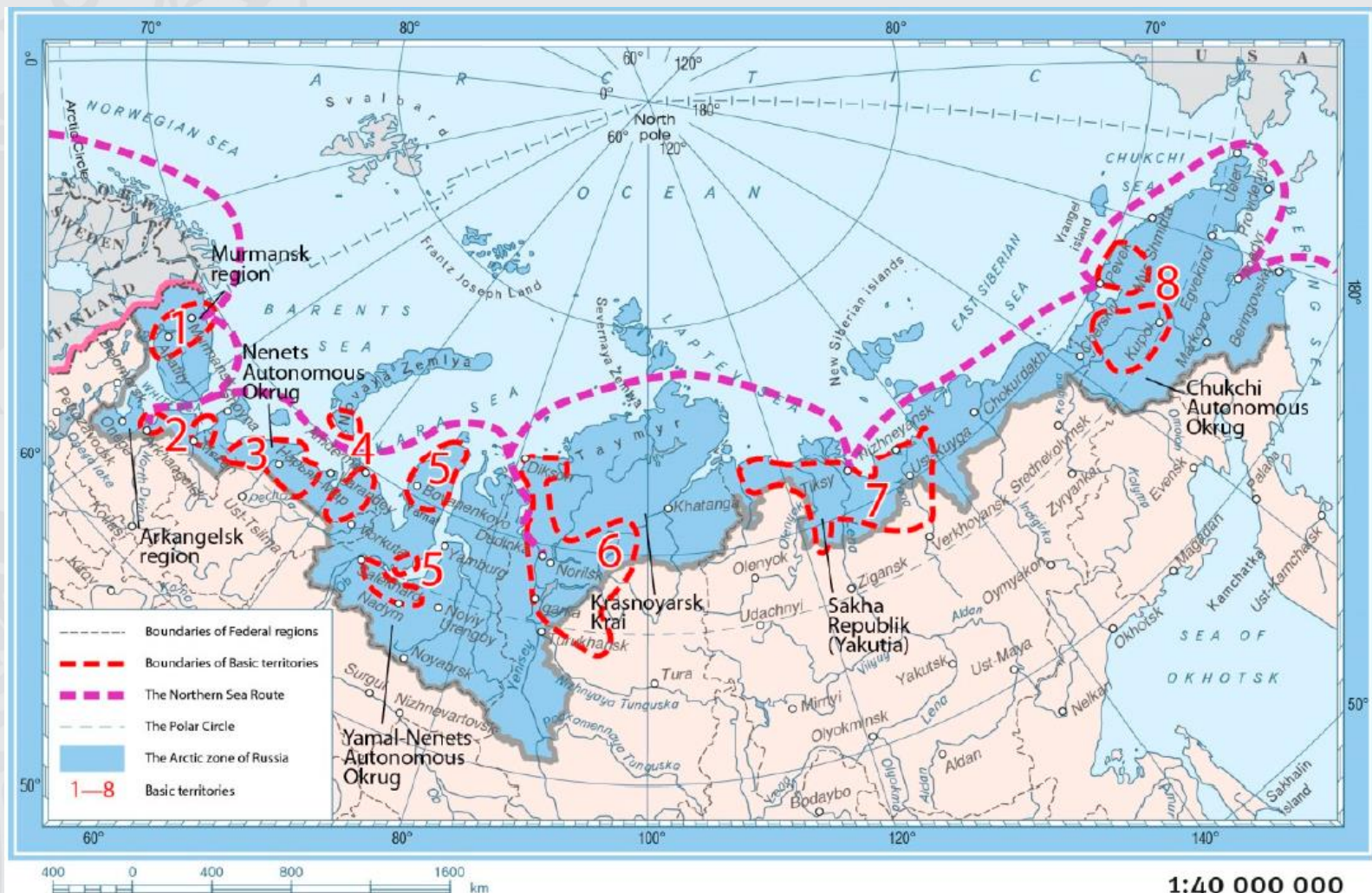


# Definitions

A number of other sectors and activities, which seriously affect the marine-based BE component, can be added: onshore energy (including its decarbonization, development of alternative energy sources, energy savings), reduction of coastal air and water emissions, waste disposal management, coastal tourism, creation of nature reserves and parks, food security, health, and integrated coastal and marine area management.



# AZRF





## The AZRF urban sustainable development strategy and blue economy planning index

| Indicator                                                                             | ARK | MUR | SEV | DUD | PEV | ANA | NAR | SAB |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Does a special municipal SD strategy exist?                                           | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Do the elements of a municipal SD strategy exist?                                     | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| Are all 3 components of SD represented in the municipal strategic documents?          | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| Does the municipality pay attention to the environmental problems?                    | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Do the city development plans pay attention to the human dimensions of SD strategies? | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| Does a special municipal BE strategy exist?                                           | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Shipbuilding and repair                                                               | 1.0 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Ports and related services                                                            | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 1.0 |
| Decarbonization, alternative energy sources, energy savings                           | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| Reduction of coastal air and water emissions                                          | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.5 |



# The AZRF urban sustainable development strategy and blue economy planning index

| Indicator                                                                                                                   | ARK | MUR | SEV | DUD | PEV | ANA | NAR | SAB |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Waste disposal management                                                                                                   | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| Seafood processing                                                                                                          | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Marine biotechnology                                                                                                        | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Aquaculture                                                                                                                 | 0.8 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Marine-related communications                                                                                               | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.7 |
| Maritime insurance                                                                                                          | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Maritime surveillance                                                                                                       | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| Digitalization                                                                                                              | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.5 |
| Coastal and maritime tourism                                                                                                | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Nature reserves and national parks                                                                                          | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Sustainable forestry                                                                                                        | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Food security                                                                                                               | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Health                                                                                                                      | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| Integrated coastal and marine area management                                                                               | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.5 |
| Has a municipality all three types of strategic documents (strategy, prognosis and target programs)?                        | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| Are the municipal strategic documents of a long-term character?                                                             | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| Do the urban development plans include proper problem-definition, clearly outlined strategic goals and policy alternatives? | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.0 |
| Do the municipal strategic documents include a detailed implementation mechanism?                                           | 0.5 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.0 |
| Do the municipal strategic documents contain indicators and/or benchmarks to monitor implementation strategies?             | 0.7 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.0 |



# The AZRF urban sustainable development strategy and blue economy planning index

| Indicator                                                                                                                           | ARK  | MUR  | SEV  | DU<br>D | PEV  | ANA  | NAR  | SAB |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|---------|------|------|------|-----|
| Does the city put out a progress report?                                                                                            | 1.0  | 1.0  | 1.0  | 1.0     | 1.0  | 1.0  | 1.0  | 0.0 |
| Is there a special planning office in the city/town?                                                                                | 0.5  | 0.5  | 0.5  | 1.0     | 0.3  | 0.3  | 0.3  | 0.0 |
| Do cities cooperate with regional and federal levels? Have they addressed regional and federal priorities in their SD plans?        | 0.5  | 1.0  | 0.5  | 0.6     | 0.5  | 0.6  | 0.6  | 0.0 |
| Are the plans publicly available, e.g. on a website?                                                                                | 1.0  | 1.0  | 1.0  | 1.0     | 1.0  | 1.0  | 1.0  | 0.0 |
| How transparent is the planning process? Does a city have capacity to engage communities, community inputs?                         | 0.5  | 0.4  | 0.8  | 0.6     | 0.5  | 0.7  | 0.5  | 0.0 |
| Presence of NGO's and other organizations working on SD issues and collaborating with a city administration                         | 0.5  | 0.4  | 0.7  | 0.5     | 0.3  | 0.7  | 0.5  | 0.0 |
| Does the city administration engage the local business community in the strategy planning process?                                  | 0.2  | 0.3  | 0.5  | 0.4     | 0.3  | 0.5  | 0.1  | 0.0 |
| Does the municipality cooperate with the local academic community in the strategy planning process?                                 | 0.7  | 0.5  | 0.3  | 0.0     | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0 |
| To what extent does a municipality acknowledge the importance of international cooperation for the success of its SD/BE strategies? | 1.0  | 1.0  | 0.5  | 0.0     | 0.1  | 0.2  | 0.1  | 0.0 |
| Total                                                                                                                               | 22.9 | 22.1 | 19.3 | 14.3    | 13.4 | 12.7 | 10.0 | 5.0 |