



PAME PROGRESS REPORT TO SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS

28-29 April 2010, Ilulissat, Greenland

1. Response to Arctic Council Priorities

The Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group (PAME) is the working group which focuses on the marine agenda of the Arctic Council. It is guided by the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) and biennial work plans as approved by the Arctic Council Ministers. PAME considers a full range of policy issues that relate to the state of the Arctic marine environment, including pollution prevention, marine biodiversity and resource development, and has a mandate to address policy and non-emergency pollution prevention and control measures related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment from both land and sea-based activities. Continuous updating of the review of international agreements and arrangements regarding the protection of marine and coastal areas is important and their implementation from an Arctic angle to identify possible ways and means to improve these instruments and compliance with them.

The common priorities agreed upon for the Norwegian, Danish and Swedish Chairmanship period of the Arctic Council are concerned with climate change, integrated resource management, the International Polar Year, Indigenous people, local living conditions and management issues.

PAME's work reflects these priorities. Furthermore, PAME contributes to the priority of the Danish Chairmanship of identifying Megatrends in the Arctic through the Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) project.

PAME cooperates actively with the other Arctic Council Working Groups in an effort to contribute to improved efficiency and effectiveness of the Arctic Council.

The climate change issues are addressed within all PAME projects and the participation of indigenous peoples, and other Arctic residents, in PAME projects is fully recognized.

2. Summary of Progress on PAME Projects

PAME held its working group meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, 3-5 March 2010. Below is a summary of developments since the last SAO meeting.

Arctic Ocean Review Project (AOR)

The AOR Project is led by Canada, Iceland, Norway, Russia, and the United States and its work is proceeding according to plan. The following activities have been accomplished:

- AOR Project Plan has been revised in accordance with guidance from last SAO meeting
- Project Expert Group (PEG) established
- Ongoing consultations with Working Group, including a meeting with Working Group Chairs and Secretaries held in Copenhagen on 2nd of March
- Table of Contents and annotated outline drafted
- AOR Communication and Outreach Plan developed and approved by PAME
- AOR communication and outreach tools (e.g. brochure) being developed

The outline of the AOR Phase I Report includes the following main sections:

- Introduction
- Status of the Arctic marine environment and emerging trends
- Global instruments
- Regional instruments a) (partly covering Arctic)
- Regional instruments b) (covering Arctic only)
- Bilateral (etc) cooperation
- Analysis

Consultations with other Arctic Council working groups are underway, in particular relating to Chapter 2 on *The Status of the Arctic Marine Environment and Emerging Trends*. PAME members have also been asked to nominate experts whose role will be to review and input to this particular chapter. The AOR leads will continue to collaborate and consult with all Arctic Council working groups, and others, to develop the Phase I AOR Report. An AOR expert workshop is planned for the Fall 2010 to gather further inputs to this work. PAME approval of the Phase I Report is planned to take place during the winter of 2010/2011 with a Phase I Report, including the outcomes of the workshop, to be ready for the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in April 2011.

Providing clear and thorough information about the AOR project during the development of Phase I, and encouraging awareness and input as appropriate by members of the Arctic Council, inhabitants of the Arctic Region and more broadly is important. Therefore, lead countries developed a communication and outreach plan for Phase I of the AOR which was recently approved by PAME.

Reference is made to the [SAO agenda item 5.2](#) for further information on the AOR Project.

Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) follow-up activities

In Tromsø, Ministers directed SAOs to identify appropriate follow-up actions to respond to the recommendations in the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) 2009 Report. The AMSA was finalized shortly before the Ministerial meeting in Tromsø, hence no follow-up activities could be developed into projects and included in the PAME Work Plan 2009-2011 at that time. The PAME Work Plan states that: “*Activities to be added based on the outcomes/findings of the approved AMSA and as agreed by SAOs/Ministers in 2009*”.

During the PAME Meeting (30 Sep- 2 Oct 2009) PAME approved a working matrix dividing the 17 AMSA recommendations into the following three categories, and indicating the most appropriate leads and relevant partners:

Actions to be followed up/implemented by PAME as identified in the AMSA Matrix are recommendations I(A), I(B), I(C), I(D), II(D) and II(G).

Recommendation I(B) on IMO Measures for Arctic Shipping: has three action points of which Denmark has taken on the responsibility to update PAME on progress within IMO on the first two action points which address *Guidelines for Ships Operating in Arctic Ice-covered Waters* and *augmentation of global IMO ship safety and pollution prevention conventions* (closely related to Recommendation I(A)), respectively. Norway and USA have confirmed co-lead role for action point 3 on *considering measures eliminating the environmental risk regarding the use and carriage of heavy fuel oil* in the Arctic. PAME has agreed to implement Phase I of this project as per a project description submitted by Norway, and PAME is in the process of developing a contact group to agree on the ToR for this work and the hiring of a consultant to do the work.

Recommendation I(C) on Uniformity of Arctic Shipping Governance.: PAME Chair/Secretariat will collect information from AC member states and report to the next PAME meeting.

Recommendations I(D) on Strengthening Passenger Ship Safety in Arctic Waters has two action points of which Denmark has agreed to provide update to PAME as IMO's work proceeds on *Enhanced Contingency Planning Guidance for Passenger Ships Operating in Areas Remote from SAR Facilities*. Action point 2 on sharing of best practices for tour operators is for PAME consideration at a later stage. Denmark will in the meantime provide web-based information on the issue and PAME countries are asked to provide information on best practices to Denmark. Denmark to inform the next PAME meeting.

Recommendation II(D) on Specially Designated Arctic Marine Areas: Denmark will inform on progress at the next PAME meeting, including the outcomes of the meeting of environmental ministers in Greenland in 9-11 June 2010, and propose the way forward in the PAME Working Group, including confirmation of its possible lead country role.

Note that the identification of areas of heightened ecological and cultural significance (see Recommendation II(C) below) could serve as a basis for possible development of proposals for IMO "Special Areas", PSSA's and/or associated protective measures under II (D).

Actions to be followed up/implemented by other Arctic Council working groups are AMSA recommendations I(E), II(C), II(F) and III(C). PAME has discussed relevant follow-up activities with the other Arctic Council working groups and progress is as follows:

Recommendations II(F) on Oil Spill Prevention and III(C) on Circumpolar Environmental Response Capacity. EPPR has initiated a correspondence group for their follow-up activities on these recommendations.

Recommendations II(C) on Areas of Heightened Ecological and Cultural Significance: Discussions have been initiated with AMAP, CAFF and SDWG to consider follow-up activities for this recommendation. Identification of such areas could serve as a basis for possible development of proposals for IMO "Special Areas", PSSA's and/or associated protective measures.

Updating the AMSA Matrix

PAME has decided to add a column to the AMSA Matrix to track status on progress of the AMSA follow-up activities and agreed to produce an AMSA status report to the 2011 Ministerial meeting.

Reference is made to the SAO agenda item 5.1 for further information on the AMSA follow-up activities.

Follow up on the 2009 Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines

The United States led the work in assessing the need for and possible development of specific guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) within the offshore oil and gas industry. A contact group was established and a questionnaire developed and sent out to all Arctic countries. This questionnaire included inquires on the legal base, responsible authority/agency, stakeholders, traditional knowledge, public consultations and review processes.

Based on the replies received, PAME agreed that there is currently no need to develop harmonized Arctic EIA Guidelines. Instead the Arctic countries will provide links to respective EIA reports and practices as a means of information sharing which will be posted on the PAME homepage.

Follow up on the 2009 Regional Programme of Action (RPA)

The development of the PAME website to include a RPA clearing house function with the aim to provide access to RPA related information and best practices held by Arctic Council and other organizations is being explored in coordination with the IPS and the GPA Coordination Office. The GPA is currently in the process of assessing the usefulness and sustainability of its clearing house mechanism and a survey in this regard has been sent out to all GPA stakeholders.

PAME will await the outcome of the GPA assessment which is expected by end of April 2010 after which time the PAME Secretariat, in cooperation with IPS, will coordinate with the GPA on next steps.

Ecosystem Approach

The work on Ecosystem Approach (EA) within PAME is led by Norway and the United States. PAME has established a Group of Experts on Ecosystem-based Assessment and Management. The group will outline the work planned to be accomplished during the 2010-2011 period to the PAME II-2010 meeting and initiate the development of its biannual work plan to coincide with the PAME biannual work plan development for the 2011-2013 period, as per the ToR of the Group of Experts.

Norway will convene a workshop in summer of 2010 on LMEs and the PAME/EA efforts. Details on this workshop are forthcoming [A workshop report will be prepared.](#)

3. Collaboration with other Working Groups

PAME continues to actively communicate with the other working groups of the Arctic Council on the need to collaborate on developing its work plan and in involvement in projects. EPPR and CAFF participated at the last PAME meeting. EPPR has initiated a correspondence group for their AMSA follow-up activities on Recommendations II(F) on Oil Spill Prevention and III(C) on Circumpolar Environmental Response Capacity. Discussions have been initiated with AMAP, CAFF and SDWG to consider follow-up activities for Recommendations II(C) on Areas of Heightened Ecological and Cultural Significance: his recommendation.

Consultations with Working Group Chairs and Secretaries on the AOR project were held in Copenhagen on 2nd of March and, as a result, working groups have been asked to nominate experts, in particular as it relates to Chapter 2 on *The Status of the Arctic Marine Environment and Emerging Trends*.

The work on Ecosystem Approach and its associated Group of Experts on Ecosystem-based Assessment and Management will liaison as necessary with other experts associated with the activities, in particular, AMAP, CAFF and SDWG. The lead countries on the Ecosystem work within PAME are the same as in the Marine Expert Group of CAFF.

The PAME Secretariat is coordinating the development of an AMSA outreach and communication toolkit with the Arctic Council PPs organizations and the IPS Secretariat. Coordination on the RPA follow-up activities is coordinated with the IPS Secretariat.

4. PAME Management and Administration

The PAME International Secretariat is located in Akureyri, Iceland. The Secretariat has a staff of two. PAME is chaired by Norway, Mr. Atle Fretheim, and the vice-chair is Ms. Elizabeth McLanahan from the United States.

The next PAME Meeting is tentatively scheduled for 13-15 September 2010 in Washington D.C. USA.