



September 30, 2010

To: The Chairman of the SAOs and the Arctic Council SAOs
Cc: PAME National Representatives, Permanent Participants
Subject: AOR Expert Workshop and process and timeline of the Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) Phase I Project

The AOR Expert Workshop was convened in Washington D.C. 13-14 September (back-to-back with the PAME II-2010 meeting 14-16 September) in support of the development of the AOR Phase I Report which will be submitted to the 2011 Arctic Council Ministerial meeting along with other PAME documents.

The AOR Expert Workshop was based on the draft AOR Phase I Report, version 13 August. Below is a summary of comments received from participants without prejudging inclusion or exclusion. These are presented here for information purposes with the reservation that all comments will be evaluated and assessed by the AOR leads in revising the draft AOR Phase I Report from the perspective of the agreed overall scope of the AOR Project and, in particular the scope of the AOR Phase I.

Chapter 2 - Status of the Arctic Marine Environment

Discussions included comments such as:

- Emphasize pan-Arctic trends and take into account regional diversity of the region i.e. local vs. pan-Arctic perspectives.
- Highlight the most important change within the main economic sectors and its respective impacts.
- Include additional information on monitoring and observing networks in the Arctic as they relate to science and assessment needs (e.g. integrated assessments).
- Consider changes in the Arctic marine environment in the context of local and indigenous health and economics.

Chapters 3 and 4: Global and Regional Agreements and Instrument

Discussions included comments such as:

- Describe the linkages between instruments of relevance to the Arctic.
- Make levels of detail within respective sub-sections comparable and streamline content.
- Include relevant instruments, institutions and processes at the bilateral level and make connections to multilateral instruments.
- Separate Integrated Oceans Management from Chapter 4 to become a stand alone Chapter 5.

New Chapter 5: Integrated Ocean Management

Discussions included comments such as:

- Describe the range of assessments and instruments both globally and regionally in a more integrated manner, from both the view point of operational aspects and science.
- Include spatial approaches and policies such as marine spatial planning, Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs), EU marine strategy and Nordic policy-oriented approaches.

New Chapter 6: Conclusions

A final concluding chapter was not part of the AOR workshop as the input received at the workshop was needed to inform such a chapter, which will describe the legal and management context for the Arctic Marine Environment and suggest possible areas of focus for Phase II of the AOR. The first draft of the conclusions, to be prepared by the AOR lead countries, will be included in the next version of the AOR Phase I Report (version 1 November as per the timeline below).

AOR Workshop Summary and AOR Phase I timeline

With reference to the records of decisions from the PAME II-2010 meeting it was agreed that the AOR Workshop Summary will be available on 30th of September to include high level summary with workshop presentations attached. Both the AOR Workshop Summary and the presentations will be posted on the PAME homepage.

Furthermore, PAME II-2010 meeting agreed to the following process and timeline to finalize Phase I of the AOR Project:

- 24th of September – submission for the SAO meeting 19-20 October the 13th of August draft AOR Phase I Report in addition to summary of comments from the AOR Workshop and PAME II-2010 meeting to SAOs to inform of status and seek their guidance if needed.
- 28th of September - Deadline for comments on the 13th of August draft AOR Phase I to be sent to the PAME Secretariat.
- 1st of November – revised draft AOR Phase I Report to be sent to AOR Project Expert Group (with copies to the PAME HoDs) with deadline of comments 1st of December
- 1st of December – 10th of January 2011 – Based on comments from AOR PEGs, AOR leads to prepare a final draft AOR Phase I Report.
- 10th of January 2011 – Final draft AOR Phase I Report and a draft Phase II AOR project plan to be distributed for comments for the PAME I -2011 meeting (tentative early February)
- Mid-Feb – mid-March – work out and finalize any outstanding issues and finalize workplan/timeline for AOR Phase II as per PAME I-2011 decision.
- mid-March – Deadline for final submission for the Ministerial Meeting 12th of May 2011.

Action:

SAOs are asked to:

1. Provide comments to the draft AOR Phase I Report (version 13 of August)
2. Approve the timeline to finalize Phase I of the AOR Project as provided above.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the AOR lead Countries, Canada, Iceland, Norway, Russia and the United States



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