Co-chairs 3 –pager from Scoping Workshop Best Practices Prevention to oil Spill in the Arctic

Background
In the Nuuk declaration, the Arctic Council Ministers called EPPR and other relevant working groups to develop “Recommendations and/or Best Practices in the Prevention of Marine Oil Pollution”. The mandate from Nuuk was discussed in EPPRs meeting in June 2011. It was decided that Norway and Canada should co-lead the project and also take the responsibility for the planning of a scoping workshop. Det Norske Veritas (DNV) was invited take part in the planning, to facilitate and report from the scoping workshop. The workshop was conducted in Oslo October 19.-20. 2011. About 70 participants from governmental agencies, PP’s, observers and other relevant stakeholders from all of the Arctic States attended the workshop. In addition to the scope and content of the work, the workshop addressed the process for organizing and conducting the work.

Prevention definition
- Important aspects of prevention include:
  - technological assessment of equipment and procedures;
  - protocols for training, inspection;
  - contingency plans for the avoidance, control, and shutdown of offshore operations.

- Prevention distinct of preparedness and response
  - Role of industry (private sector) vs role of states and regulatory bodies
  - Prevention includes the requirements and practices to ensure safety and protection of the environment

Preparedness (of a spill) and response is to deal with planning for the incident

Name of the project
The name of the project was discussed in the EPPR meeting on October 21st. EPPR agreed in the following name: EPPR Recommended Practices for Arctic Oil Spill Prevention Project which abbreviates to: EPPR Recommended Practices Prevention Project (EPPR RP3) and in short EPPR Prevention Project. This decision is reflected in the text below.

Objectives and goals for the scoping workshop
The objective of the scoping workshop was to define the scope of work for the Best Practice Prevention and to agree on a scheduled work plan to finalize a first draft report within October 15, 2012.

To meet the objectives of the workshop several presentations from selected coastal states was given. The presentations was related to Shipping, Oil exploration and production, land based activities (LBA) and maritime surveillance as an important preventive measure. In addition to this representatives from PAME and AMAP gave important presentations were their activities relevant for the EPPR RP3 was highlighted.

During the workshop, two breakout sessions were organized. The breakout sessions were organized in different thematic groups. The thematic groups were:

- Maritime/Shipping
- Offshore Oil and Gas
- Land based activity
- General Arctic Policy
- Maritime Surveillance
- Offshore Oil and Gas II
• General Arctic Policy II

The following questions were discussed in the two breakout sessions.

• What would you, your organization or country except BPP to achieve? Please identify key questions that various stakeholders would like to see addressed in a BPP report.
• What are the most important reasons (or what are your main concerns related to...) for accidental oil spills in the Arctic from shipping, oil exploration and production and land based activity?
• What are the 5-10 most important incidents that we should focus in the BPP report?
• What should be included in the BPP report to ensure that best practices and recommendations to prevention of marine oil pollution are described?
• What types of products and deliverables could a BPP provide that would be useful for you?
• Who can or should take part in the preparations of the BPP report? (Consultant, governmental authorities, industry or others). How can you or your organization contribute?
• What process would best assist to develop the draft BPP report (thematic WGs? Virtual conferences, conference calls, correspondence)

The thematic groups reported in the plenary sessions their response to the questions. The feedback from the groups will be reflected in the report from scoping workshop. Their input will be very important in the process to develop the EPPR RP3 report to the Ministerial meeting in 2013.

The co-chairs general view on the scoping workshop was that there were good representation from all sectors, Arctic Council member countries, PPs, AC working groups (PAME and AMAP) and observers. The objectives of the workshop were met and the scope of the future work was clearly defined. In addition to this was the Project organization discussed and we received several good advices related to this.

Suggestions and discussions in the EPPR meeting
EPPR held the semiannual meeting back to back with the scoping workshop and the Task Force meeting. Based on the preliminary conclusions from the scoping workshop, the co-chairs suggested the way forward which is reflected on the next page.

The project Governance was suggested as described below:
To finalize the EPPR RP3 project within the next Ministerial meeting, the following draft Macro schedule was proposed. This will be further detailed in the business (or project plan?) plan which is under development.

**Draft macro schedule 2011 - 2013**

Based on the draft project governance and the draft macro schedule the next steps were proposed to be:

- Scoping WS report will be circulated to the WS participants for comments by November 4, 2011
- Developing Terms of references and business plan (funding requirements) for consultants
- EPPR RP3 co-chairs to report to EPPR on funding options and requirements in late 2011
- SAO update Nov 7 or Nov 8, 2011
- Informing Task Force of work plan in their meeting in St.Petersburg December 13, 2011
- Plan for an EPPR RP3 workshop back to back with Annual EPPR meeting in June 2013.

**EPPR conclusions**

Based on the input described above, EPPR discussed the follow up activities of the EPPR RP 3 scoping workshop. The following conclusions are copied from the Records of Decisions from the EPPR meeting:

- The first draft report from EPPR Prevention Project scoping workshop will be submitted to the participants within two weeks.
- The name of the project is EPPR Recommended Practices Prevention Project (EPPR RP3) and the short title is EPPR Prevention Project.
- EPPR agreed in the use of a contractor (external consultant) to conduct project management and prepare draft text. It is very important that the National experts, PP’s and other workings groups participate in developing and drafting the product and remain involved in the work during the review process.
- The different countries will investigate funding options as soon as the business plan and the terms of reference have been submitted. The co-chairs will start preparation of the business plan immediately after the EPPR meeting. The communication between the co-chairs of the EPPR Prevention Project, EPPR HoDs, Arctic Council Partners and others will be reflected in the business plan.
- The co-chairs of the EPPR Prevention Project will send a letter to co-chairs of the TF about the EPPR RP3 participation in the TF to ensure a good link between the two activities.
USA and Sweden will look into the possibility for using the new EPPR website as a tool for outreach and communication.