

Summary of Progress on PAME Projects.

2011

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

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Summary of Progress on PAME Projects

PAME held its working group meeting (PAME II-2011) in Reykjavik, Iceland, 21-23 September 2011 with 60 participants. This meeting was held back-to-back with the AOR Phase II Workshop 20-21 September 2011. Below is a summary of developments and main decisions from the last PAME meeting which may be of potential interest to SAOs:

Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment follow-up activities

AMSA I(B) - Polar Code:

- ✓ PAME continues to strongly support work at the IMO on the Polar Code and urges governments to work as expeditiously as possible to complete that work. In the interim, PAME reminds the shipping industry of existing IMO guidance applicable to Arctic ship operations.
- ✓ PAME recommends that its member governments explore preparation and joint submission of a paper to the IMO that emphasizes the importance of the completion of the Polar Code to the Arctic Council Member States.

AMSA I(D) – Passenger Ship Safety

- ✓ Strongly encourage the cruise ship industry to to augment existing and/or develop new best practices for operations in the Arctic to enhance safety and environmental protection.
- ✓ Instruct PAME Secretariat to liaise with the EPPR regarding Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System (Amvers) and its potential use in the Arctic for cruise ships to voluntarily report their locations and use it in voyage planning, and to report back to PAME.
- ✓ To the extent that pollution prevention and passenger ship safety are linked, invite EPPR to inform PAME I-2012 on how their work could help to support implementation of AMSA Recommendation I(D).
- ✓ Direct the PAME Chair/Secretariat to invite a member of the shipping insurance industry to make a presentation at PAME-I 2012 on factors that go into setting insurance premiums for Arctic cruises.

AMSA I(B) – The Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) in the Arctic Project – Phase II

- ✓ PAME agrees to proposed revisions to the HFO Phase II Work Plan 2011-2012.
- ✓ PAME agrees that the co-leads are given the task of managing the selected consultant, with input from the contact group, and that Norway, as the contract manager, serve as the coordinator and the main point of contact for this project. The project description and Terms of Reference are to be developed with input from the contact group.
- ✓ AMSA I(B) co-leads explore opportunities to use the information collected within the HFO study to be accessible in the www.arcticdata.is database.

AMSA II(C) – Areas of Heightened Ecological and Cultural Significance

- ✓ Note the status report on the progress of follow-up of AMSA II(C) by AMAP/CAFF/SDWG and look forward to the final draft report by end of year 2011 which will provide the necessary information to start AMSA II(D).
- ✓ Request that the PAME Chair/Secretariat to communicate with SDWG regarding the inclusion of "cultural significance" information to help ensure the successful completion of the II(C) process.
- ✓ PAME agreed that areas of cultural significance being identified under II(C) could include underwater cultural heritage such as shipwreck information.

AMSA II(D) – Specially Designated Arctic Marine Areas

- ✓ PAME supports the revised work plan and the draft Terms of Reference which will be further developed intersessionally by the AMSA II(D) contact group, for submission to the PAME I-2012 for possible modification and endorsement.

AMSA III(B) – Arctic Marine Traffic Systems

- ✓ Direct the PAME Secretariat to invite an appropriate expert in vessel traffic monitoring and information systems (e.g., from the European Maritime Safety Agency - EMSA) to make a presentation on Automated

Identification System (AIS), Long Range Identification and Tracking of ships (LRIT), and/or similar ship monitoring/tracking systems that are or may be deployed by Arctic countries to support implementation of III(B).

- ✓ PAME Chair to invite member governments to submit to PAME I-2012 meeting information on existing national vessel traffic monitoring and tracking systems.

Welcome the information from EPPR on their follow-up activities on AMSA Recommendations II(F) and III(C), and invite EPPR to inform on progress to PAME I-2012.

Welcome the information from the Russian Federation on established Marine Rescue Coordination Subcenter (MRCC) in Tiksi which operates during the summer navigation period, as well as the oil spill combating exercise "Arctic 2011" which was held in the water area of the port of Tiksi in August 2011.

The Meeting noted the update on the scoping paper from AIA and Saami Council as it relates to AMSA II(A) on possible activities to advance a survey of Arctic Indigenous Marine Use and recommend development of project proposals identified in the paper.

Follow up on the 2009 Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines

- ✓ The Meeting noted the status report on the Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) Management Systems and the Use of Best Operating Practices for Offshore Arctic Oil and Gas Drilling Activities—A Report and Possible Guidelines and look forward to further details on the proposed workshop in 2012.
- ✓ The Meeting agreed to the revised timeline for the Arctic Oil and Gas Management, Regulation and Enforcement (MRE) a Legal Regime Web-Based Information Resource project (Annex IV)
- ✓ The PAME oil and gas contact group will further develop the website format and content, and supply information to be included for the MRE project in accordance with the revised timeline.
- ✓ The oil and gas contact group to explore PAME contributions (The 2009 Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines and the HSE project) to the SAO task force as it relates to development of recommendations and/or best practices in the prevention of marine oil pollution.

Arctic Ocean Review Project (AOR) (Refer to SAO Agenda Item 4.3)

Ecosystem Approach

- ✓ PAME Chair to send a letter inviting Arctic Council working groups working on marine-related issues (AMAP, CAFF and SDWG) to participate in the PAME-led Ecosystem Approach (EA) Expert Group on the ecosystem approach to management.
- ✓ Co-leads to update the Terms of Reference and the work plan of the EA Expert Group to reflect its expansion and 2011-2013 work plan items, taking into account the Arctic Council Ecosystem Expert group activities. This update to be sent to the new PAME-led EA Expert Group for review and comments.
- ✓ Norway as one of the EA co-leads (Norway and USA) to prepare a concept paper that summarizes previous discussions and agreements on concepts and terminology related to ecosystem approach to management for discussion within the Ecosystem Approach Expert Group for submission to the PAME I-2012 meeting. The concept paper will be used to prepare a short brochure on the EA. Draft will be submitted for consideration and agreement at the PAME I-2012 meeting.
- ✓ Co-leads to submit the revised LME map to the PAME I-2012 meeting.
- ✓ The co-leads, in cooperation with the PAME-led EA Expert Group, to convene a workshop back-to-back with the next PAME meeting to include the following main agenda items: (1) facilitate exchange of information on the development of ecosystem status reports; (2) identify possible arrangements and integration of monitoring and assessment; and (3) identify possible elements to the development of the AMSP Phase I 2011-2013 scoping process.
- Await further information on the operational aspect of the new expert group on Arctic ecosystem-based approach to management as per the 2011 Nuuk Declaration in an effort to clarify possible linkages and cooperation with the PAME-led EA expert group