



10 January 2012

Harald Finkler
Head of Delegation (Canada)
Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
10 Wellington Street
Gatineau K1A 0H4
Canada

Subject: Project Proposal to SDGW – A Circumpolar-Wide Inuit Response to the AMSA

Dear Mr. Finkler,

It is with pleasure that the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) presents to you a revised proposal entitled “A Circumpolar-Wide Inuit Response to the AMSA”. ICC is grateful that the Government of Canada will be a key member state bringing this proposal forward to the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) for appraisal.

Please note that the Canadian office of ICC will be leading this work on behalf of the Inuit Circumpolar Council.

As the proposal states, this work is very important to Inuit from Russia, USA, Canada, and Greenland. The work contemplated will address the challenges faced by Inuit in four of the eight Arctic Council countries. Inuit are a marine indigenous people and, as such, this post AMSA work is among the most urgent for us.

Given that this phase of the work addresses many human dimensions of shipping, ICC believes that the work proposed is best suited to be undertaken within the framework of the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG). ICC is aware of the scoping paper currently under development by the Aleut International Association and the Saami Council within the working group, Protection of the Marine Environment (PAME), and had been in discussions with them about how our work complements the work they have initiated. It is agreed, and also reflected in their scoping paper, that our work is an important component of the overall necessary activities post-AMSA.

ICC is eager to start this important work. We have already undertaken some preparatory work for a workshop we hope to start planning in earnest very soon.

Sincerely,

Duane Smith
ICC Vice Chair for Canada

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