

Summary Report from the PAME II-2012 meeting. Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. 18-20 September 2012.

2012

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

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The biannual meeting of the PAME Working Group and two associated expert workshops were convened in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada from September 16–20, 2012, and organized as follows:

- ✓ Safety Culture Expert Workshop (September 16) – an expert workshop aimed at improving the safety culture associated with offshore oil and gas operations – separate 2 pager
- ✓ Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) Expert Workshop (September 17–18) – a one and a half day expert workshop to review and develop a report that will provide advice on how to strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of the arctic marine environment – separate 2 pager
- ✓ PAME II-2012 Working Group Meeting (September 18-20) – attended by about 60 participants, representing the Arctic Council and structured around the PAME Work Plan 2011-2013 activities with the aim to agree on timeline/milestones of actions and activities in time for the 2013 Ministerial. Furthermore, this meeting started compiling a list of potential activities/projects for possible inclusion into the PAME Work Plan 2013-2015.

The location of the next PAME Meeting will be during the week starting on the 11th of February in Rovaniemi, Finland (12-14th of February 2013).

Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment follow-up activities

PAME discussed a range of AMSA follow-up activities which included linkages with International Organizations and the meeting was informed on Arctic-relevant activities of International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the IMO developments on mandatory Polar Code. PAME agreed to continue to monitor, and as necessary or appropriate, report on developments with respect to Arctic initiatives, actions, or activities of other international organizations as a follow-up to AMSA I(A) – Linking with International Organizations

The Heavy Fuel in the Arctic (HFO) Phase II Project (co-leads Norway/Russia/U.S.) has been delayed and a revised timeline was agreed with the submission of the final product at the PAME II-2013 (Fall 2013)

PAME was informed that the final AMSA II(C) Report on Areas of Heightened Ecological and Cultural Significance (AMAP/CAFF/SDWG) would be ready by end of December 2012. Consequently the schedule for finalizing the AMSA II(D) Project on Specially Designated Marine Areas (co-leads: Finland/Norway/Russia/USA) has been delayed and a revised timeline was agreed to.

PAME encouraged member governments to update and keep current information in IMO's GISIS database on their port waste reception facilities and through their respective national standards organization to assist the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) with the development of international standards specifically addressing the unique technical challenges related to Arctic shipping.

EPPR provided update on relevant AMSA follow-up including AMSA II(F) – Oil Spill Prevention as it relates to Update on the Recommended Practices for Arctic Oil Spill Prevention Project (RP3) and on AMSA III (C) – Circumpolar Environmental Response Capacity Safety Systems in Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural Projects.

A Summary of paper on the World Meteorological Organization's Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) Scheme was introduced and PAME agreed to invite the shipping industry (e.g., International Chamber of Shipping, Cruise Lines International Association, Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), and AECO) to encourage participation by their members in the VOS Scheme as a follow-up to AMSA II(A) – Addressing the Infrastructure Deficit.

Russia informed the meeting on a new Federal Law on navigation on the water of the Northern Sea Route (NSR) adopted by the Parliament of the Russian Federation on 3 July 2012 and signed by the President of the Russian Federation on 28 July 2012.

PAME agreed to a schedule for completing the final draft 2013 AMSA Progress Implementation Report (co-leads: Canada/Finland/USA) for consideration at PAME I-2013.

Follow up on the 2009 Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines (USA)

PAME participants welcomed the progress on the following two oil and gas projects:

- ✓ Arctic Oil and Gas Management, Regulation and Enforcement Regulatory Regime Web-Based Information Resource project (MRE Project) and further development of its website.
- ✓ Health, Safety and Environmental Management Systems for Offshore Arctic Oil and Gas Drilling Activities project (HSEMS Project) including the compilation and comparison of Arctic countries HSE Management Systems requirements and formulation of a list of critical HSE elements in Arctic operations and result of investigations of the Deepwater Horizon accident. PAME agreed to a time schedule for the Oil and Gas Contact Group to conclude on the HSE project in Oct/Nov 2013

Arctic Ocean Review Project (AOR) (Canada/Norway/Iceland/Russia/US)

PAME members were requested to provide inputs to the AOR process in a timely manner as per the timeline noting in particular the need for countries and PPs active participation during the intergovernmental review process which will take place through weekly teleconferences during the months of Nov-Jan to ensure a timely submission to SAOs and the 2013 Ministerial meeting.

Ecosystem Approach (Norway/USA)

PAME will circulate again the draft concept paper on the Ecosystem Approach to Management to the Arctic Council EBM Experts Group to ensure synergies with both groups. PAME agreed that a short brochure on the EA based on the concept paper to be finalized in consultation with the EA PAME-led Expert Group and submitted for consideration and agreement at the PAME I-2013 meeting. Furthermore the revisions to the map of 17 Arctic LMEs will be finalized by 20th of December.

PAME plans to convene an expert EA workshop in spring 2013 to discuss data management, availability, integration, and communications as essential to implement the ecosystem approach to management.

Update the status of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) (Norway/USA)

The Meeting noted direct relevance to a number of deliverables for the 2013 Arctic Council that should be taken into account in this work and the need to adjust the timeline to ensure that full account is taken of such inputs.

The Meeting took note of revised timeline with the proposed next steps, including intersessional work leading up to the PAME I-2013 meeting, to expand on process, approach and timeline and initiate the communication and collaboration with other Arctic Council working groups. The co-leads plan to finalize the updating of the AMSP for a possible the Deputy Ministerial meeting in May 2014, if so planned by the Arctic Council.

PAME Work Plan 2013-2015 and Deliverables for the 2013 Ministerial

PAME discussed the 1st draft template for the PAME 2013-2015 Work Plan which will be updated based on the discussions at this meeting and the compiled list of potential activities/projects for possible inclusion into the PAME Work Plan 2013-2015. The meeting agreed to a timeline to finalize the work plan with particular attention to the submission to the Arctic Council process by the 4th of December deadline as provided by the Arctic Council Chairmanship.

PAME discussed the 2013 ministerial deliverables and decided on a timeline to submit the a draft PAME two page contributions for the SAO Report by the 4th of December as per the request by the Arctic Council Chairmanship. Proposed preliminary list of deliverables to the 2013 Ministerial as per the discussions at this Meeting are as follows:

- ✓ AOR Final Report including Recommendations
- ✓ AMSA 2013 Progress Report (Canada/Finland/USA)
- ✓ HSE workshop reports (HSE and Safety culture workshops) and MRE website up and running
- ✓ Ecosystem Approach project – submit progress/status reporting and revised LME map.
- ✓ Updating the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (leads: Norway/USA) – status reporting
- ✓ PAME 2013-2015 Work Plan