

PAME II-2013 (24-26 September 2013), Rostov-on-Don. 2-page highlights report to SAOs.

2013

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

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The second biannual meeting of the PAME Working group in 2013 was held at the facilities of the Southern Scientific Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences (SSC RAS) in Rostov-on-Don, Russia. The aim of the meeting was to report on work as per the PAME Work Plan 2013-2015. The meeting was structured around a number of breakout/working sessions in an effort to use the relevant experts attending the meeting.

Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment follow-up activities:

PAME discussed a range of AMSA follow-up activities addressing such issues as safety at Arctic seas, indigenous marine resource use, specially designated Arctic marine areas, oil spill prevention, impacts on marine mammals, reducing air emissions, infrastructure deficit and sustainable tourism in the Arctic. Much attention was paid to linking with international organizations, especially with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in connection with the Polar Code. PAME will invite to their next meeting (Feb 2014) representatives from the following organizations to present their Arctic-related activities and potential contributions and collaboration on areas of common interest:

- ✓ The International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)
- ✓ The International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES)
- ✓ The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), in consultation with members of the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC).
- ✓ The International Association of Antarctic Tour Operations (IAATO)

PAME accepted at a working group level the World Maritime University's invitation to partner with it and the IMO in the organization and conduct of an international conference on "Safe and Sustainable Shipping in a Changing Arctic Environment". PAME's participation will be led by Sweden and consist of in-kind contributions for further developing the agenda, identifying speakers and proposing topics.

PAME will receive the final draft report of the Heavy Fuel in the Arctic (HFO) Phase II project (co-leads: Norway/Russia/USA) for approval at the PAME I-2014 meeting and submission to the SAOs in Spring 2014.

Canada will submit a paper outlining a draft work plan (including proposed timeframe, scope, goals, outreach and deliverables) that address Arctic cruise tourism as a component of PAME's Sustainable Arctic Tourism Initiative and other member governments are invited to submit information to PAME I-2014 on their domestic rules and policies pertaining to Arctic cruise tourism.

The 2nd draft of the AMSA II(D) – Specially Designated Arctic Marine Areas project (co-leads: Canada/ Finland/ Norway/Russia/USA), including its proposed recommendations, is currently under review. A final draft report will be submitted to PAME I-2014 for approval and submission to the SAOs in Spring 2014.

Russia and the United States will be preparing a paper outlining a draft regional reception facilities plan relevant to the Arctic, based on applicable IMO guidelines for the next PAME meeting. Norway will prepare a paper on IMO's work with respect to black carbon.

As a follow-up to AMSA III(A) – Addressing the Infrastructure Deficit member governments are encouraged to continue efforts to populate IMO's GISIS database with up-to-date information on all Arctic and near Arctic ports and port reception facilities.

AMSA III(B) – Arctic Marine Traffic Systems follow-up includes the submission by member governments of information on their present and planned satellite (AIS, radar and optical) and shore-based AIS capabilities.

Development of a revised Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP): 1st draft has been prepared and agreement reached on the major milestones in this work. PAME emphasises that the AMSP is an Arctic Council product and notes the importance of coordinating the revision process of the AMSP with the other Arctic Council Working Groups through their nomination of an expert/contact person to participate in a steering group for this project and has sent letter to all working groups in this regard.

Framework for an Arctic Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network: A concept paper has been developed and will be updated to reflect comments made by member governments at the PAME II-2013 meeting, and which will include the proposed project plan and timeline to develop a pan-Arctic framework for a network of MPAs.

Ecosystem Approach: A progress report on the work of the Ecosystem Approach expert group was submitted to the PAME II-2013 meeting and PAME members were urged to nominate or re-nominate members of the EA expert group. Furthermore, the other Arctic Council working groups working on marine-related issues of relevance will be contacted to ask them to nominate active members from their network of experts so that this expert group can function effectively as a joint expert group to fulfill recommendations of the EBM 2013 Ministerial Report. A 4th EA workshop is being planned for spring or early summer 2014. The topic for the workshop is to be further discussed but could be on the issue of integrated ecosystem assessment (IEA) with focus on the Beaufort Sea LME but in a comparative and pan-Arctic context.

PAME recognizes the leading role that the EA-EG could play in assuring coordination of a common approach to the work of the Arctic Council on EBM in the marine part of the Arctic.

Follow up on the 2009 Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines: PAME plans to provide information to the Oil Pollution Prevention Task Force on the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines 2009, Arctic Council Guidelines for Transfer of Refined Oil and Oil Products in Arctic Waters (TROOP), HSE Report, etc., as appropriate. The 1st draft of the Health, Safety and Environmental Management Systems for Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Operations (HSE Project) is being revised based on comments received and a 2nd draft will be prepared by October 21. The final draft HSE Report will be submitted for approval at the next PAME meeting.

Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) follow-up: A draft implementation template has been prepared including a preliminary work plan. The PAME expert/contact groups on shipping, oil and gas, and ecosystem approach will discuss intersessionally potential follow-up activities to implement the AOR recommendations and submit to the Secretariat in advance of the next PAME meeting. The AMSA shipping expert group has started populating the relevant AOR recommendations. Furthermore, the possibility of inviting international organizations such as OSPAR to the next PAME meeting to give a presentation related to AOR Recommendations 15 and 16 is being explored. Finally, the PAME Oil and Gas contact group will explore opportunities for dialogue with industry organisations on Arctic specific oil and gas issues (with reference to AOR Recommendation 17).

Next PAME Working group Meeting: The location of the next PAME meeting is Anchorage, Alaska (TBC) and the timing is February 2014. The Meeting urges PAME delegations to include IMO, oil and gas, and ecosystem experts in their delegations to the PAME I-2014 meeting.

Observers at the PAME II-2013 Working Group Meeting: Singapore was the only observer country that attended the PAME II-2013 meeting. Representatives from the Maritime Transport & Logistics, European Commission, WWF and CCU also participated in this meeting.



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September, 2013
Rostov-on-don, Russia

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