

PAME Progress Report. Meeting of Senior Arctic Officials 26-27 March, 2014. Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada.

2014

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

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1 Introduction: Response to Arctic Council priorities and potential new projects under consideration.

The Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group (PAME) is the working group which focuses on the marine agenda of the Arctic Council. It is guided by Arctic Council Ministerial Declarations and SAO Reports to Ministers; implementation and follow-up on previously approved projects of relevance to PAME's mandate; and its biennial work plans as approved by the Arctic Council Ministers. PAME considers a full range of policy issues that relate to the state of the Arctic marine environment, including pollution prevention, marine biodiversity and resource development, and has a mandate to address policy and non-emergency pollution prevention and control measures related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment from both land and sea-based activities.

PAME's work reflects the priorities as agreed to by the 2013 Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting and of relevance to PAME's mandate. Furthermore, PAME contributes to the Canadian Chairmanship Programme as it relates in particular to the theme on *Safe Arctic Shipping* and follows the work of the Arctic Council Task Force on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Prevention (TFOPP), the Arctic Council Task Force on Black Carbon and Methane (TFBCM), and the Arctic Council Task Force on Scientific Cooperation. It does so both to contribute to the work of these Task Forces and in an effort to ensure coordination with relevant PAME work. PAME has also started a process to systematically consider implementation and follow-up actions for the range of Arctic Council reports, assessments and other recommendations of relevance to PAME's work in order to focus its future activities.

2 Summary of progress on PAME projects

PAME's first biennial meeting of 2014 was held in Girdwood, Alaska from 11-13 February. PAME convened the following three project workshop meetings on the 10th of February:

- ✓ The 1st meeting of the Expert Group on the Framework for a Pan-Arctic Marine Protected Area (MPA) network project.
- ✓ Shipping Experts meeting on the Sustainable Arctic Tourism Initiative.
- ✓ Meeting of the Oil and Gas Contact Group on addressing national comments to the final draft *Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines: Systems Safety Management and Safety Culture*.

Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment Follow-up Activities and Projects:

PAME discussed a range of AMSA follow-up activities addressing such issues as safety at seas, indigenous marine resource use, shipping industry engagement with Arctic communities, specially designated Arctic marine areas, oil spill prevention, reducing air emissions, infrastructure deficit, sustainable ship-borne tourism in the Arctic and linkages with international organizations on Arctic-related activities.

- ✓ Representatives from the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) made presentations to PAME on their mandates and roles, in particular related to their Arctic activities and potential contributions to and collaboration with PAME on areas of common interest. PAME decided to invite IALA to submit a paper to PAME II-2014 elaborating upon opportunities for collaboration in areas of common interest and asked the Ecosystem Approach Expert Group (EA-EG) to explore possible areas of cooperation on integrated ecosystem assessments with ICES.
- ✓ The Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC) submitted to the PAME I-2014 meeting a paper setting forth information on the currency and accuracy of hydrography

and nautical charting in the Arctic and will be invited to present a more comprehensive report on their work, as well as identify areas where information exchange and cooperation would be mutually beneficial, at the next PAME meeting, tentatively scheduled for September 2014 in Canada.

- ✓ Sweden informed PAME on delays in the planning of the international conference co-sponsored by the World Maritime University (WMU), IMO and the Arctic Council/PAME on “Safe and Sustainable Shipping in a Changing Arctic Environment”. This conference was originally planned for autumn 2014 at WMU in Malmö, Sweden. However, in order to accommodate the proposed completion date of the Polar Code, a tentative rescheduling is for spring 2015.
- ✓ PAME welcomed the valuable contribution of the final HFO Phase II and IIb reports and requested the Secretariat to post them to the PAME website pages that contain background documents. Taking into account these reports and any other relevant information, PAME also invited member governments to identify and inform PAME II-2014 of any discrete marine areas that would benefit from a more detailed risk analysis that would also take into consideration areas of heightened ecological and cultural significance and such other elements that may be appropriate (e.g. age of ships).
- ✓ PAME approved in principle the Arctic Shipborne Tourism Initiative work plan prepared by Canada and decided to rename it the Arctic Marine Tourism Project (AMTP). Canada will convene an AMTP workshop on 18-19 March in Ottawa. Invitations were sent out to a diverse group of stakeholders on 21 February.
- ✓ PAME welcomed the valuable contribution of the final AMSA II(D) report on Specially Designated Marine Areas in the Arctic High Seas and member governments have been invited to submit to PAME II-2014 their views on whether, and if so how, to implement the report recommendations.
- ✓ The United States and the Russian Federation assumed the responsibility of co-leading an intersessional correspondence group with the specific task of preparing a work plan/project plan, to be submitted to PAME II-2014, for developing a draft regional reception facilities plan specific to one or more regions of the Arctic taking into consideration relevant circumstances (e.g. nature and composition of shipping traffic and practicality of disposal of ship waste in Arctic communities).
- ✓ The United States, Canada and Finland have agreed to co-lead the preparation of a 2013-2015 AMSA Implementation Progress Report. The United States will prepare a draft by 1 June and circulate to stakeholders.

Framework for a Pan-Arctic Marine Protected Area (MPA) network

The Pan-Arctic Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network Expert Group is co-led by Canada, Norway, and the United States. The draft framework document is currently under revisions by the MPA Expert Group and will be submitted to the PAME II-2014 meeting for further consideration. The 2nd face-to-face meeting of the MPA Network Expert Group is planned to be convened in association with the next PAME meeting to discuss the Framework and develop recommendations for consideration by PAME.

Developing a new Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP)

The 3rd draft revised AMSP is currently under review by member governments, PPs, observers and the other Arctic Council working groups. Following are the main upcoming milestones for this project:

- ✓ Final draft revised AMSP completed during the summer 2014 in preparation for the 2nd workshop for the revision of AMSP to be held back-to-back with the PAME II-2014 meeting with the aim to solicit final comments on the revised AMSP. Invitations will be extended to other Arctic Council working groups.
- ✓ PAME I-2015 meeting (Spring 2015) Agree to a final version of the revised AMSP for submission and approval by SAOs and 2015 Ministerial meeting.

Ecosystem Approach Expert Group (EA-EG)

The Ecosystem Approach expert group (EA-EG) presented a progress report to the last PAME meeting and noted the importance to further advance the coordination effort of a common approach to the work of the Arctic Council on EBM in the marine part of the Arctic. The PAME Chair has been requested to write to the other Arctic Council working groups addressing marine-related issues of relevance to ask them to nominate/re-nominate active members/points of contact from their network of experts for the EA-EG.

The EA-EG has prepared the first draft PAMEs response to the 2013 EBM Recommendations which is currently under review by PAME members. PAME Chair was requested to ask for inclusion of the follow-up on EBM Expert Group Recommendations on the agenda of the next meeting of Arctic Council Working Group chairs and secretaries to ensure coordination of efforts in this regard.

Planning of the 4th EA workshop on “*Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) – Understanding national approaches and reviewing progress on IEA in the Arctic LMEs*” has started and a tentative venue and time is Vancouver, Canada from 18-20 June 2014.

The EA-EG members are in the process of revising its Terms of Reference, taking into account new and ongoing activities (e.g. the follow-up of the EBM Recommendations) and will submit a revised draft to PAME II-2014 meeting for approval.

Follow up on the 2009 Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines

- ✓ PAME has approved the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines: Systems Safety Management and Safety Culture Report for submission to the March 2014 SAO meeting for their consideration and approval. The final edited version of the Report will be submitted to the PAME Secretariat on 14 March for formatting and publication after approval by the SAOs.
- ✓ Countries are reminded of the commitment to review their web-links and supply updated information for the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Regulatory Resource (Website) project.
- ✓ The PAME Oil and Gas Contact Group has been tasked to identify possible strategic actions for consideration into the AMSP process by 15 April. Furthermore, information will be sought from the Task Force on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Prevention (TFOPP) regarding any oil and gas related aspects. Finally, a concept paper on collaboration with SDWG and EPPR on a possible project to follow up or expand guidance in Chapter 2 of the 2009 Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines on engagement of Arctic Communities and Indigenous Peoples in offshore oil and gas activities will be submitted to the PAME II-2014 meeting.

3 Deliverables for the next Ministerial

The following list is tentative:

- ✓ 3rd AMSA Implementation Progress Report for the period 2013-2015.
- ✓ Final report on the Arctic Marine Tourism Project (AMTP).

- ✓ PAME report on follow-up recommendations to the HFO Phase II project and the AMSA II(D) report on Specially Designated Marine Areas in the Arctic High Seas (tentative, to be discussed at the PAME II-2014 meeting, Sep 2014).
- ✓ Project plan for developing a draft regional reception facilities plan specific to one or more regions of the Arctic taking into consideration relevant circumstances (possible inclusion as a part of the 2015-2017 PAME Work Plan).
- ✓ Final report on the Framework for a Pan-Arctic Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network project - Recommendations.
- ✓ Final revised Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) for the period 2015-2025.
- ✓ Progress Report on the Ecosystem Approach work, including follow-up to the EBM Recommendations of relevance to PAME.
- ✓ 2015-2017 PAME Work Plan.

4 Administration and next meeting(s)

PAME will convene its next meeting jointly with AMAP during the 3rd week of September (15-19 Sep) in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada. The 2nd workshop for the revision of the AMSP and the 2nd face-to-face meeting of the Pan-Arctic MPA Network Expert Group will be held back-to-back with the PAME II-2014 meeting with the aim to solicit final comments on the revised AMSP. Invitations will be extended to other Arctic Council working groups.

The PAME International Secretariat is located in Akureyri, Iceland. The Secretariat has a staff of four (1) the Executive Secretary; (2) Executive Assistant, (3) Project officer and (4) an intern. PAME cooperates closely with CAFF to share fixed secretariat overhead costs.

5 Collaboration with other working groups/other organizations

PAME cooperates actively with the other Arctic Council Working Groups in an effort to contribute to improved efficiency and effectiveness of the Arctic Council, and the participation of indigenous peoples and other Arctic residents is fully recognized. PAME participates in the work of the Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic –part C (AACAC) project with the aim to ensure collaboration on similar efforts and contributes to the work on CAFF's implementation plan of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment. PAME collaborates and communicates with all Arctic Council working groups on the development of the revised Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) and emphasizes the importance of their inputs in this work.