

Agenda item 7.2.1 – Arctic Marine Tourism Project-cover letter.

2015

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

<http://hdl.handle.net/11374/1470>

Disclaimer: This document may not be the final or approved version. It may be a working or draft version, as submitted to one of our Senior Arctic Officials meetings. Drafts are available in order to provide historical perspective on the work of the Arctic Council and the development of our scientific reports and assessments. To find final, approved versions of our reports and assessments, please make note of the title and visit the appropriate collection in our archive. Each collection listed below contains final documents from one of the six Working Groups. <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/1>, <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/617>, <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/126>, <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/3>, <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/52>, <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/4> Any citation of an Arctic Council document must include reference to the author. If no author of a particular document is identified, the document may still be cited; in these cases, the Arctic Council should be listed as the author. Downloaded from the Arctic Council Open Access Repository. <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/>



17 February, 2015

To: The Chairman of the SAOs and the Arctic Council SAOs
Cc: PAME National Representatives, Permanent Participants
Subject: Arctic Marine Tourism Project (AMTP) – Final draft ‘Best Practice Guidelines’ document

The Arctic Marine Tourism Project (AMTP) is the first project in a potential suite of renewed efforts by the Arctic Council’s PAME Working Group to analyze and encourage sustainable tourism across the circumpolar Arctic. Recognizing the unique and wide-ranging management challenges associated with the growth of tourism in this region, the Arctic Council, at the 2013 Kiruna Ministerial meeting, indicated its support for the development of a cross-cutting initiative centered on strengthening sustainability within the industry and based upon the needs and priorities identified within recent Arctic Council documents including the Senior Arctic Official’s Report to Ministers (2013), the Arctic Ocean Review Final Report (2013) and Canada’s Arctic Council Chairmanship (2013-2015) Program Priorities.

In broad terms the AMTP attempts to identify issues or gaps where the Arctic Council can add value through the articulation of best practice guidelines specific to marine based Arctic tourism. Accordingly, the accompanying document is primarily based on the outcomes of two international workshops (Ottawa, Oslo) convened to gather relevant experts from government, industry, academia, the not-for-profit sector, and indigenous and Arctic communities to present and share information on Arctic marine tourism. The results of these workshops have been distilled and subsequently strengthened by complementary PAME documentation and interdisciplinary review by Arctic Council member governments through relevant working groups.

The voluntary, non-binding AMTP best practice guidelines encourage action on behalf of the Arctic Council, Arctic States, and in some instances collaboration between the two, and is meant to strengthen, not preclude, the range of existing mandatory requirements and voluntary policies and guidance currently in place to support sustainable Arctic marine tourism issued by government, industry, industry associations and the NGO community.

SAOs Decision Requested: Seek approval of the final draft AMTP Best Practice Guidelines for submission to and approval at the 2015 Ministerial meeting.

Sincerely,

Drummond Fraser (drummond.fraser@tc.gc.ca) and Peter Oppenheimer (peter.oppenheimer@noaa.gov)
On behalf of the AMTP co-leads, Canada and the United States