

# Final draft PAME Work Plan for the SAO Report to Ministers.

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## Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

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Final draft based on PAME I-2015 outcomes and written comments afterwards, version 17 Feb 2015

## Final draft PAME Work Plan for the SAO Report to Ministers

### Summary work plans for 2015-2017.

The PAME Work Plan 2015 – 2017 was developed according to: PAME's mandate; priorities identified and recommendations made in reports and arrangements developed by or negotiated in Arctic Council subsidiary bodies that are approved by the SAOs and Arctic Ministers; direction provided in Ministerial declarations; follow-up on recommendations from Arctic Council projects and the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (2015-2025) which outlines the overall direction of the Arctic Council for the protection of the Arctic marine environment, in addition to policy follow up to the scientific and other relevant assessments of the Arctic Council.

The PAME Working Group generally meets twice a year to assess progress and advance its work and convene project-specific meetings back-to-back with the PAME meetings.

### Benefit to people in the Arctic Region

PAME works to protect the marine environment and provide guidance for safe shipping and the sustainable use of marine resources for the benefit of Arctic inhabitants.

### List of individual projects and activities

#### Arctic Council Chair Priorities<sup>1</sup>:

**[Thematic Area 1:** Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change, *Arctic Climate Adaptation and Resilience*. This represents a collaborative effort among working groups and entails cross-cutting activities which will be identified intersessionally by SAOs following the 2015 Ministerial meeting. *Lead TBC.*]

**[Thematic Area 2:** Stewardship of the Arctic Ocean, *Marine Protected Areas*: Enhance PAME's work [related to] [Advancing the development of] a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Proposed next steps (as per section 6.1 Near Term Actions 2015-2017 in the Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of MPAs document). PAME will continue to identify follow-up activities based on more detailed project proposals as follows:

- i. [Stakeholder engagement and communication (refer to the project on *Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities (refer to Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines (2009) follow-up)*]
- ii. [Inventory mapping of existing MPAs-draft project plan under review by PAME]
- iii. [Linking biodiversity categories and useful conservation measures-draft project plan under review by PAME]

**[Thematic Area 2:** Stewardship of the Arctic Ocean, *Regional Seas Program (RSP) for the Arctic Ocean*. Analyze the usefulness or applicability of a Regional Seas arrangement (RSA) for improved oceans governance. Details on specific activities to be identified intersessionally after its approval by ministers in April 2015.. *Leads: USA, PAME members.*]

#### Other Working Group Priorities:

##### *Follow-up activities of AMSA Recommendations*

**AMSA I(A)-Linking with International Organizations:** PAME to continue to monitor and, as appropriate, identify opportunities to engage and collaborate with international organizations on issues of common interest to advance implementation of the AMSA Recommendations and other Arctic Council-related Shipping Recommendations (e.g. AOR Final Report Recommendations). *Lead: USA.*

PAME in cooperation with the IMO and World Maritime University (WMU) will convene an International Conference on *Safe and Sustainable Shipping in a Changing Arctic Environment (ShipArc 2015)* 25-28 August 2015. *Leads: Sweden, Canada, USA.*

**AMSA I(B)-IMO Measures for Arctic Shipping:** PAME will continue to promote collaboration among Arctic states as they implement the Polar Code. *Leads: All Member states*

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<sup>1</sup> These are in brackets as final agreement has not been reached and is based on discussions and final agreement by the SAOs on these topics. These will be revised accordingly after further review of the MPA project proposals and direction by the SAOs.

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**AMSA I(B)-Follow-up to the Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) Phase II and II(b) Reports:** Project proposals for the following activities will be developed subject to funding:

- ✓ Compendium of case study information on maritime incidents in the Arctic that resulted in a spill or release of HFO and the environmental impact thereof. *Leads: Canada, USA*
- ✓ Project that describes the technical challenges and risks that arise from using HFO as fuel for ships especially in cold climates. *Lead: Norway*

**AMSA I(D)-Strengthening Passenger Ship Safety in Arctic Waters by following-up to the Arctic Marine Tourism project (AMTP) on Best Practice Guidelines (voluntary):** Ongoing project to develop proposed follow-up actions to the AMTP voluntary best practice guidelines, possibly including identifying recommended elements for a site specific guideline template or compiling and updating as necessary a publically available repository of circum-Arctic marine tourism information. *Leads: Canada, USA*

**AMSA II(A)-Survey of Arctic Indigenous Marine Use:** Project on: Arctic Marine Indigenous Use Mapping: Tools for Communities. *Leads: AIA, USA.*

**AMSA II(B)-Engagement with Arctic Communities:** Project on: Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities. This is a cross-cutting shipping and oil and gas project (refer to follow up on the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines (2009) below)

**AMSA II(D)-Specially Designated Arctic Marine Areas:** Taking into account the AMSA II(C) Report and the two Arctic high seas EBSAs identified by the Convention on Biodiversity, invite AMAP and CAFF to denote areas within the high seas area of the Central Arctic Ocean that are particularly vulnerable to shipping. Once that information is received from AMAP and CAFF, further explore possible international protection measures that could be pursued by Arctic States, individually or collectively, at the IMO. Continue ongoing efforts to obtain ship traffic data from the high seas area of the Central Arctic Ocean. *Leads: Norway, USA*

**AMSA II(D)-Development of Arctic Regional Reception Facilities Plan (RRFP):** An Arctic RRFP will be prepared as a long term solution, meeting the challenges facing the expected increases in shipping for the foreseeable future. The aim is to allow for the environmentally sound management of ship's waste and ensure that ships can comply with MARPOL in the Arctic. While the important work of the Polar Code and other bodies continues, this project does not attempt to circumvent any other work and is in keeping with established principles and existing IMO/MARPOL guidance and will compliment any work being undertaken by IMO or other bodies. This project will list all types of ships and the needs of each type of ship and identify the route(s) and ports of call for ships in the region. This plan will be specific to one or more regions of the Arctic taking into consideration relevant circumstances to ensure that ships transiting Arctic regions can comply with all applicable provisions of MARPOL. Consideration will be given to applicable international regulatory schemes with special attention to the Polar Code, when it comes into force; other IMO Guidance; ISO Standards; and National, state, and local regulations. *Leads: Russia, USA with the correspondence group/Project Team. Timeline: the project will start in the beginning of 2015 and it should be finalized by the end of 2016.*

Follow-up activities on Oil Spill **Prevention (AMSA II(F)), Reducing Air Emissions (AMSA II(H)) and Infrastructure Deficit (AMSA III(A))** are based on the outcome of the Task Force on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Prevention (TFOPP); updates on IMOs work with respect to black carbon (*lead: Norway*); and updated information by Arctic states on e.g. studies and assessments, both existing and ongoing, on ship air emissions (in particular black carbon) in the Arctic, methodologies for measuring emissions, and the effect of such emissions on the Arctic marine environment; and regular updates and status on infrastructure aspects such as the IMO's GISIS Port Reception Facility database (PRFD). *Lead: USA.*

**AMSA III(B) – Arctic Marine Traffic Systems:** Continue to pursue opportunities including, as appropriate, through the proposed Arctic Shipping Data Service (ASDS), for updating Arctic ship traffic data contained in the AMSA Report (data collected in 2005) for use in studies, assessments, trend analyses, and the development of recommendations that enhance Arctic marine safety and support protection of Arctic people and the environment etc. *Leads: Norway, USA with the PAME shipping expert group and the PAME Secretariat.*

**AMSA implementation progress report:** Provide one more AMSA Shipping Progress Implementation Report for submission to the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in 2017. This report will also address progress on other Arctic Council shipping mandates and recommendations. *Leads: Finland, Iceland, Norway.*

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Estimated budget (in-kind and financial contributions) for AMSA follow-up activities: less than USD 250,000

**Follow up on the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines (2009):**

**New Project on Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities:** This is a cross-cutting shipping and oil & gas project and addresses AMSA II (B) – Engagement with Arctic Communities and contributes to the MPA follow-up. This project will compile and analyze existing documents and summarize their main aspects, principles, and processes for engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities. The project will cover all Arctic marine and coastal activities, including shipping, offshore oil and gas activities, coastal infrastructure development, and research and management activities. The information to be compiled will come from Arctic Council documents and reports, national legal regimes and guidance of Arctic states, guidelines and declarations from communities and indigenous organizations, international instruments, and guidance from industry, NGO's and other stakeholders. Main activities include: *Finding and Compiling Information; Documenting Best Practices and Lessons Learned; Workshop on Best Practices and Lessons Learned; Narrative Report.* Timeline for Phase I 2015-2016. *Leads: USA, AIA, [Canada-TBC], [ICC-TBC] with the Project Team: PAME Oil and Gas Contact Group, PAME Shipping Expert Group.*

Estimated budget (in-kind and financial contributions): USD 130,000

**Selected updates of the AOOGG 2009:** The Oil and Gas Contact Group will consider the development of project proposals for the following activities:

- ✓ Possible updates to the sections of the AOOGG 2009 for environmental monitoring of operations, waste management, discharge of chemicals, and emissions for possible inclusion in the PAME Workplan 2017-2019. *Lead: PAME Oil and Gas Contact Group.*
- ✓ Respond as appropriate to AMSP Strategic actions and Themes and Projects of the 2015-2017 United States Arctic Council Chairmanship. *Lead: PAME Oil and Gas Contact Group.*

**Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Regulatory Resource (Website):** Regular updates by the PAME Secretariat with inputs and reviews of web-links and updated information from Arctic Council countries. *Lead: PAME Oil and Gas Contact Group and the PAME Secretariat.*

Estimated budget (in-kind and financial contributions for AOOGG follow-up activities): USD 50,000

**Follow-up/Implementation of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (2015-2025):** Implementation plan to be developed during the period 2015-2017 and the aim is that specific activities will become integral part of future PAME work plans as approved at the biennial Arctic Council ministerial meetings. *Leads: all members and the PAME Secretariat.*

Estimated budget (in-kind and financial contributions): USD 80,000

**Ecosystem Approach to Management:** Ongoing activities based on the work of the Joint Ecosystem Approach (EA) Expert Group (EA-EG) as per the revised Terms of References (ToR). The EA activities are structured according to the six identified elements in the framework for implementation of the EA and will include activities such as:

- i. Contribute to development of ecological objectives: Convene a workshop (the 5<sup>th</sup> EA workshop) on the issue of ecological objectives, summer 2015; Prepare a scoping white paper on the issue of developing Ecological Objectives by Arctic States, PPs, and AC working groups – Autumn 2015 (PAME II-2015 and other WGs); and prepare a Report "Status of Setting Ecological Objectives in the Arctic" for the SAO meeting spring 2016 (By LMEs, by Work Group).
- ii. Follow up actions on Integrated Ecosystem Assessments: Consider methodological developments in IEA in collaboration with ICES (ICES WGs on IEA for Barents Sea, Norwegian Sea) and other relevant organizations; Contribute to/review progress in the development of Transboundary Beaufort project; Review and report on progress on work on IEA in other Arctic LMEs (e.g. Barents, Bering, Chukchi, Beaufort, Baffin) including experiences from AMAP AACA-C and CAFF CBMP; and prepare a briefing "Work on Integrated Ecosystem Assessments of Arctic LMEs" for consideration by the working groups in Fall 2016/Spring 2017
- iii. Implementation of EA in the Arctic: Convene a workshop (possible 6<sup>th</sup> EA workshop) or conference on the status of implementing the EA in the Arctic – spring/summer 2016; Prepare a workshop report or

Final draft based on PAME I-2015 outcomes and written comments afterwards, version 17 Feb 2015 conference proceedings – Autumn 2016; and prepare a 2017 Report to Ministers "Status of Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Management in the Arctic" (By LME, by Work Group)

- iv. Consider issues of scale in EA: Prepare a scoping document on the relationships between the specific ecosystem (LME) scale and the wider pan-Arctic (and global) scale(s) – Autumn 2015; and prepare a scoping document on use of information on identified areas of heightened ecological and cultural significance for assessment and management purposes within LMEs – Spring 2016.
- v. Supporting activities: Support development of a network of experts (community of practice) working to implement EA in the Arctic; and support development of a bibliographic resource that identifies key works in EA and IEA.
- vi. Reporting: The EA-EG will provide half-yearly progress reports on the work to PAME and the other AC WGs.

*Leads: Norway, USA. Estimated budget (in-kind and financial contributions): less than USD 250.000*

***Information outreach, capacity building and efforts to increase cooperation and collaboration with Arctic Council working groups and international/regional organizations.***

Liaise and exchange information with relevant organizations and programs (e.g. UNEP Regional Seas Programme) regions, and other regional programs; Encourage activities and proposals from Permanent Participants, Review work plans of other AC WGs to identify areas for cooperation and respond accordingly; and strive for the development of outreach and communication efforts and plans for PAMEs activities (e.g. through updates on the PAME homepage, brochures, roll-up stands and other communication material). *Leads: PAME Chair/Secretariat*