2.2 USA Chairmanship II (April 2015 - 2017)

Summary Report from the Second Meeting of the TFAMC

2016

TFAMC Co-Chairs

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Co-chairs’ Summary: Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation
Meeting II | Stockholm, Sweden | February 4-5, 2016

Introduction
The Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation (TFAMC) held its second meeting in Stockholm, Sweden on February 4-5, 2016. The meeting was chaired by Brian Israel (US) together with Kjell Kristian Egge (Norway) and Jóhann Sigurjónsson (Iceland). All Arctic States and three Permanent Participant organizations (the Saami Council, the Inuit Circumpolar Council and the Aleut International Association) attended the meeting. Nine observers were present (Germany, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, the European Union, CCU, IASC, UNEP and WWF). Representatives for four Arctic Council working groups (AMAP, CAFF, EPPR and PAME) contributed as Invited Experts.

Discussions built upon intersessional work
The co-chairs opened the meeting with a review of the Task Force’s work to date in relation to the tasks set forth in its mandate:

- The Task Force had begun its assessment of future needs at the broadest level, working from strategic objectives adopted by Ministers (e.g., progress toward implementing EBM; the four strategic goals of the AMSP).
- In response to the co-chairs November 18, 2015 non-paper, delegations had provided preliminary feedback on gaps and opportunities for enhanced marine cooperation. The co-chairs provided a synthesis of these preliminary responses in their January 2016 paper.
- As a means of bridging from this broad, relatively abstract discussion of future needs to the specific questions presented in the mandate, the co-chairs prepared questions for discussion in Stockholm organized in four thematic clusters.
- The co-chairs emphasized that this discussion was intended to be preliminary and not a negotiation or presentation of national positions. The purpose of this discussion was to provide a basis for more focused internal consultations during the intersessional period.

Discussion of principles, values, and preliminary ideas for enhancing Arctic marine cooperation
Over the course of the two day meeting, a number of delegations proposed “principles” (alternately presented as “values”) that should guide Arctic marine cooperation into the future. Among them, there appeared to be broad agreement that any new line of Arctic marine cooperation should take place within the Arctic Council – strengthening the Council, rather than competing with it, in the words of some delegations – and that the involvement of Arctic indigenous peoples, through the Permanent Participants, would be essential.

A number of delegations also offered preliminary ideas for cooperative mechanisms to address the gaps and opportunities identified to date.

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The co-chairs will shortly circulate a paper synthesizing both the principles/values identified by delegations, and elements of the potential cooperative mechanisms discussed in Stockholm. Given the preliminary nature of these discussions, the co-chairs paper will not attribute any ideas to specific delegations.

**Proposed work plan through 2017 ministerial**

Delegates discussed the work plan presented in the co-chairs’ January 2016 non-paper. Working backward from the deliverable (a report to Ministers in early 2017), it was apparent that at least one additional meeting (beyond those tentatively scheduled in connection with PAME in September 2016 and in February 2017) will be necessary, and proposed that this third meeting be scheduled for May 2016. Iceland volunteered to host a meeting at the end of May, and delegates accepted this generous offer.

It was clear at the close of the Stockholm meeting that answering the specific questions presented in the Task Force mandate will require substantial intersessional work. As these questions implicate multiple ministries within each Arctic State, and are of interest to a range of stakeholders, internal consultations will be an important part of this intersessional work.

To facilitate intersessional consultations ahead of the Reykjavik meeting, the co-chairs undertook to circulate a third paper in early March. This paper will synthesize, on a non-attribution basis, the Task Force’s broad discussion of future needs to date, the principles/values identified in the course of discussions, as well as elements of the ideas for potential cooperative mechanisms discussed in Stockholm. Based on the above, this paper will identify questions for discussion in Reykjavik, with the purpose of enabling internal consultations on these questions in advance of that meeting.

Following the Reykjavik meeting, it was proposed that the co-chairs would prepare a first draft of a potential report to Ministers over the summer, presenting it to delegations ahead of the September meeting in the United States. The first draft report would be discussed and revised at the September 2016 meeting, and continue to be refined through intersessional deliberations. The report would be finalized at the final Task Force meeting in January or February of 2017, in order to enable SAOs and Ministers sufficient time to consider the Task Force’s recommendations before the Fairbanks Ministerial meeting.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting of the TFAMC is planned to take place 30-31 May, 2016 in Reykjavik, Iceland. The final dates for the meeting will be communicated shortly.