

PAME Progress Report

1999-05

U.S. Chairmanship

Arctic Council Secretariat

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Report from PAME to SAO Meeting in Anchorage, May 5-6, 1999

PAME met in Ottawa, Canada, February 15-18, 1999. The key objective for the meeting was to prepare PAME workplans in response to the directions from the Arctic Council Meeting in September 1998. An overview of the workplans is attached.

Regarding the recently adopted Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA), PAME has given immediate priority to seeking the necessary support for the Russian NPA-Arctic and the Partnership Conference. There is also continuing support given to promoting actions on heavy metals and POPs under UNECE LRTAP and the global POPs negotiations. Longer term attention will be directed at coastal zone management initiatives and other sources of marine pollution.

PAME continues to promote application of the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines and will report to the next Arctic Council Meeting on its progress in meeting the goals and objectives of the Offshore Guidelines. PAME will also provide input to the IUCN/E&P Forum draft document "Oil and Gas Exploration and Production in Arctic and Sub-Arctic Offshore Regions - Guidelines for Environmental Protection".

To assist in determining what if any additional shipping measures are required, PAME agreed to shift its approach from the present data collection to an evaluation of the concrete environmental problems associated with shipping activities and on the basis of the collective current knowledge. Norway continues to serve as lead country.

In 1996 the Ministers accepted PAME's recommendation that there was no immediate need to negotiate a new international legal instrument for the protection of the Arctic Marine Environment. PAME is updating its overview of the effectiveness of existing pollution prevention instruments and will expand this to include habitat protection instruments which relate to the coastal zone provisions of the RPA. 2002 is the expected completion date.

PAME will also continue its work through a collaborative approach with other working groups and new initiatives such as the Arctic Council Action Plan (ACAP) being developed by Norway.

PAME and CAFF will also co-sponsor an IUCN Marine Workshop scheduled for September 27-30, 1999.

The next PAME Meeting is scheduled for November 1-4, 1999 in Akureyri Iceland.

Overview of PAME Workplans

1999

Establish Secretariat in May.....	(Iceland)
Clearing House Development.....	(all)
Review E&P/ IUCN Offshore Guidelines by May 15.....	(all)
Revise Mining Guideline Proposal.....	(Canada)
Establish Correspondence Group on Shipping.....	(Norway)
Finalize Russian NPA Arctic.....	(Russia)
Support for Russian NPA-Arctic and Partnership Conference.....	(all)
Review Operating Guidelines.....	(all)
Co-sponsor IUCN Marine Workshop in September.....	(PAME/CAFF/IUCN)
Report to CSD.....	(Canada)

2000

- Define Coastal Area
- Respond to Marine Workshop Recommendations
- Preparatory Meeting on Partnership Conference
- Identify Lead for Analysis of International Agreements and Arrangements
- Complete Shipping Analysis
- Consider Indicators for Guideline Effectiveness
- Progress Reports to Ministers on:
 - RPA, Russian NPA-Arctic, Partnership Conference
 - Shipping analysis
 - meeting goals and objectives of offshore guidelines
 - status of agreements and additional instruments

2001

- Hold Partnership Conference
- Collate Shipping Proposals
- Collate proposed amendments to PAME Offshore Guidelines
- Respond to additional RPA Proposals
- Complete update on marine pollution sources

2002

Complete Analysis of International Agreements and Arrangements

Provide recommendations on:

- adequacy of international agreements and arrangements
- possible new shipping measures
- possible amendments to offshore oil and gas guidelines
- possible new measures for land-based activities