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## PAME Summary Progress Report: SAO Meeting 1-2 December 2021

PAME's 2<sup>nd</sup> biannual meeting of 2021 (PAME II-2021) was held online from 7-8 October. This was the third online PAME plenary meeting with almost 170 registered participants. PAME's five thematic expert group meetings (shipping, marine protected areas, ecosystem approach, marine litter and resource exploration and development) were held online from 27 September-5 October.

### Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

*The development of additional Information Briefs on the Arctic marine environment under change* is underway and PAME has approved one on ecological connectivity as a joint PAME/CAFF project. The Kingdom of Denmark is in the process of developing a project proposal for an Information Brief on Arctic invasive species. Other PAME members have been invited to submit additional ideas for Information Briefs that are timely and relevant to ongoing PAME and Arctic Council work. Translations of the two Information Briefs on the Arctic marine environment under change, approved at the 2021 Ministerial, into other Arctic State and Indigenous languages is underway.

PAME is in the process of revisiting the *Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas (2015)* for relevant updating. Such updating may benefit from updates to existing topics and inclusion of new topics such as alignment with discussions on new targets in global fora, other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), Indigenous-led conservation, climate change, connectivity, and management effectiveness. There is also a potential for other 2021-2023 PAME projects to contribute to Framework updates. Expected completion of this update is February 2024.

The work on further *expansion and refinement of PAME's MPA-network Toolbox* project will consider topics and materials as a matter of course during the MPA Framework update, including the *Modelling Arctic Oceanographic Connectivity report*.

The project on: *Different Ways of Knowing: Applying Indigenous and Local Knowledge and*

*Scientific Information to Arctic Conservation Planning* will engage young Indigenous professionals in the development of case studies. This project and the OECM project have jointly proposed a knowledge exchange session at the Fifth International MPA Congress (IMPAC5) in 2022.

Continued work on the joint PAME/CAFF project on: *Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the Arctic Marine environment* to include an overview of the current range and understanding of international and national criteria used for identification of OECMs in the Arctic; and facilitate an exchange of information among the Arctic Council members on the range of information and application of OECMs.

The joint PAME/CAFF updated 2017 Arctic Protected Areas Indicator Report is being updated and will have a new title: *Status and Trends for Arctic Area-based Conservation Measures*. The aim is to have the updated report approved by PAME and CAFF in Feb. 2022.

### Invasive Species

Development of the joint PAME-CAFF project: *Marine Invasive Alien Species in Arctic Waters* aims to implement priority actions from The Arctic Invasive Alien Species (ARIAS) Strategy and Action Plan. The projects' focus is on the potential for unwanted transfer of marine invasive alien species by ships via ballast water and biofouling into and within Arctic waters. The project leads have reached out to the PAME Shipping Expert Group as a means of awareness and communication.

## Arctic Marine Shipping

PAME and its Shipping Expert Group (SEG) continues to advance twelve projects and initiatives to promote safe and sustainable navigation in the Arctic with the following activities:

### ***Linking with International Organizations***

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum meeting will take place online from 16-18 November 2021. The Forum is currently chaired by the Russian Federation and the Forum Coordinating Committee will submit a report on its outcomes to PAME I-2022.

PAME is in the process of modifying the Terms of Reference of the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum and the Forum's Coordinating Committee will submit a revised draft for finalization and approval at PAME I-2022. The Forum's Coordinating Committee will continue to expand and enhance the Forum's Web portal.

The project on *raising awareness in the Arctic Council of the provisions of the 2021 Cape Town Agreement* is underway. A correspondence group has been established and a template prepared and sent out to seek input on Implementation of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement Provisions from Arctic States and Observer States. They have also been invited to submit any national fishing vessel analyses that they may have carried out in the Arctic region.

PAME continues its *collaboration with the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC)* on the three projects identified in PAME's 2021-2023 Work Plan with an update at PAME I-2022.

### ***IMO Measures for Arctic Shipping***

Arctic States and Observer States have been invited to submit to PAME I-2022 information on Polar Ship Certificates that have been issued by or on behalf of their maritime administrations since their last submission of such information. The information is posted to the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum's Web-Portal.

PAME approved a letter which has been sent to the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat requesting support by Antarctic Treaty Contracting Parties for a Polar Code Inspection Campaign by the Paris Port State Control MOU and the Tokyo Port State Control MOU.

The standardized Arctic Ship Accident and Spill reporting Information template for the Arctic Ship Traffic Database (ASTD) has been approved. The development of the mechanism for Arctic States and Observer States to report accident and spill reporting information on a regular basis directly to the ASTD System using the approved template will be reported to PAME I-2022.

The development of a questionnaire is underway with the aim to ensure sufficient survey data to facilitate the implementation of the project on *Selected Wastewater Discharges in Arctic Waters*.

Work continues on the project *towards a harmonized implementation of the Polar Code* and a status report will be submitted to PAME I-2022.

### ***Addressing Impacts on Marine Mammals***

Work is underway on the project: *Underwater Noise in the Arctic: Understanding Impacts and Defining Management Solutions - Phase II*. Arctic States, PPs, and Observers have been invited to submit to the PAME Secretariat any projections, analyses, or reports that forecast anticipated maritime activity changes in the Arctic Region or any part of the Arctic Region.

### ***Addressing the Infrastructure Deficit***

Arctic States have been invited to confirm their willingness to co-sponsor the draft document on proposed amendments to *MARPOL and 2012 Guidelines for the Development of a Regional Reception Facilities Plan* to allow regional arrangements for ports in Arctic Waters. The aim is to arrange the timely submission of the final document to the 9th Session of the IMO's Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response.

Arctic States have been invited to review the *Arctic Port Reception Facility (PRF) Inventory* and provide any corrections, and updates as well as information on current waste reception

capacities which will be incorporated into a revised inventory and submitted with a report to PAME I-2022.

### **Arctic Marine Traffic Systems**

*The Arctic Ship Traffic Database (ASTD)* continues to be augmented with additional modules, functionalities, data, and data layers as appropriate. A plan for financing such future modules, functionalities, data, and data layers will be developed. Effort to raise awareness of the ASTD System will continue.

PAME continues to develop the *Arctic Shipping Status Reports (ASSR)* according to the agreed protocol for consultation with appropriate subject matter experts and Head of Delegation approval prior to issuance. Work is underway with the Russian Federation to finalize and seek intersessional approval for *ASSR #4: Shipping in the Northern Sea Route: Comparing 2013 to 2020.* Arctic States, PPs, and Observers have been invited to review the informal list of subjects for potential ASSR Reports and provide comments as well as suggestions for future ASSR Reports.

### **Engagement of Observers in PAME's Shipping-Related Activities**

Continued work on the *Systematically Strengthening Observer Engagement in PAME's Shipping Work* project and comments are being sought on the draft "PAME 101 for Observers" frequently asked questions (FAQ), including suggestions for additional questions that should be added to those listed in the draft document.

### **SEG Monthly Conference Calls**

Arctic States, PPs, and Observers have been invited to review and comment on the draft list of potential topics for PAME's monthly SEG calls. Feedback and recommendations from SEG call participants is welcomed on how to further improve the utility, structure, focus, and timing of those calls.

### **Arctic Offshore Resource Exploration and Development**

Translation of the *Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities (MEMA) Reference Guide*

(*&brochure*) is proceeding into Russian. Continued work to pursue Indigenous language translations.

MEMA outreach includes the development of a focused outreach/communications plan to disseminate MEMA products broadly and strategically to targeted groups.

Ongoing work on updating the *Offshore Oil and Gas Activities and Regulatory Frameworks in the Arctic (AOGRR)* information resource, including the redesign of the website.

Work is underway on the *Management of Arctic Marine Oil and Gas Associated Noise* project. A contractor has been secured to begin the literature research and outreach to Arctic States on mitigation and avoidance measures for noise associated with offshore or near shore oil and gas activities. Synergies will be explored during its next phases, with PAME's ongoing work on addressing underwater noise from shipping, as well as with CAFF's Pan-Arctic Passive Acoustic Monitoring Network, in particular relating to ambient noise levels and their impact on marine species.

The project on *Existing Best Practices for Marine and Coastal Mining* is in the process of developing a survey template for current mining projects. Initial summary of responses to the survey will be brought forward to PAME I-2022. The plan is to convene a workshop back-to-back with PAME II-2022. Synergy with the CAFF "Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Arctic Mining" project will be explored, including collaboration.

### **Ecosystem Approach to Management (EA)**

MPA and EA expert groups (EGs) continue to exchange knowledge and discuss synergies and mutual learnings, including integrating area-based conservation into the EA implementation framework and leveraging EA to inform MPA network design and implementation.

The *draft Concept Paper on further cooperation under the Arctic Council on Ecosystem Based Management (EBM/EA) of Arctic marine ecosystems* will be discussed,

based on comments received, at the December 2021 PAME Heads of Delegation meeting, to identify what is to be presented at PAME I-2022 and subsequent update at the Spring 2022 SAO meeting.

Work continues with *joint ICES/PICES/PAME Working Group for Integrated Ecosystem Assessment of the Central Arctic Ocean (WGICA)*. WGICA's plan is to have a first draft of a report detailing human impacts on the Central Arctic Ocean ecosystem ready by late 2021 which will be circulated for PAME review.

A draft outline has been developed for the project on *Synthesis Report on Ecosystem Status, Human Impacts and Management Measures in the Central Arctic Ocean (CAO-SR)*. The CAO-SR project will draw on peer-reviewed published information and the report by the WGICA, other Arctic Council working groups, and other readily available information sources as relevant. Ongoing collaboration between the CAO-SR project and WGICA has been established.

The planning of the 7th EA workshop on element No. 5 of the EA framework, *Value the cultural, social, and economic goods and services produced by the ecosystems* is well underway and PAME has approved the objectives and scope as outlined in the workshop prospectus. This workshop will be convened from 20-22 February 2022, back-to-back with the PAME I-2022 Meeting. Norway has offered to host the planned 3rd International Conference on EA in spring 2024 and a Conference Steering Committee will be established after the 7th workshop.

Efforts continue to strengthen the communication between the EA-EG co-chairs and the relevant Arctic Council Working Groups to secure coordination of work plans and efforts on EA implementation.

CAFF provided an update on the AMAP/CAFF project on *Climate change impacts: Arctic Ecosystems and feedbacks*. Shared interests in this project between AMAP, CAFF and PAME was acknowledged. To facilitate communication among Working Groups on this project, PAME Chair will communicate with the Chairs of CAFF and AMAP after PAME

II-2021. PAME also requested EA-EG co-leads to reach out to the AMAP/CAFF project's co-leads and members of the EA-EG to discuss details of the project and opportunities to collaborate.

Continued work on the *Report on development in defining or setting Ecological objectives* (Part 1 and Part 2) which communicates experiences with Ecological Objectives of relevance for the Arctic.

Development on the *EA Framework project* supports further development of existing elements and expands the current six-element Framework to include research, monitoring and advice, and a figure illustrating a circular and iterative EA Framework.

Discussions on the potential development of a tool that may function as a voluntary reporting mechanism on EA implementation has been initiated with further follow-up in 2022.

### **Arctic Marine Pollution: Marine Litter**

The 1<sup>st</sup> annotated outline on the *development of an Implementation Plan for the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Arctic (ML-RAP)* has been prepared and next steps include the circulation of revised annotated outline to PAME and other Arctic Council Working Groups to seek their input and feedback by November 15 as well as expressions of interest in participating in a drafting team.

PAME welcomes the development of additional marine litter projects intersessionally and urges its members to submit possible project ideas to PAME I-2022 that identify a follow-up to one or more of the ML-RAP Strategic Actions for further consideration and possible inclusion to the 2023-2025 PAME Work Plan.

AMAP Working Group will be invited to give a presentation on their ML-RAP related work on monitoring at PAME I-2022.

The project on *Arctic Coastal Cleanup* is underway and aims to contribute to enhancing efforts to remove litter from Arctic beaches and waterways. PAME welcomes project work to date, notes that the timeline has been extended to 2024 due to Covid-19, and encourages other Arctic States and PPs to

become partners in this project to ensure circumpolar coverage.

The project on *Fishing Practice & Gear Inventory: Enhancing Understanding of Abandoned Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)* is underway and aims to increase understanding and develop reliable informational resources of fishing activity in the Arctic and near-Arctic, to inform gear identification as part of monitoring or removal of ALDFG.

Continuation of the marine litter communication and outreach activities include the launching of 3 GPS tracking capsules (*message in a bottle*) in 2021 (one by the Netherlands and two by Finland).

### **Targeted update of the Arctic Council Arctic Marine Strategic Plan**

The 1st Scoping Workshop on the targeted update of the AMSP project was convened back-to-back with PAME II-2021 meeting with participation from PAME members and other Arctic Council Working Groups. Workshop participants reviewed current strategic actions and identified those that may need updating and/or have been completed in addition to possible new ones. This process is important to reflect the changes underway in the Arctic marine environment and the project co-leads will reach out to PAME members and other Arctic Council Working Groups to follow-up on the discussions of the Scoping Workshop.

### **Collaboration and coordination with other Working Groups**

PAME works towards strengthening the coordination and collaboration with other

Arctic Council working groups by inviting them to nominate experts in PAME's expert groups working on activities of mutual relevance. Furthermore, PAME strives to participate in meetings of other WGs, e.g., through its Heads of Delegations (HoDs) for coordination purposes, and shares work on progress to seek input, as relevant.

PAME continues to liaise with CAFF on MPAs and invasive species work. PAME continues to coordinate its work with EPPR, noting the joint PAME-EPPR "*New Low Sulphur Fuels, Fate and Behavior in Cold Water Conditions*" project. Inputs from all WGs has been sought in the development of the RAP-ML Implementation Plan and the update of the AMSP.

### **Observers at the PAME II-2021 Working Group Meeting**

PAME continues to strengthen its engagement with Observers in PAME's shipping-related activities by inviting one representative for each meeting to give a presentation on its Arctic interest and activities. PAME II-2021 and its expert group meetings were collectively attended by almost 170 participants, of which 45 were Observers; 28 representing Spain, Italy, France, Germany, Poland, United Kingdom, Republic of Korea, Singapore, China, The Netherlands; and 17 representing Observer Organizations: European Commission, UNEP, IMO, Northern Forum, Oceana, WWF, ACOPS and IASC.

### **PAME Next Meeting and Administration**

The next PAME meeting (PAME I-2022) will be hosted by Sweden in Stockholm from 14-18 February 2022.