



April 5, 2004

Dear Ambassador Palsson,

We are pleased to enclose the 2nd draft of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) which we believe captures the advice and recommendations of many groups and individuals and, in particular, the outcome of the AMSP/PAME meeting held in Helsinki, Finland, February 3-6, 2004. We are also pleased to enclose a Russian translation of this 2nd draft.

This draft was sent to the PAME country representatives, Chairs of the Working Groups, Permanent Participants and Observers of the Arctic Council on March 2, 2004. At that time it was also posted on the PAME website. A deadline for comments was set at March 26, 2004.

This draft continues to include a few drafting notes which Canada and Iceland, as the lead countries, will address over the next few weeks. Strategies related to the ACIA and the SDWG Report on Human Development will be further elaborated as work progresses.

We are pleased to report that this draft has elicited a good deal of interest with comments having been received from many contributors. Generally, the response has been quite positive. A central theme to these comments is that the draft would be improved by focussing on priority strategic measures and providing a brief description of them.

While we have received a variety of comments, we are able to identify some key strategic measures which we feel need the particular attention of the SAOs and for which directions are sought. These strategic measures are:

- a) implementation of the ecosystem-based management approach;
- b) a policy response on marine-related issues from the ACIA report;

- c) a comprehensive and integrated assessment of Arctic marine shipping;
- d) establishment of a network of marine protected areas; and
- e) on-going need for technical assistance and co-operation with the Russian Federation associated with coastal and marine activities.

We are looking forward to the upcoming SAO meeting in Iceland where we will be prepared to present further details and analyses on the above-noted strategic measures and other substantive matters surrounding the AMSP.



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