



DRAFT¹

**PAME PROGRESS REPORT TO SENIOR ARCTIC
OFFICIALS**



6-7 April 2005

Yakutsk, The Republic Sakha/Yakutia

The Russian Federation

¹ The content of this report is subject to any comments we may receive on the draft PAME Meeting Report. A revised version of this draft report, subject to any changes received, will be sent out prior to the SAO meeting)

1. MANDATE FROM REYKJAVIK MINISTERIAL MEETING

- Endorse the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) and encourage its implementation through the working groups and other mechanisms and cooperation with regional and global bodies.
- Endorse with appreciation the Arctic Waters Oil Transfer Guidelines and encourage Member States and others to disseminate them widely.
- Request PAME to conduct a comprehensive Arctic marine shipping assessment as outlined in the AMSP under the guidance of Canada, Finland and the United States as lead countries and in collaboration with the EPPR working group and other working groups of the Arctic Council and Permanent Participants as relevant.
- Note that an ecosystem-based management approach underlies the AMSP and call upon Member States, Arctic Council working groups and relevant regional and international bodies to further application of this approach to the Arctic marine environment.
- Encourage PAME, through Norway as lead-country, to assess and evaluate existing measures for port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues and develop harmonized guidelines for consideration by States.
- Support the continued implementation of the Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA) and note the ongoing efforts of the Russian Federation and other Arctic States to implement their respective National Programmes of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment.

2. DEVELOPMENTS SINCE REYKJAVIK, NOVEMBER 2004

PAME held its working group meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark 22-23 February 2005. PAME's activities follow the 2004-2006 Work Plan and particular focus was placed on the issues highlighted in the Reykjavik Declaration i.e. the port reception facilities assessment, the Arctic marine shipping assessment and the application of ecosystem approach as presented below.

Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment

- Preparations of the Arctic marine shipping assessment are underway by the leads (Canada/Finland/USA) and the first outline of the framework for this work was discussed and a number of selected background resources identified.
- The scope of this assessment will be comprehensive and integrated in nature and a broad involvement of the circumpolar and maritime communities, within and outside the Arctic Council, need to be ensured. The rationale for conducting this assessment are mainly based on the ACIA findings (Key Finding #6 in the ACIA Overview Report) and the potential opportunities and risks associated with increased economic, technical and social developments.
- Links and synergies between PAME and other relevant groups such as the Circumpolar Infrastructure Task Force (CITF)/SDWG, EPPR and others in this assessment is of utmost importance.
- The lead countries will develop a Terms of Reference and main Chapter Headings by September 2005 for distribution and comments. Countries are urged to nominate designated experts in the field of shipping and marine transport to ensure a broad involvement in the initial phase of this work.

Ecosystem Approach

- USA as the lead on ecosystem approach presented the Large Marine Ecosystem to Assessment and Management and the partnering with UNEP Regional Seas. UNEP and NOAA have recently extended their partnership to include the promotion of GEF-LME projects as assessment and management units for UNEP's Regional Seas Program. At present, 121 countries are either planning or implementing GEF-LME ecosystem-based projects that are relevant to the Regional Seas Program.
- Currently an opportunity to extending the GEF-LME project network to the Arctic is good. Initial discussions among representatives of the Russian Federation, UNEP Nairobi, and the United States for moving forward with a West Bering Sea pilot project for the Arctic have taken place.
- The first steps in forwarding the ecosystem approach include the establishment of a steering committee with 10-12 representatives and the convening a PAME sponsored meeting of experts approximately six months from now (ca. August 2005) to explore: LMEs within the Arctic and nested ecosystems at other scales, ecosystem-based management approaches and opportunities for pilot studies.

Port Reception Facilities

- Preparations of the assessment of existing measures for port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues with Norway as the lead country have been initiated.
- A correspondence group (email group) is in the process of being established and the lead country will shortly provide a timeframe of critical steps/milestones for approval by a written procedure to PAME.
- The importance of good and accessible information systems on existing port facilities was noted at the last PAME meeting and the lead country was asked to consider the “lessons learned” from e.g. the Baltic Sea Area.

Other PAME-Activities

Regional Programme of Action

- Canada as the lead-country in advancing the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA) has proposed a way forward with the updating of the RPA over the next 2 years. This update will not constitute a new RPA but rather be presented as a separate report/document.
- The RPA was developed from 1996-1997 and adopted by Arctic Ministers in 1998. Since then, considerable new information has become available that will be considered for the report on an updated RPA.

AMSP Communication Plan

- Canada and Iceland as the leads on the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP), have prepared a proposed way forward in developing the AMSP Communication Plan.
- 1st draft of the AMSP Communication Plan will be prepared and distribution for comments prior to the next PAME meeting.

Update status of the GEF/Russian NPA-Arctic

- Update on the GEF/Russian NPA-Arctic as well as related events in the Russian Federation was provided prior to the last PAME meeting in writing by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation and at the meeting by a representative from ACOPS.
- The Project Document has been revised and signed by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation and UNEP on 1st of February

2005. The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation is defined as the only Executive Agency for the Project and both ACOPS and Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO) have now the status of “Partner Agencies” which will cooperate with the certain groups of the Project donors.

- A process of the Project Office establishment has begun with announcement of tender for the Project Manager position by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade on 2nd of February 2005. Other employees of the Project Office will be recruited in the near future.

Collaboration with groups and organizations within and outside the Arctic Council

- PAME has agreed that opportunities for PAME in AMAP-led Oil and Gas Assessment should be further explored, both through a follow-up and reporting on status of this assessment. PAME noted connection to the Arctic shipping assessment and will this issue on the agenda for the next PAME meeting.
- Collaboration and apparent synergies with CAFF on the ecosystem approach and EPPR and SDWG working groups on the shipping assessment has been identified. Representatives from CAFF and EPPR participating at the last PAME meeting for this purpose.
- PAME has established contacts within the EU-system and through them is informed on the ongoing developments of the EU Marine Strategy as a way to collaborate, share information and ensure synergies in efforts and focus.

3. GUIDANCE FROM SAOS

It is important for the work laid down in the 2004 Ministerial Declaration that the countries secure the involvement of respective country representatives, experts and representatives from the national indigenous communities. In particular, countries are urged to nominate experts for the shipping assessment and the ecosystem approach to ensure a broad and active involvement in this work.