

PAME PROGRESS REPORT TO SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS 28-29 November 2007, Narvik, Norway.

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Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

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1. Follow-up since last SAO Meeting 12-13 April 2007

PAME held its working group meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland 26-27 September 2007 and below is a summary of developments since the last SAO meeting. Next PAME meeting is scheduled to be held in Canada during the first two weeks of June 2008. The RPA Workshop was convened back-to-back with the last PAME meeting on 25 September 2007 in Reykjavik, Iceland.

PAME's objectives are based on Ministerial mandates as identified in PAME's Work Plan 2006-2008 accompanied by a set of specific actions. The joint PAME/SDWG project on Best Practices in Ecosystem-Based Ocean Management in the Arctic (BePOMAr) led by Norway is an addition to the current PAME Work Plan. PAME notes its relevance to the PAME/LME Project.

The climate change issues are addressed within all PAME projects. The participation of indigenous and other residents in PAME projects, in particular the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA), is fully recognized. Overall, the PAME Working Group activities continue to be aimed at implementation of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP).

Collaboration with other Working Groups

PAME continues to actively communicate with the other working groups of the Arctic Council on the need to collaborate on forwarding its work plan with their representation at PAME meetings. Representatives from AMAP, CAFF and EPPR participated at the last PAME meeting and the RPA Workshop. The AMAP Oil and Gas Assessment and its possible application and inputs to relevant PAME projects (i.e. AMSA and LME) is fully recognized. For example, the work on indicators by the PAME expert group on LMEs will be shared with other Arctic Council working groups that may be working on other indicators of relevance e.g. SDWG working on socio-economic indicators, AMAPs various assessments and CAFFs biodiversity assessment.

Additional collaborations identified are that PAME will review any papers prepared by AMAP as it relates to Arctic Ocean monitoring and assessment aspects of the cryosphere project and review EPPR project description for the development of generic circumpolar maps.

2. Summary of Progress on PAME Projects

Evaluation and Update of the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines

The Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines were first published in 1997 and updated in 2002. These Guidelines recommend voluntary standards, technical and environmental best practices, management policy, and regulatory controls for Arctic offshore oil and gas operations.

The United States as the lead country in Evaluation and Update of the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines will convene a PAME Guidelines workshop December 7-8, 2007 in Miami, Florida, immediately following the 2007 International Regulators' Offshore Safety Conference - Improving Offshore Safety Through International Cooperation from December 3 - 6, 2007 in Miami, Florida. This conference is hosted by the International Regulators' Forum (IRF), an informal group of oil and gas regulators from Australia, Brazil, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Information and registration is at: <http://www.mms.gov/international/IRF/IRF.htm>

This PAME Guidelines Workshop will be open to all stakeholders and will launch the updating effort of the Guidelines. PAME representatives have been asked to pass on information about this Workshop to their respective experts on oil and gas management.

The workshop will follow the planned publication of the Arctic Council's Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Working Group (AMAP) Overview Report of the *Assessment of Arctic Oil and Gas Activities—Effects and Potential Effects* and the public posting of the assessment on the AMAP web page. This will enable the process of updating the Guidelines to take full account of this assessment.

The agenda for the workshop is as follows:

1. Introductions
2. Description of the Guidelines
3. Opportunity to Provide Comments
4. Discussion
5. Way Forward/Next Steps

To inform these discussions, participants are asked to come prepared to provide:

- Short interventions or presentations on how the guidelines have been used by countries, industry or by others;
- Short interventions or presentations on suggested updated information and new issues.
- Draft language or new text proposed for consideration and discussion.

After this workshop, work will continue via an internet writing group and at side meetings during regular PAME meetings. The projected delivery date of a revised *Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines* is mid to late 2008.

Ecosystem Approach (Large Marine Ecosystems)

The United States is the lead on ecosystem approach. The PAME/LME experts group has been established with experts from all Arctic Council countries. The PAME/LME expert group has communicated by email correspondence since PAME-I 2007 meeting (6-7 March 2007). The plan is that a meeting of the PAME/LME expert group be convened within the next 6 months. The PAME/LME expert group will continue to consider both generic and specific indicators for three pilot areas i.e. West Bering Sea LME, Barents Sea LME and the Beaufort Sea LME.

Firm commitment has been made to place the West Bering Sea LME project in the GEF pipeline for funding. A draft list of issues to be addressed by both the US and the Russian Federation has been prepared and is presently being reviewed. The approach includes the suites of ecosystem indicators and 5 modular strategic assessments. A draft of the West Bering Sea LME project proposal can be found at the password protected section on the PAME homepage or by contacting the PAME Secretariat.

The lead country will make contacts with the lead countries of the shipping assessment to maintain close liaison as plans are formulated for prototype assessments of conditions in the West Bering Sea LME, the Beaufort Sea LME and the Barents Sea LME by respectively US/Russia; US/Canada; and Norway/Russia. Special attention is to be paid to projections of ice reduction as it affects shipping and also LME bottom up food chain dynamics.

The LME work is for the purpose of assessments and management so collaboration with other work within the Arctic Council is important. Thus the work on indicators by the PAME expert group on LMEs should be shared with other Arctic Council working groups that may be working on other indicators of relevance e.g. SDWG working on socio-economic indicators, AMAPs various assessments and CAFFs biodiversity assessment.

LMEs are being applied in the AMAP Oil and Gas Assessment (Chapter 6 – Status and Vulnerability of Ecosystems) which has a direct relevance to the shipping assessment and the LME work. The AMAP Oil and Gas Assessment also uses the map of the 17 Arctic LMEs for descriptive purposes to assess impacts of oil and gas activities in the Arctic. PAME questions though the version of the 17 Arctic LMEs map being used in this Assessment and has noted that this is not the Arctic Council endorsed final version of the working map of the 17 Arctic LMEs. PAME thus notes the importance of using the working map of the 17 Arctic LME's as endorsed by Ministers in 2006, in Arctic Council related assessments.

Best Practices in Ecosystem-Based Ocean Management in the Arctic (BePOMAr)

Norway is the lead country on the Implementation of the project on Best Practices in Ecosystem-Based Ocean Management in the Arctic (BePOMAr Project). This project is a joint PAME/SDWG effort and is based on one of the priorities of the Norwegian chairmanship from 2006 to spring 2009 i.e. integrated oceans management.

The BePOMAr Project has been revised as per requests made by SAOs at the April 2007

meeting. Lead authors for the participating countries have been identified. Additional authors for chapters on indigenous perspectives on ecosystem based management and large marine ecosystems have been identified.

The United States informed PAME that they will not recruit a lead author for the country chapter writing but have instead submitted a US paper to the lead on this subject.

PAME has asked the lead country to provide PAME representatives with a timeline consisting of more details on next steps and to provide a draft report on the BePOMAr project for the next expert management meeting on this project and the next PAME meeting. The lead country has also be asked to provide information to PAME representatives and the PAME Secretariat whether an international workshop on this project is planned and if so its purpose and when and where. Any workshop on this project should be connected to the PAME Work Plan.

The Russian National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Anthropogenic Pollution in the Arctic Region of the Russian Federation (Russian NPA-Arctic):

Russia reported to PAME on the progress of the GEF/Russian NPA-Arctic Project "The Russian Federation: Support to the National Programme of Action on the Protection of Arctic Marine Environment". This is consistent with the Ministerial Declarations of Iqualuit 1998, Barrow 2000, Inari 2002, Reykjavik 2004 and Salekhard 2006. The GEF project is progressing all be it not as quickly as planned.