

PAME PROGRESS REPORT TO SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS. 19-20 November 2008, Kautokeino, Norway.

2008

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

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1. Introduction

PAME has held two working group meetings since the last SAO meeting, in St John's, Newfoundland 31 May and 2-4 June 2008 and in Helsinki 28-30 November 2008.

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 emphasizes its relevance to the PAME/LME Project.

2. PAME products for 2009 Ministerial

- The Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA)
- The updated version of the Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA)
- The revised Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines
- Progress Report on the Ecosystem Approach/LME project
- Joint PAME/SDWG Project: Report on Best Practices in Ecosystem-Based Ocean Management in the Arctic (BePOMAr)
- PAME Work Plan 2009-2011

3. Decisions required on completed PAME products

The October 2008 PAME meeting reached consensus on the following final draft Arctic Council products and is now requesting SAOs approval, subject to proofreading and final layout, for delivery to the Arctic Council Ministers in 2009:

- **Agenda Item 3.2** - Final draft 2009 Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines (*AC-SAO-NOV08-3.2*)

- **Agenda Item 5.2** – Final draft 2009 Updated Regional Programs of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA) (*AC-SAO-NOV08-5.2*)
- **Agenda Item 5.3** – Joint SDWG/PAME final draft Observed Best Practices report (*AC-SAO-NOV08-5.3*)

Updated the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines Agenda Item 3.2

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. Inputs have been solicited from Arctic Council country representatives, Permanent Participants, and other experts by means of convening a workshop in December 2007, at PAME meetings and through correspondence. The updated Guidelines are consistent with the Oil and Gas Assessment.

The October 2008 PAME meeting reached consensus on the attached final version of these Guidelines to be forwarded to the SAOs requesting their approval as the final document, subject to proofreading and final layout, for delivery to Arctic Council Ministers in 2009.

Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA) – Agenda Item 5.2

In 1998, the Arctic Council published the *Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA)* as a regional approach to implementing the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Programme of Action (GPA). Many changes have occurred in the Arctic marine environment since the publication of the RPA, and in 2006, PAME was tasked by Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) and Arctic Council Ministers to review, update, and expand the RPA as necessary to respond more effectively to these rapidly changing circumstances. Taking account of a rapidly changing Arctic region is the overarching objective of the RPA update, and as such is an important response to the 2004 Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA).

The final draft updated RPA is based on inputs from Arctic Council Working Groups, Permanent Participants and PAME National Representatives.

It can be noted that there are no substantial changes to the RPA. However the RPA has been successfully improved and updated it to include:

- Enhanced integration of recent Arctic Council assessments and knowledge (i.e. AMAP Oil and Gas Assessment (2008), AMAP environmental assessment (2002));
- Increased emphasis on modern environmental management approaches (i.e. ecosystem-based management);
- Increased emphasis on ecologically sensitive areas, and habitat alteration and destruction;
- Increased emphasis on the impacts of climate change (i.e. stability of pollution storage sites, shore erosion, sea ice and permafrost);
- Increased emphasis on mercury (POPs remain the major concern, however increasing levels of mercury is becoming a priority);
- New information regarding strategies and actions for States to take in order to meet the objectives related to all significant regional sources (i.e. support collaboration in assessing

- threats, and exchange best-practices in dealing with all land-based sources of marine pollution);
- New programme support elements for monitoring and assessing the Arctic marine environment (work with AMAP and CAFF), as well as increasing outreach initiatives with the public and indigenous peoples (i.e. brochures, communication strategies); and
 - Updated data on Russian hot spots (Appendix 2), including a new map identifying 100 hot spots.

The October 2008 PAME meeting reached consensus on the final version of these Guidelines to be forwarded to the SAOs requesting their approval as the final document, subject to proofreading and final layout, for delivery to Arctic Council Ministers in 2009.

Observed Best Practices in Ecosystems-based Oceans Management in the Arctic (BePOMAr) - Agenda Item 5.3

The October 2008 PAME meeting reviewed and agreed to the final draft text of the joint SDWG/PAME Observed Best Practices report as forwarded to the SAOs requesting their review and approval. PAME has not reviewed the large BePOMAr Report and understand that this Report will not be a negotiated Arctic Council product.

4. Status and Process to complete other PAME products for the 2009 Ministerial

Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) – Agenda Item 5.1

PAME will not have a draft AMSA Report with findings and recommendations for SAOs consideration and direction at this SAO meeting as per **Agenda Item 5.1** – Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA). The first draft of the AMSA findings and recommendations was provided to the PAME representatives and Permanent Participants at the October 2008 PAME meeting. The PAME representatives and Permanent Participants will now initiate their national internal review process. PAME will begin its review and negotiations at the PAME special meeting 21-22 November in Oslo.

Refer to a separate document on AMSA - process and timeline number: *AC-SAO-NOV08-5.1*

Ecosystem Approach Project – Large Marine Ecosystems

PAME has reviewed the draft LME Progress Report as presented at the October 2008 PAME meeting and is in the process of providing comments to the lead country on this draft. PAME has agreed to a process and a timeline to complete and agree to final LME Progress Report by correspondence and/or conference call to deal with any outstanding issues for submission to SAOs by 8th of Jan 2009 for approval as an Arctic Council product.

PAME Work Plan 2009-2011

The 1st draft of the PAME 2009-2011 was distributed to PAME representatives and Permanent Participants in September 2008 and discussed at the October 2008 PAME meeting. PAME has agreed to a process and a timeline to finalize this work by the end of December for submission to SAOs by 8th of Jan 2009.

The 1st draft PAME Work Plan 2009-2011 is based on both continuation of current PAME activities and new activities and includes a new proposed PAME project Arctic Council comprehensive review of the adequacy of measures for integrated Ecosystem-based Arctic

Ocean management. This multiyear project would be implemented in 3 phases over the next 4-6 years. PAME is continuing to develop the project description and if there is an agreement on this project by PAME it will be included in the work plan 2009-2011 to be submitted to SAOs by 8th of Jan 2009.

5. PAME meeting 21-22 November, 2008 in Oslo

PAME will convene a special meeting in Oslo from 21-22 November focusing on AMSA with the aim to begin negotiations on the draft AMSA report including the draft findings and recommendations. The draft PAME Work Plan 2009-2011 will also be discussed and further advanced at this meeting if time allows.