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## Arctic Council WG-Observer session Wed 21 March 2018 at 13-15

### Theme 3: Engagement with small communities

#### Resource Exploration and Development Expert Group (REDEG)

PAME's *Resource Exploration and Development Expert Group (REDEG)* oversees the work on the Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities project (MEMA). All eight Arctic Council Member States are represented in the expert group, in addition to Permanent Participants and Observers. The REDEG expert group meets in conjunction with regular PAME meetings and oversees the work as outlined below.

#### Questions

- What type of small community engagement is required, recommended, or encouraged by your government or governing board before you plan and carry out marine activities?
- Do you use traditional and local knowledge? If so, how?
- Do you have written laws, policies, or regulations or written guidelines for consultation, benefits agreements, and/or co-management?
- How do you develop relationships and build trust with small communities?

#### Background

Although this theme focuses on small community preparedness, especially the EPPR project on Emergency Preparedness for Small Communities, PAME takes a wider view on preparedness for small communities in all marine activities. PAME developed the [Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines](#) for member governments and other stakeholders on how to engage with small communities when planning for or conducting offshore oil and gas activities. Elements of Engagement with small communities, including communication and listening, relationship building, consultation, identification of benefits, use of traditional and local knowledge etc., are all a means to prepare local communities for possible outcomes. These guidelines are also useful for Observers if they are planning activities in the Arctic.

The Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities project (MEMA) Part II Report is part of the PAME 2017-2019 Work Plan. MEMA is a cross-cutting project, which will compile and analyze existing documents and summarize their main aspects, principles, and processes for engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities.

The project covers all Arctic marine and coastal activities, including resource development, shipping, tourism, marine management, research, and emergency prevention, preparedness, and response. PAME compiled a database with hundreds of documents that require, recommend, guide, or set out protocols on how to engage indigenous and local communities for any marine activity. The database draws from the Arctic Council, Governments, Indigenous Peoples, Industry, and Academia and NGOs.

PAME is in the process of completing the MEMA Part II Report. The resulting report analyzes these documents to tease out positive case studies and lessons learned. The database and analysis will be important to any stakeholder, including member governments, industry, NGOs and academic, and Observers.