

## **PAME's Contribution to the Arctic Council**

### **WSSD 2002 Message**

#### **1<sup>ST</sup> DRAFT**

The Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) is policy and action oriented working group with the mandate to *take preventive and other measures and to evaluate the need for action in appropriate international fora regarding marine pollution in the Arctic from land-based and maritime sources*. PAME has taken a comprehensive look at the problems affecting the Arctic marine environment and has identified key issues needed to protect it from pollution. These initiatives have been pursued through cooperation with non-government groups, the private sector, international financial institutions and local residents.

It is widely recognized that healthy oceans and coastal areas are essential to the pressing world-wide problems of human health, food security and poverty alleviation.

PAME conducted a comprehensive review of the need for new international instruments to protect the Arctic marine environment and concluded that, for the time being, there was no need for new instruments beyond those which were currently being considered in other international fora.

However, PAME identified two areas where progress could be made on a non-binding basis: offshore oil and gas development and land-based marine degradation, as well as a third area - Arctic shipping - for which there was insufficient information upon which to identify specific actions.

Based on this PAME has concentrated its efforts on the first two of these areas, while continuing to work on identification of problems related to shipping.

Accomplishments include:

1. A completed set of Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines, covering all aspects of exploration and development. These guidelines were developed with the direct involvement of NGOs, the private sector and indigenous representatives.

The Russian version was used by specialists participating in the joint Russia-USA-Norway-Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Regime project (RUNARC). Supported by the World Bank, RUNARC was initiated in 1997 to improve environmental protection and operational safety in offshore oil and gas activities in the Russian Arctic and Far East.

Currently, PAME is focusing on how best to assure the implementation of these Guidelines, particularly in light of the expected expansion of offshore oil and gas developments in the Arctic.

## 2. Completion of the Regional Programme of Action for Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA).

This regional action program is based on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, which was called for in Agenda 21 in 1992 and concluded in Washington in November 1995. In general the RPA for the Arctic addresses impacts on the marine and coastal environments and is based on the findings from AMAP's information sources on pollution in the Arctic.

Globally, land-based activities contribute approximately 80% of marine pollution. Addressing this complex and difficult problem requires major national and regional commitments and the involvement of virtually all economic sectors of society, plus the involvement of the private sector, local governments and people and non-governmental organizations.

RPA provides the framework for PAME's work and has on behalf of the Arctic Council with substantial assistance from a non-governmental group - the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas (ACOPS) supported the Russian Federation in the development of the Russian part of the RPA programme for its Arctic waters.

This program has now been finalized and its completion makes Russia one of the first governments in the World to adopt a national action program. This project has attracted the support of the Global Environment Facility and steps are being taken to involve other International Financial Institutions and the private sector in its implementation.

PAME continues to work on shipping issues and is currently targeting at seas transfers of oil as an issue for which guidelines should be developed. PAME is also considering taking steps to deal with ship-generated wastes.