



AGENDA – March 17

**Meeting of Senior Arctic Officials
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada
March 26-27, 2014
Plenary Meeting
AGENDA**

Day 1 – Wednesday, March 26, 2014

- 1. Introduction 9:00**
- 1.1 Traditional Welcome**
 - 1.2 Welcoming Remarks**
 - 1.3 Approval of Agenda**

- 2. Update from the Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials 9:30**

- 3. Chairmanship-led Initiatives 9:45**

3.1 Promoting Traditional Ways of Life

Background: Promoting traditional ways of life is a priority initiative under Canada's Arctic Council chairmanship. A proposal to establish a compendium of best practices will be presented.

Action: SAOs may wish to approve the project proposal.

<p><u>Document:</u> CHAIR_TradLife_Doc01_Promoting_Traditional_Ways_of_Life_AC_S AO_CA02</p>
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3.2 Strengthening the Arctic Council

Background: The *Kiruna Declaration* calls on Senior Arctic Officials "...to recommend ways and means to strengthen how the work of the Arctic Council is carried out." The Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials will provide a brief update on this initiative.

3.2.1 Communications Implementation Plan for the Arctic Council Secretariat

Background: At the SAO meeting in Whitehorse, Canada in October 2013, SAOs requested that a concrete plan to implement the Communications Strategy for the Arctic Council (CSAC), approved 15 May 2012, be developed and presented for the SAO meeting in spring 2014. The implementation plan lays out the concrete actions that the



Arctic Council Secretariat, in cooperation with the other Arctic Council actors should undertake to implement the CSAC.

Decision: SAOs may wish to take note of the ACS Communications Implementation Plan.

Document:

CHAIR_StrongAC_CommPlan_Doc01_Proposed_communications_implementation_plan_AC_SAO_CA02

Coffee Break

10:45–11:15

3.2.2 Update on the Archiving Project

Background: In October 2013, Senior Arctic Officials approved an Arctic Council archiving project supported by Library and Archives Canada. Officials from Library and Archives Canada will be on hand to provide an update on this initiative.

Decision: None

Document:

CHAIR_StrongAC_Archiving_Doc01_Archiving Project Update_AC_SAO_CA02

4. Task Forces

11:45

4.1 Short-lived Climate Pollutants

4.1.1 The Task Force for Action on Black Carbon and Methane

Background: The TFBCM held its second meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, in December 2013. In following up on the guidance from the last SAO meeting in Whitehorse, the Task Force heard reports from both internal and external bodies involved in SLCP work. The Task Force co-chairs will report on its progress.

Action: SAOs may wish to consider the information from the task force, comment and give guidance, as appropriate.

Document:

TF_SLCP_TFBCM_Doc01_TFBCM II report_AC_SAO_CA02

4.1.2 Reports from ACAP and AMAP on their SLCP-related work

Background: ACAP and AMAP will give short updates on their ongoing work related to black carbon, methane and other SLCPs, with a view to clarifying how this work can feed into, complement and support the work of the task force, and on how the AC joint efforts in this field can be maximized.



Action: SAOs may wish to consider the information from the WGs, comment on the joint efforts from TFBCM, ACAP and AMAP and give guidance, as appropriate.

Document: None

Lunch**12:30–13:30****4.2 The Task Force to Facilitate the Creation of a Circumpolar Business Forum**

Background: The Task Force to Facilitate the Creation of a Circumpolar Business Forum will report on its progress. It will also provide information and recommendations on the newly-established Arctic Economic Council.

Action: SAOs may wish to approve the Task Force recommendations.

Document:
TF_TFCBF_Doc01_Report_to_SAOs_December
2013_AC_SAO_CA02

4.3 The Task Force for Enhancing Scientific Cooperation in the Arctic

Background: The SCTF had its first meeting in Stockholm, Sweden in December 2013. The co-chairs will report on the outcome of the meeting, and on the planned next steps for the task force.

Action: SAOs may wish to review the information from the task force, and give guidance as appropriate.

Document:
TF_SCTF_Doc01_Two-pager from the first SCTF
meeting_AC_SAO_CA02

4.4 The Task Force on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Prevention

Background: Ministers at the Kiruna meeting in spring of 2013 approved the creation of a Task Force on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Prevention. The first meeting took place in Oslo January 16 – 17, 2014. The eight member states identified a platform they all could agree upon on how to continue the negotiations to come. A second meeting was held in Reykjavik on March 18-19. The co-chairs will report further on the progress made.

Action: SAOs may wish to review the information from the task force, and give guidance as appropriate.

Document:
TF_TFOPP_Doc01_Two-pager from the first TFOPP
meeting_AC_SAO_CA02

Coffee Break**14:30–15:00**



5. Working Groups

15:00

5.1 Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)

5.1.1 Traditional & Local Knowledge

Background: This initiative aims to develop a consistent approach that would enable the effective inclusion of traditional and local knowledge into all Arctic Council projects and activities and allow for the common consideration of traditional and local knowledge alongside western scientific methods. The SDWG is leading the initiative, which will need to be taken on by all Arctic Council Working Groups.

Action: SAOs may wish to take note of the status update and comment on next steps.

<u>Document:</u> None

5.1.2 Arctic Adaptation Exchange: Facilitating Adaptation to Climate Change

Background: This initiative will create an adaptation information portal with the objective of enabling governments, industry, non-governmental organizations and Arctic peoples to manage climate change risks by: providing access to existing knowledge (including local and traditional knowledge), information and decision-support tools; facilitating the exchange of information/knowledge and best practices; and enabling the development of new practices and tools that support adaptation decision-making, such as adaptive capacity indices.

Action: SAOs may wish to take note of the status update and comment on next steps.

<u>Document:</u> WG_SDWG_AdaptExch_Doc01_Arctic Adaptation Exchange_AC_SAO_CA02

5.1.3 Promoting Mental Wellness and Resilience to Address Suicide in Circumpolar Communities

Background: This project will assess the outcomes of current and past research, programs and/or activities undertaken in circumpolar communities which promote resilience and well-being, particularly with regard to children, youth and their families. It will bring together Indigenous communities, policymakers and researchers throughout the project to identify and share best practices as well as ensure common understanding and potential application of evidence leading



to positive mental health outcomes. The project will contribute to one of the key priorities established for Canada's Chairmanship, sustainable circumpolar communities.

Action: SAOs may wish to take note of the status update and comment on next steps.

Document:

WG_SDWG_MentHealth_Doc01_Mental
Wellness_AC_SAO_CA02

5.2 Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

5.2.1 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Follow-up (Heavy Fuel Oil Phase II, AMSA II (D) and the Arctic Marine Tourism Project)

Background: PAME is following up and implementing the recommendations from the AMSA 2009 Report in collaboration with other Arctic Council working groups as relevant to their respective mandates. *The Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) Phase II and IIb Reports* and the *Specially Designated Marine Areas in the Arctic Report* (AMSA II(D)) have been finalized and submitted to PAME by Det Norske Veritas (DNV). These reports represent valuable contributions to PAME's work as PAME member governments have been invited to provide their views on these reports and review its recommendations, as relevant. The Arctic Shipborne Tourism Initiative (renamed as the Arctic Marine Tourism Project and abbreviated as AMTP) represents the first project in a potential suite of renewed efforts by the Arctic Council to analyze and promote sustainable tourism across the circumpolar Arctic. Organized through the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Working Group, the AMTP will focus on aspects of shipborne tourism that fall outside the responsibility of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and will result in the convening of two dedicated workshops, ongoing intercessional work, and the creation of a final report for endorsement by Arctic Council Ministers. PAME has approved in principle the AMTP work plan and its first workshop will be convened in Ottawa, Canada 18-19 March, 2014.



Action: SAOs may wish to provide guidance on, take note of, or comment on these three projects.

Document:

WG_PAME_AMSA_Doc01_Arctic Marine Tourism Project work plan_AC_SAO_CA02
WG_PAME_AMSA_Doc02_The Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) Phase II_AC_SAO_CA02
WG_PAME_AMSA_Doc03_The Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) Phase II b_AC_SAO_CA02
WG_PAME_AMSA_Doc04_Specially Designated Marine Areas in the Arctic Report (AMSA II(D))_AC_SAO_CA02

5.2.2 The Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines: Systems Safety Management and Safety Culture Report

Background: Recognizing that governments have a role to play in both regulating and influencing the safety of oil and gas operations in the Arctic, PAME prepared the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines: Systems Safety Management and Safety Culture Report. Its purpose is to provide more targeted guidance on protecting the marine environment from major accidents by improving safety management systems and safety culture in Arctic offshore petroleum operations. This final report represents a follow-up to the 2009 Arctic Council's Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines. The final report has undergone an extensive review process within PAME and was approved at its working group meeting 11-13 February 2014.

Action: SAOs are requested to review and approve the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines: Systems Safety Management and Safety Culture Report.

Document:

WG_PAME_OilGuide_Doc01_Cover letter to SAOs_AC_SAO_CA02
WG_PAME_OilGuide_Doc02_The Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines: Systems Safety Management and Safety Culture Report_AC_SAO_CA02

Meeting Adjourned

16:45

Evening: Reception hosted by the Government of the Northwest Territories

Day 2 – Thursday, March 24, 2014

8.1 Presentation by Mr. Koji Sekimizu, Secretary General, International Maritime Organization 9:00

Background: Following up on their mandate from the Kiruna Declaration, the SAOs decided in January 2014 to invite the IMO Secretary General to this SAO meeting. A presentation will be given by the Secretary General at the start of the meeting session on Day 2; at 9 a.m., 27 March.

Action: For information

Document: None

5.3 Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) 9:40

5.3.1 Circumpolar Marine Environment Risk Assessment (CMERA)

Background: One of the recommendations from the Recommended Practices in the Prevention of Marine Oil Pollution in the Arctic (RP3) summary report was to conduct a Circumpolar Marine Environment Risk Assessment (CMERA). As a follow up activity EPPR conducted a workshop in Tromsø, Norway, in November 2013. The workshop recommends two possible ways in which to follow-up: a Circumpolar Marine Environmental Risk Assessment or a Circumpolar Response Gap Analysis. This question will be considered at the next EPPR meeting in June 2014.

Action: The SAOs may wish to take note of the proposed draft and give further guidance as appropriate.

Document:

WG_EPPR_CMERA_Doc01_CMERA_AC_SAO_CA02

5.4 Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

5.4.1 The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA): Follow-up and Implementation; the ABA Congress

Background: CAFF will give an update on the work of ABA implementation, and on the new developments regarding the ABA Congress.



Action: SAOs may wish to take note of, comments or give guidance to CAFF as appropriate.

Document:

WG_CAFF_ABA_Doc01_Memo on the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment_AC_SAO_CA02
WG_CAFF_ABA_Doc02_Memo on the ABA Congress_AC_SAO_CA02

Coffee Break

10:20–10:50

5.4.2 Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI)

Background: This project's goal is to improve the status and secure the long-term sustainability of declining Arctic breeding migratory bird populations. An update on progress and the project plan will be presented.

Action: The SAOs may wish to take note of the project plan as described, comment and give guidance as appropriate.

Document:

WG_CAFF_AMBI_Doc01_The Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative_AC_SAO_CA02

5.5 Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)

5.5.1 Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACA)

Background: The AACA-C project has developed rapidly since the last SAO-meeting. SAOs will be updated on progress made.

Action: SAOs are invited to comment on status and plans for AACA-C activities.

Document: (see AMAP progress report)

5.5.2 AMAP Deliverables and Outreach Products for the 2015 Ministerial

Background: AMAP is preparing a range of deliverables and outreach products, such as a summary report and films on current science on SLCFs; a handbook and whitepaper on use of unmanned aircraft systems in arctic monitoring and science, and –possibly- non-technical summaries of findings of ongoing assessments for the 2015 Ministerial and seeks input from SAOs on desired format.



Action: SAOs may wish to consider and give guidance as requested on AMAP's plans for deliverables and outreach products.

Document: (see AMAP progress report)

Lunch Break

12:00-13:30

5.6 Arctic Contaminants Action Programme (ACAP)

5.6.1 Reduction of Black Carbon Emissions from Residential Wood Combustion in the Arctic

Background: ACAP will inform about the results from the project on *reduction of black carbon emissions from residential wood combustion in the Arctic*. The project is led by Norway and Finland, and the report will also include policy recommendations.

Action: For information. The report is expected to be submitted for SAO approval at fall SAO meeting 2014.

Document: None

6. Administrative Matters

13:50

6.1 Arctic Council Secretariat: Report from the Director

Background: The Arctic Council Secretariat Director, Mr. Magnús Jóhannesson, will give an update on the management of the Arctic Council Secretariat. Focus will be on both summing up the first year, 2013, and informing about current and future activities.

Action: SAOs may wish to take note of the ACS Annual Report for 2013 as submitted by the Director.

Document:
ADMIN_ACS_DirReport_Doc01_Arctic Council Secretariat
Annual Report 2013_AC_SAO_CA02

6.2 Working Group Progress Reports

Background: In accordance with the *Template for Progress report from Working groups to SAOs*, the working groups are requested to submit general reports to SAOs in writing. The report is supposed to be a maximum of five pages. The general reporting covers all other issues not submitted to this meeting to SAOs as separate items for decision or information. Senior



Arctic Officials may use this agenda item for clarifying questions or for raising particular issues from the progress report with the working groups.

Action: SAOs to take note of the progress reports from the working groups.

Documents:

ADMIN_WG_ProgReport_Doc01_Progress report
ACAP_AC_SAO_CA02
ADMIN_WG_ProgReport_Doc02_Progress report AMAP_AC-SAO_CA02
ADMIN_WG_ProgReport_Doc03_Progress report
CAFF_AC_SAO_CA02
ADMIN_WG_ProgReport_Doc04_Progress report
EPPR_AC_SAO_CA02
ADMIN_WG_ProgReport_Doc05_Progress report
PAME_AC_SAO_CA02
ADMIN_WG_ProgReport_Doc06_Progress report
SDWG_AC_SAO_CA02

6.3 Working Group Operational Guidelines

Background: As requested by SAOs at the October 2013 meeting, the Working Groups are to review their Operational Guidelines against the revised Arctic Council Rules of Procedure to ensure consistency and to seek SAO approval of amendments, as necessary.

Action: EPPR will present new Operational Guidelines for SAO approval.

Document:

ADMIN_WG_OpGuide_Doc01_EPPR- Draft Operational Guidelines_AC_SAO_CA02

7. Project Support Instrument

14:45

Background: NEFCO submitted a written report updating the SAOs about the current situation for the PSI.

Action: SAOs may wish to take note of the report.

Document:

REPORT_NEFCO_PSI_Doc01_PSI Update_AC_SAO_CA02

8. Any Other Business

15:00

8.2 Arctic Role of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council

Background: Finland has recently taken over the chairmanship of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC). The Finnish SAO will give a short introduction of the Finnish priorities for their chairmanship.

Action: For information

Document:

OTHER_BEAC_Doc01_Barents Cooperation
Information_AC_SAO_CA02
OTHER_BEAC_Doc02_Finnish Chairmanship
Programme_AC_SAO_CA02

8.3 The Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure Project

Background: The Arctic SDI is a pan-Arctic cooperative initiative based on input and reference spatial datasets from the National Mapping Organisations of all eight Arctic Council countries. The Arctic SDI initiative received, after a request from the Nordic mapping organisations, the support of the Arctic Council in November 2009. The National Mapping Organisations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in February 2014 addressing the development and maintenance of the Arctic SDI. The CAFF chair will give a short status update.

Action: For information

Document:

OTHER_CAFF_Doc01_Memo_on_Arctic_Spatial_Data_
Infrastructure_AC_SAO_CA02.pdf

9. Closing of Meeting

16:00

Documents for information

(will be posted on the meeting website as they become available)

- *Ecosystem-based Management. Implementation of recommendations. One page update*
- *Update on the Ratification of the Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic*
- *CAFF Memo on Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP)*
- *IASC Document: Draft program for the 3rd Conference on International Arctic Research Planning (ICARP) III,*
- *IASC Document: The International Polar Partnership Initiative (IPPI) – an update*