

Doc 10.1e AC-SAO Tórshavn, Faroe Islands
19-20 October 2010

PAME PROGRESS REPORT TO SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS

19-20 OCTOBER 2010
TÓRSHAVN, FAROE ISLANDS

PAME
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment



ARCTIC COUNCIL

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1. Response to Arctic Council Priorities

The Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group (PAME) is the working group which focuses on the marine agenda of the Arctic Council. It is guided by the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) and biennial work plans as approved by the Arctic Council Ministers. PAME considers a full range of policy issues that relate to the state of the Arctic marine environment, including pollution prevention, marine biodiversity and resource development, and has a mandate to address policy and non-emergency pollution prevention and control measures related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment from both land and sea-based activities. Continuous updating of the review of international agreements and arrangements regarding the protection of marine and coastal areas is important and their implementation from an Arctic angle to identify possible ways and means to improve these instruments and compliance with them.

The common priorities agreed upon for the Norwegian, Danish and Swedish Chairmanship period of the Arctic Council are concerned with climate change, integrated resource management, the International Polar Year, Indigenous people, local living conditions and management issues.

PAME's work reflects these priorities. Furthermore, PAME contributes to the priority of the Danish Chairmanship of identifying Megatrends in the Arctic through the Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) project.

PAME cooperates actively with the other Arctic Council Working Groups in an effort to contribute to improved efficiency and effectiveness of the Arctic Council.

The climate change issues are addressed within all PAME projects and the participation of indigenous peoples, and other Arctic residents, in PAME projects is fully recognized.

2. Summary of Progress on PAME Projects

PAME held its working group meeting (PAME II-2010) in Washington D.C. USA, 14-16 September 2010; back-to-back with the AOR Expert Workshop 13-14 September 2010. Below is a summary of developments since the last SAO meeting and records of decisions from the PAME II-2010 meeting.

Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment – SAO Agenda Item 6.1

➤ Welcome the follow-up activities on AMSA Recommendations:

- I(B) actions 1 and 2 : Work is underway in IMO to develop a mandatory Polar Code by 2012. Denmark will inform PAME I – 2011 on the progress in IMO. AC countries are encouraged to cooperate on the issue in relevant IMO meetings.
- I(B) action 3 – Norway and USA co-leads.
 - ✓ Agree on ToR and to carry out at least the first two objectives of Phase I of the ToR by 31 December 2010 and, if additional funds are available, carry out objectives 3 and 4 of the ToR as well as an analysis of HFO air emissions, including black carbon.
 - ✓ Agree that the geographical scope of the Arctic sea area to be addressed in the project will be the same as used by the IMO.
 - ✓ Agree that the Contact Group be utilized as points of contact to gather national information needed by the consultant. Countries are asked to confirm points of contact and their details.

- ✓ Agree to provide a report on Phase I, and to propose possible next steps, including a draft terms of reference, for Phase II of the project, for discussion at the PAME-I 2011 with the view to present a proposal to the Arctic Council Ministers in 2011 for their consideration and possible inclusion in the PAME Work Plan 2011-2013.
- I(C) – Agree that implementation of I(C) should be considered by PAME at a later stage when the work in IMO to develop a mandatory Polar Code has been finalized.
- I(D) action 1 – Work is ongoing at IMO on several initiatives to improve passenger vessel safety. Denmark will update PAME on IMO progress at PAME I-2011. USA will co-lead.
- I(D) action 2 – Invite Denmark and USA to send a letter to Arctic Council countries seeking information on cruise industry and AC State best practices and standards related to safety and environmental protection, and to report, including proposed recommendations for additional actions by PAME at PAME I-2011. Welcome the information from the Cruise Lines International Association, and strongly encourage cruise ship operators to continue to develop, implement and share their own best practices for operating in such conditions. Take note of the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators' (AECO) invitation to PAME to speak at its conference in Oslo in October 2010. Invite a representative from AECO and the European Cruise Council (ECC) to present on industry standards and best practices for Arctic cruise tourism to PAME I-2011.
- II(A) – Welcome the offer from AIA and Saami Council to co-lead a scoping paper on possible project on advancing survey of Indigenous Marine Use to the PAME I-2011 Meeting.
- II(C) – Welcome the information from AMAP/CAFF/SDWG on the progress on the follow-up of II(C) on the identification of areas of heightened ecological and cultural significance, and look forward to the final report to be presented to PAME-I 2011.
- II(D) – Welcome the offer from Norway to take a lead in proposing a project on the implementation of II (D) for the discussion at PAME-I 2011, and invite other countries to co-lead the work with the view to present a proposal to the Arctic Council Ministers in 2011 for their consideration and possible inclusion in the PAME Work Plan 2011-2013.
- II(G) – PAME Chair/Secretariat to send a letter inviting AMAP and CAFF to assess the effects on marine mammals due to ship noise, disturbance and strikes in Arctic waters, taking note of relevant documents by organizations such as IMO, IWC, ASCOBAN and NAMMCO.
- Remind Arctic Council countries to be mindful of domestic/national obligations to consult with Arctic indigenous peoples on relevant shipping matters, including IMO activities as appropriate.
- Welcome the information from EPPR on their follow-up activities on AMSA Recommendations II(F) and III(C), and invite EPPR to inform on progress to PAME I-2011.
- AMSA co-leads (Canada, Finland and the United States) to produce a draft status report on the follow-up of AMSA recommendations to the 2011 Arctic Council Ministerial meeting, for consideration at PAME I-2011.

Arctic Ocean Review Project (AOR) – SAO Agenda Item 6.2

- AOR Workshop Summary available 30th of September to include high level summary with workshop presentations attached. Both the AOR Workshop Summary and the presentations to be made posted on the PAME homepage.
- Process and timeline to finalize Phase I of the AOR Project:
 - 24th of September – submission for the SAO meeting 19-20 October the 13th of August draft AOR Phase I Report in addition to summary of comments from the AOR Workshop and PAME II-2010 meeting to SAOs to inform of status and seek their guidance if needed.
 - 28th of September - Deadline for comments on the 13th of August draft AOR Phase I to be sent to the PAME Secretariat.
 - 1st of November – revised draft AOR Phase I Report to be sent to AOR Project Expert Group (cc'd to PAME HoDs) with deadline of comments 1st of December
 - 1st of December – 10th of January 2011 – Based on comments from AOR PEGs, AOR leads to prepare a final draft AOR Phase I Report.
 - 10th of January 2011 – Final draft AOR Phase I Report and a draft Phase II AOR project plan to be distributed for comments for the PAME I -2011 meeting (tentative early February)
 - Mid-Feb – mid-March – work out and finalize any outstanding issues and finalize workplan/timeline for AOR Phase II as per PAME I-2011 decision.
 - mid-March – Deadline for final submission for the Ministerial Meeting 12th of May 2011.

Ecosystem Approach

- Welcome the progress report from the co-leads Norway and USA on behalf of the PAME Group of Experts on the Ecosystem Approach to Management.
- Welcome the proposal from Norway to convene a workshop in Tromsø, Norway in connection with the Arctic Frontier Conference 28-29 January 2011 (tbc) to consider remaining boundary issues for the LMEs and review existing reporting on ecosystem status. The workshop will:
 - Review and update the working map on Arctic LMEs and provide justification for the chosen boundaries based on ecological criteria.
 - Prepare a synthesis of existing or planned reports on ecosystem status, trends and pressures for regional ecosystems in the Arctic area.
- The EA leads are requested to send out an invitation and workshop agenda to PAME as soon as possible and PAME is urged to participate in the workshop and ensure the representation of respective experts and provide information on recent, ongoing and/or planned reports on the status of the Arctic marine ecosystems (draft letter of invitation in Annex X).
- The EA leads are urged to invite AMAP and CAFF secretaries and chairs to take part in the planning of the workshop in an effort to coordinate existing and future work on EA to management, and seek balance participation of experts according to themes and geography.

- Request the EA Group of Experts to report on progress and implementation as per the EA Work Plan 2009-2011, and outline the work planned to be accomplished during the 2011-2013 for inclusion into the PAME Work Plan at the PAME I-2011 meeting.

Follow up on the 2009 Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines

- Those countries that have not yet provided links of relevant homepages on respective EIA reports and practices to the PAME Secretariat are encouraged to do so for posting on the PAME homepage as a means of information sharing.
- Welcome the offer by USA to develop a draft project proposal on OOGG follow-up activities for consideration by the PAME I-2011 meeting for possible inclusion into the 2011-2013 PAME Work Plan. 1st draft to be sent out to PAME by 16th of October 2010 for comments.

Follow up on the 2009 RPA

- Await the outcome of the GPA survey results and request the PAME Secretariat in cooperation with IPS, to coordinate with the GPA work on next steps on the consideration of a clearing house mechanism and provide status on this work intersessionally.
- Welcome the update on status, preliminary results and follow-up of the Russian NPA-Arctic Project including implementation of a number of demonstration and pilot projects, the completion of a set of Pre-Investment Studies (PINS), and the development, approval and implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of the Environment in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation.

3. Development of the PAME Work Plan 2011-2013

- PAME Chair and Secretary to prepare a 2nd draft of the PAME 2011-2013 Work Plan, based on the discussions at this Meeting and send out to PAME for comments by end of October.
- PAME representatives to provide comments and indications/confirmations on leads for the continuation on existing PAME activities, proposals for new projects/activities and lead responsibilities by end of November.
- Welcome the offer by Norway to lead the review of the AMSP and prepare a project proposal for the discussion at PAME-I 2011, and invite other countries to co-lead the work with the view to present a proposal to the Arctic Council Ministers in 2011 for their consideration and possible inclusion in the PAME Work Plan 2011-2013. PAME Chair/Secretariat to invite the other working groups to consider the inclusion of this activity in their respective work plans for 2011-2013.
- PAME Chair/Secretariat to revise accordingly and send out prior to the PAME I-2011 meeting for review and agreement on PAME Work Plan 2011-2013 for submission to SAOs and Ministerial meeting.

4. PAME Deliverables for the 2011 Ministerial

- Proposed preliminary list of deliverables to the 2011 Ministerial as per the discussions at the PAME II-2010 are as follows:
 - Phase I Report on the HFO project (Norway/USA)
 - Report on the follow-up of II(C) on the identification of areas of heightened ecological and cultural significance (as prepared by AMAP/CAFF/SDWG).
 - AMSA status report on the follow-up of AMSA recommendations (Canada, Finland and the United States)
 - AOR Phase I Report and AOR Workshop Summary (Canada/Iceland/Norway/Russia/USA)
 - EA Workshop Report (as per workshop planned 28-29 January 2011 (tbc) in Tromsø, Norway) to include a revised Arctic LME map.
 - 2011-2013 PAME Work Plan

5. PAME Administration and Next Meeting

- Invite PAME delegations to include IMO experts in their delegations to the PAME I-2011 meeting.
- The timing and location of the next PAME Meeting no later than mid-February 2011 in order to meet the 30 day deadline for the mid-March SAO meeting. PAME Chair to consult with delegations on the most appropriate time. Location in Norway with details to be provided.

6. 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 developing its work plan and in involvement in projects. EPPR and CAFF participated at the last PAME meeting. EPPR is working on the AMSA follow-up activities on Recommendations II(F) on Oil Spill Prevention and III(C) on Circumpolar Environmental Response Capacity and provided an update on this work at the last PAME II-2010 meeting. AMAP, CAFF and SDWG are working on the AMSA follow-up for Recommendations II(C) on Areas of Heightened Ecological and Cultural Significance: his recommendation.

Representatives from all Arctic Council working groups were invited to participate in the AOR Expert Workshop (13-14 September 2010) Chairs and Secretaries of which representation was from EPPR and AMAP. Furthermore, draft AOR Phase I Report (version 13 Aug) was distributed to all working groups for comments and will get an opportunity for additional inputs/comments on the final draft AOR Phase I Report which will be distributed 10th of January 2011.

The leads on the work on Ecosystem Approach and its associated Group of Experts on Ecosystem-based Assessment and Management is urged to invite AMAP and CAFF secretaries and chairs to take part in the planning of the EA workshop in an effort to coordinate existing and future work on EA to management, and seek balance participation of experts according to themes and geography.

Furthermore, PAME Chair/Secretariat have been requested to invite the other Arctic Council working groups to consider the inclusion of the review of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP 2004) in their respective work plans for 2011-2013 as a matter of full cooperation.