

ATTACHMENT I



Work Plan

**FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ARCTIC
MARINE ENVIRONMENT**

2002 - 2004

August 2002

Preface:

The purpose of the PAME Work Plan is to provide a framework for PAME's work related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment for the period of 2002 – 2004.

PAME's activities are directed towards protection of the Arctic marine environment. PAME consists of National Representatives responsible for its work in their respective countries. Permanent Participants, representing Arctic indigenous groups, also participate in PAME, as well as representatives of several observer countries and interested organisations. PAME provides a unique forum for collaboration on a wide range of Arctic marine environment issues.

The PAME Working Group generally meets twice a year to assess progress and advance its work. PAME is headed by a chair and vice-chair, which rotate among the Arctic countries and is supported by an International Secretariat. PAME reports to the Senior Arctic Officials, and through them, to the Ministers of the Arctic Council that meets every two years.

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INTRODUCTION

The PAME working group addresses policy and non-emergency pollution prevention and control measures related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment from land and sea-based activities.

The PAME Work Plan 2002 – 2004 was developed according to its mandate and agreed priorities and identifies 4 objectives and a set of specific actions, which outline the overall direction for the PAME program.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

Objective I:

Promote an integrated and strategic approach for the protection of the Arctic marine environment

Rationale:

The Arctic marine environment is important to the States of the region and the world due to its rich natural resources, unique socio-cultural aspects, economic potential and its integral role in climatic processes and security.

Climatic and development pressures on the Arctic marine environment from shipping, dumping, offshore oil and gas development and land-based activities are increasing. Cooperation to promote the sustainable development of the Arctic marine environment is essential. The development of a “strategic plan” will consider integrated approaches to land and sea-based sources of marine pollution. New or innovative approaches, including large marine ecosystems and integrated coastal zone management will be considered.

Actions:

Recommendations	Actions	Lead
Arctic Council activities aimed at protection of the marine environment should be guided by a strategic plan that is developed through an open and collaborative process involving all stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ To prepare a strategic plan for the protection of the Arctic marine environment for presentation to the Arctic Council in 2004.➤ The full scope of the strategic plan will be determined as the work proceeds, but should be based on the review and current status of the 1996 PAME recommendations; reports of other Arctic Council Working Groups; the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA); as well as contributions by Permanent Participants, other governments and appropriate NGOs, obtained through e.g. a conference, workshop or by other mechanisms.➤ The strategic plan will consider integrated approaches to land-based and sea-based (shipping, dumping, oil and gas, and seabed	Canada and Iceland as well as a web-based correspondence group.

	mining) sources of marine pollution. New or innovative approaches to sustainable oceans management including large marine ecosystems (LME) and integrated oceans management will be considered.	
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Objective II:

Prevent marine pollution from land-based activities.

Rationale:

Some 80% of the pollution load in the oceans originates from land-based-activities. The Global Programme of Action (GPA) aims to prevent the degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities by assisting States to take actions individually and jointly. Consequently, the initial phase of the Arctic Council’s Regional Programme of Action (RPA) has focused on strategies and measures for the short-term to address urgent pollution problems in the marine environment stemming from land-based activities.

There is a need to periodically assess the adequacy of measures to prevent marine pollution from land-based activities, taking into account socio-economic and environmental conditions. The next phase proposes to expand the RPA to better address land-based activities in the context of sustainable development of the marine and coastal environment in collaboration with AMAP assessments, the Arctic Council Plan of Action (ACAP) projects and the other Arctic Council Working Groups.

Further, the Russian Federation has adopted a national plan of action, “Russian NPA-Arctic”. A Concrete example of the implementation parts of the Russian NPA-Arctic is the GEF project “Russian Federation – Support to the NPA Arctic” which was approved by the GEF Council on 7 Dec. 2001 with UNEP as the implementing agency. The GEF Project is not an Arctic Council project, but is complementary to Arctic Council goals.

Actions:

Recommendations	Actions	Lead
PAME should continue to support the implementation of the Russia NPA-Arctic. The exact nature of future cooperation will be determined on the basis of opportunities identified.	Such support could include making recommendations to SAOs, maintaining an information exchange, serving as an advisory body to preparations for the partnership process, and, if appropriate, providing comments to the co-executing agencies.	ALL
The Arctic countries should continue to work towards the ratification and implementation of existing international and regional instruments and agreements		ALL

PAME should review current threats, new information, and adequacy of existing measures related to land-based activities with a view towards expanding the RPA to additional source categories.	Review by 2004 the land-based activities chapter of the 1996 PAME Report, taking into account AMAP II, interim reports on the predicted environmental and socio-economic effects of climate change, updated national reports and other relevant information. The objective of this review is to make recommendations to the 2004 Ministerial regarding the threats and the adequacy of existing measures, including the possibility of expanding the RPA to address source categories not already covered.	Canada
PAME should continue to implement the RPA	Continue cooperation with the international community (e.g. Regional Seas and GPA), inventorying of technical solutions for sewage treatment in small coastal Arctic communities. The Secretariat to provide regular reports on implementation progress achieved.	Secretariat/ALL Iceland

Objective III:

Prevent Pollution from Maritime Activities

Rationale:

The Norwegian Snap Shot Analysis (Norwegian Maritime Directorate, 2000) estimated waste generated in the Arctic from icebreakers/tugs, cargo ships, and fishing vessels and reported staggering cumulative statistics such as: sludge, 26,882 m³/yr; bilge, 55,446 m³/yr; sewage, 105,842 tons/yr; garbage, 1,607 m³/yr; and solid oil waste, 1,033 tons/yr.

Activities such as oil and gas exploration/production in the Barents Sea, North Atlantic, and Arctic Ocean, cruise ship tourism, and other activities are expected to expand, likely bringing an increase in ship transportation and resulting pollution. Concerns include the potential for increased air pollution and garbage. Emerging issues which may be influenced by the effects of climate change include a potential increase in ship traffic as well as additional risk of introducing exotic species and pathogens in Arctic waters through the discharge of ballast water.

This work will be built on and coordinated with other organizations involved in Arctic marine transportation such as IMO (Arctic Shipping Guidelines), Northern Sea Route (INSROP the International Northern Sea Route Programme, Northern Maritime Corridor), SDWG and the EPPR Working Group on accident related issues and other existing work related to this issue.

Actions:

Recommendations	Actions	Lead
Assess the environmental risks and evaluate the policy framework associated with increased maritime transportation and new and emerging issues on shipping activities.	Update the 1996 analysis based on the results of Norway's Snap Shot analysis and new environmental, economic, and socio-cultural information on issues such as the effect of climate change on Arctic shipping. Considerations may include potential increases in cruise ship traffic and the potential sewage discharge these vessels may generate.	Norway
Develop guidelines on possible impacts from shipping activities.	Develop Arctic Waters Oil Transfer Guidelines.	Canada
Promote (Capacity building,) information exchange and technology transfer related to oil and gas development.	Encourage implementation of the PAME Oil and Gas Guidelines through clearing-house mechanisms, seminars on best management practice, and by other means, as appropriate.	Secretariat
Coordinate with regional organizations on policy and non-emergency pollution prevention and control measures of the Arctic marine environment.	Support results of the Russia-United States-Norway Arctic (RUNARC) oil and gas regulatory regime project that relate to the protection of the marine environment.	ALL
Encourage the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to complete the proposed international convention on ballast water management to prevent the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms.	Review progress and if appropriate provide comments related to Arctic Council objectives.	ALL
Emerging issues which may be influenced by the effects of climate change.	PAME's participation in the process of developing the ACIA Policy Document, which will include ensuring that shipping activities are adequately covered in the ACIA scientific assessment of which the ACIA Policy Document will be built on.	ALL Coordination with CAFF and AMAP

Objective IV:

Improved reporting, coordination and collaboration with other Arctic Council bodies, regional organizations and others interested in marine protection.

Rationale:

PAME is the Arctic Council focal point for information exchange on Arctic marine protection issues and It is important to engage and provide an opportunity for Permanent Participants, other governments and appropriate NGOs in the sustainable development of the Arctic marine environment.

Actions:

Recommendation	Actions	Lead
Improve its reporting function to the SAO's.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Develop a reporting procedure and format.➤ Website/Clearing House update.➤ Update the Communication Strategy.➤ Information exchange with UNEP Regional Seas Programme regions, and other regional programs.	Secretariat
Collaboration with Other Working Groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Promote effective and efficient collaboration with all subsidiary bodies of the Arctic Council.	Secretariat