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ARCTIC SHIPPING BEST PRACTICE INFORMATION FORUM



**5th ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
16-18 NOVEMBER 2021**

Meeting theme: The Polar Code - Nearly Five Years On

PAME

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

Press Release 18 November 2021

Spotlight on safe and environmentally sound Arctic shipping with record attendance at the 5th annual meeting of the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum

Today, the Arctic Council's [Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum](#) concluded its fifth annual meeting. Over 180 registrants representing nearly 90 different entities and organizations participated in the three-day meeting. The theme this year was ***The Polar Code: Nearly Five Years On***, reflecting both the length of time that the International Maritime Organization's [International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters \(Polar Code\)](#) has been in force and the experience gained in implementing it during that time.

In opening the meeting, Dr. Vitaly Klyuev, Director of the Department of the State Policy for Maritime and Inland Waterways Transport, Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation, emphasized that *"the Forum contributes to the consistent and uniform implementation of the Polar Code by all parties which in turn is a prerequisite for safe and environmentally sound shipping in the Arctic."*

Addressing the Forum, Dr. Heike Deggim, the International Maritime Organization's Director of Maritime Safety, said: *"We greatly value the opportunity to participate in this Forum given its relevance for the ongoing polar work in IMO. I would like to express my gratitude to the organizers of the Forum who have worked hard to establish and run the Web Portal, providing vital information, in quite a leading and unique way, which sets an example for others, to enhance and facilitate IMO's regulatory work."*

Run by the Arctic Council's Working Group on the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment ([PAME](#)), the Forum was established in 2017 by the eight Arctic States (Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States) to raise awareness and promote the effective implementation of the Polar Code. The Forum also draws on experience from Antarctica, with representation from that polar region.

The Forum advances awareness and effective implementation of the Polar Code in several ways, primarily through its annual meeting and a dedicated Web Portal - accessible at www.arcticshippingforum.is - that it maintains and regularly upgrades with authoritative information from intergovernmental bodies and widely recognized industry, non-governmental, indigenous, and academic organizations, pertaining to each and every provision of the Polar Code. This information is of vital interest to those involved in safe and environmentally sound Arctic shipping, including shipowners and operators, regulators, classification societies, marine insurers, indigenous and local communities, amongst others. Forum Participants heard how usage of the Web portal increased by 20.6 % in the past year despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Presentations by more than 25 experts at the meeting addressed a wide range of topics, including ongoing efforts to advance harmonized interpretations of the Polar Code, reports on progress made in providing search and rescue and emergency marine response, updates on ice navigation and ice pilotage services, and the latest decision support and communication tools available to facilitate safe and environmentally sound navigation and voyage planning in the Arctic. Highlights were the live presentation from the bridge of the Swedish Icebreaker *Oden* in which the Ship's Master and its Chief Officer described operating conditions in the High North as far as the North Pole, and a presentation

by Russia's Northern Sea Route Administration highlighting the significant increase in tonnage using the route.

Russia's Sergey Tolmachev, the Forum Chair and Counsellor, Mission of the Russian Federation to the IMO said: *"Over the years, the Forum and its Web portal have become an excellent platform for sharing expertise and knowledge on the Polar Code, and together we will be able to make it even more useful for everyone interested in Arctic shipping."*

The meeting took place virtually from 16-18 November. For further information about the Forum's 5th Meeting, the Agenda, its Participants, and presentations at the meeting, please visit the [5th Annual Meeting webpage](#).

ENDS

For information about the Forum's Web-portal statistics, see Michael Kingston, Special Advisor to PAME's [presentation](#).

For any other questions, please contact Soffía Guðmundsdóttir, the PAME Executive Secretary, at pame@pame.is.

Press Release in Electronic Format on PAME Website. Click [here](#).

About the Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum

For detailed information please see this [link](#).

About the Arctic Council

The Arctic Council is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic Indigenous peoples and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic. It was formally established in 1996.

The members of the Arctic Council are the [eight Arctic States](#) and the [six Indigenous Permanent Participant organizations](#). There are [six Working Groups](#) within the Arctic Council, each of which focuses on a particular set of issues for the Arctic Council. In addition, the Arctic Council has more than [35 Observer States and organizations](#).

About PAME

[PAME](#) is one of six Arctic Council Working Groups. PAME is the focal point of the Arctic Council's activities related to the protection and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment and provides a unique forum for collaboration on a wide range of activities in this regard.

About the IMO Polar Code

[The Polar Code](#) is a mandatory international framework that increases the safety of ship operations and mitigates the impact on the people and the vulnerable environment in Polar waters. The Polar Code came into force in January 2017.

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DAY 1: 16 NOVEMBER**1****OPENING SESSION****14.00****Welcome & Opening Remarks - Russian Federation**

Dr. Vitaly Klyuev (Director, Department of the State Policy for Maritime and Inland Waterways Transport, Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation) & Mr. Sergey Tolmachev (Forum Chair)

14.05**Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum Developments**

Mr. Peter Oppenheimer and Mr. Drummond Fraser (Co-chairs of PAME's Shipping Expert Group)

14.10**Forum Web-Portal Update (www.arcticshippingforum.is)**

Mr. Michael Kingston (Michael Kingston Associates, Special Advisor to PAME)

14.20**Shipping in the Arctic Polar Code Area: Recent Developments**

Mr. Hjalti Hreinsson (PAME Secretariat)

14.30**Update from the IMO**

Dr. Heike Deggim (Director, Maritime Safety Division, IMO)

14.45**Discussion****2****SUPPORTING AWARENESS, INTERPRETATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLAR CODE****15.00****Interpretation of the Polar Code: Status of the PAME Project**

Ms. Turid Stemre (Director IMO Affairs, Norwegian Maritime Authority)

15.15**Organization of Navigation in the Water Area of the Northern Sea Route, Including the Implementation of the Polar Code**

Mr. Nikolay Monko (Acting Head of the Northern Sea Route Administration, the Russian Federation)

15.30**Insurers and the Arctic**

Mr. Neil Roberts (Head of Marine and Aviation, Lloyd's Market Association)

15.45**Discussion***HEALTH BREAK*

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SEARCH AND RESCUE & EMERGENCY MARINE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN THE ARCTIC

16.00

Providing Search and Rescue Services in the Arctic Region

Mr. Yury Malyshev (Deputy Head, Marine Rescue Coordination Center of the Marine Rescue Service of the Russian Federation)

16.15

The Arctic Council's Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response Working Group (EPPR) and the role of EPPR's Search and Rescue Expert Group

Mr. Benjamin Strong (Chair of EPPR Search and Rescue Expert Group)

16.30

Arctic Guardian Exercise in Search and Rescue and Marine Environmental Response in the Arctic

Mr. Steve Thompson (Chair, Combined Operations Working Group - Arctic Coast Guard Forum)

16.45

Discussion & Closing of Day 1

17.00

END OF DAY 1

DAY 2: 17 NOVEMBER

14.00

Opening of the Meeting and Day 1 Recap

Mr. Sergey Tolmachev (Forum Chair)

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ICE NAVIGATION AND ICE PILOTAGE IN THE ARCTIC

14.05

Ice Pilotage in the Russian Arctic

Capt. Vasily Ilyin (Deputy Director for Safety of Navigation of the Russian Federation Federal State Unitary Enterprise - 'Rosmorport', Arkhangelsk Branch)

14.20

Ice Navigation and Pilotage in the Arctic

Capt. Duke Snider (CEO of Martech Polar)

14.35

Live from the Bridge of the Swedish Icebreaker ODEN

Capt. Mattias Pettersson (Master, Icebreaker *Oden*), Mats Wisén (Chief Officer)

14.50

Discussion

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ARCTIC VOYAGE PLANNING

15.00

Navigation and Information Support of Voyage Planning in the Northern Sea Route: the Case of a Conventional Icebreaker of FSUE "Rosmorport"

Mr. Nikolay Zelenkov (Deputy Director for Maritime Safety of the Russian Federation Federal State Unitary Enterprise "Rosmorport", Murmansk Branch)

15.15

Voyage Planning: Forum of Arctic Research Operators (FARO), The Polar Code, Logistics & Safety

Dr. Jennifer L. Mercer (Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation (USA) & Chair, Forum of Arctic Research Operators (FARO)) & Dr. Åsa Lindgren (Head of Department for the Ship-Based Research Support, Swedish Polar Research Secretariat)

15.30

Considerations when Planning for Multi-Ship Ice Management Operations in Polar Waters

Mr. Åke Rohlen (Chairman of Arctic Marine Solutions)

15.45

Discussion

HEALTH BREAK

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NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY SERVICE PROVIDERS

16.00

Communications in the Arctic Region

Mr. Kyle Hurst (Director Maritime Safety and Security Services, IRIDIUM)

16.15

Collaboration in Arctic Hydrography for Maritime Safety and the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

Dr. Geneviève Béchard (Chair of the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission, Hydrographer General of Canada and Director General for the Canadian Hydrographic Service); Collaborations in Arctic Hydrography to Maritime Safety and the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment)

16.30

Sea Ice Information: Charts, Data Products, and Forecasts

Ms. Florence Fetterer (U.S. National Snow & Ice Data Center Liaison to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

16.45

Discussion & Closing of Day 2

END OF DAY 2

DAY 3: 18 NOVEMBER

14.00

Opening of the Meeting, Day 2 Recap and Virtual Group Photo

Mr. Sergey Tolmachev (Forum Chair)

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THE HUMAN ELEMENT: TRAINING FOR ARCTIC SHIPPING

14.05

Ice Training

Mr. Jarkko Toivola (Chief Maritime Specialist, Director, Waterways, Head of Maritime Unit Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency)

14.20

IMO Training Regarding Polar Shipping

Mr. Milton Baron-Perico (Technical Officer, Maritime Safety Division, IMO)

14.35

Development of an Inventory of Ice Training Institutes and Training Courses

Mr. Hervé Baudu (Senior Lecturer in Nautical Science, French Maritime Academy)

14.50

Training of Personnel and Implementation of Research Projects for Arctic Shipping: Admiral Makarov University Perspective

Mr. Sergey Aysinov (Director of Professional Development Programmes Institute of Admiral Makarov State University of Maritime and Inland Shipping, Russian Federation)

15.05

Discussion

HEALTH BREAK

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FORUM PARTICIPANTS UPDATE

15.25

Perspectives on Scope and Implementation of the Polar Code

Mr. Jan Dusik (Sustainable Development Lead, WWF Arctic Programme) & Dr. Sian Prior (Shipping Advisor, Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition)

15.40

Transmitting Current, Relevant Safety and Environmental Information to Vessels Operating in Arctic Waters

Capt. Ed Page (Executive Director, Marine Exchange of Alaska)

15.55

Discussion

16.05

Status Update

Mr. Rob Hindley (Head of Machinery & Structural Design, Aker Arctic) &
Mr. James Bond (Director, Polar Research and Ice Class Ships, American Bureau of Shipping)

16.20

Discussion

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CLOSING SESSION

16.30

Forum Developments, Next Steps and Discussion

Mr. Peter Oppenheimer and Mr. Drummond Fraser (Co-chairs of PAME's Shipping Expert Group)

16.55

Closing Remarks

Mr. Sergey Tolmachev (Forum Chair)

17.00

END OF MEETING