



February 19, 2013

To: The Chairman of the SAOs and the Arctic Council SAOs
Cc: PAME National Representatives, Permanent Participants
Subject: Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) final draft report (version 19th of Feb 2013)

The AOR is a multi-phased project that is reviewing global and regional measures that are in place for the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment, and is analyzing options for strengthening the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment. The overall objective of the AOR is to provide guidance to Arctic Council Ministers as a means to support strong governance in the Arctic through a cooperative, coordinated and integrated approach to the management of activities in the Arctic marine environment.

The final draft AOR Report contains the following chapters, of which seven are “sectoral” in nature:

Executive Summary

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Peoples and Cultures

Chapter 3: Arctic Marine Operations and Shipping

Chapter 4: Marine Living Resources

Chapter 5: Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas

Chapter 6: Arctic Marine Pollution

Chapter 7: Ecosystem-based Management in the Arctic

Chapter 8: Arctic Marine Science

Chapter 9: Conclusions and Recommendations

Each of the sectoral chapters is predominantly finalized, with only a few textual edits or issues to be resolved with the exception of *Chapter 4 on Marine Living Resources*. A few days prior to the PAME I-2013 meeting (12-14 February, 2013), Norway tabled substantive suggested changes to *Part A on Fishery Resources*. Based on the extent of these suggested changes countries will need an additional month to review and resolve.

Chapter 9 on Conclusions and Recommendations will contain a select list of proposed recommendations that will be drawn from the “opportunities for cooperative action” that are at the end of each of the sectoral chapters. Good progress was made at the recent PAME meeting where delegates considered over 65 opportunities and suggested approximately 25 as candidate recommendations. The PAME review process will now focus on further developing and prioritizing those opportunities that will become the AOR recommendations. The intention is to have no more than 15 recommendations representing the top priorities which are considered important actions in the face of the dynamic changes occurring in the Arctic marine environment. The final selected recommendations will be listed in Chapter 9 and within the Executive Summary.

The Executive Summary will be written as soon as the recommendations have been selected and outstanding issues, in particular Part A of Chapter 4, are resolved.

Based on the above and the commitments and cooperative spirit of the PAME HoDs and PPs in this process, SAOs are asked to consider the attached AOR final draft report, noting that there will be some changes, with

the most substantive being the fishery section of Chapter 4, a short list of recommendations provided in Chapter 9, and the Executive Summary.

SAOs Decision requested: Approval of the final draft AOR Report, subject to final agreement on the AOR Recommendations and Chapter 4, Part A on Fishery Resources, and overall editing of the report.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the AOR lead Countries, Canada, Iceland, Norway, Russia and the United States

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Sauvé', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Renée Sauvé

Canadian HoD to PAME and AOR co-lead - Email: Renee.Sauve@dfo-mpo.gc.ca