



PROGRESS REPORT TO SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS

12-13 April 2007

Tromsø, Norway

1. Salekhard Declaration - PAME

Recognize the development of safe and environmentally secure marine transportation and subsea pipeline development in the Arctic Region as a priority issue closely linked to climate change, technological advance and resource use, which will have economic, social and environmental impact in the Arctic,

Take note of the progress report on the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) and encourage the participating Arctic States and Permanent Participants to provide necessary information so that the full AMSA report, including traditional uses of the offshore by Arctic Indigenous peoples, can be delivered to the Sixth Ministerial Meeting in 2008,

Request PAME to review, update and expand the Regional Program of Actions, where necessary, and possibly restructure it to allow for more rapid response to developments and opportunities,

Recognize the importance of the National Programs of Actions as components of the RPA implementation phase, and note the progress in the implementation of the Russian NPA-Arctic.

2. Follow-up of the Salekhard Declaration

PAME held its working group meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark 6-7 March 2007 and below is a summary of developments since the last SAO meeting.

PAME's objectives are based on Ministerial mandates as identified in PAME's Work Plan 2006-2008 accompanied by a set of specific actions which have all been assigned a lead country(ies) responsibility.

PAME Chair and Secretary prepared a comparison of PAME's Work Plan, work plans of other Arctic Council Working Groups and the priorities of the Norwegian Chairmanship for the purpose of transparency and to assess the need for collaboration on various Arctic Council projects. It is further noted that the priorities of the Norwegian Chairmanship, in particular the integrated resource management and climate change themes, with its apparent ocean focus places a great importance and emphasis to the PAME mandate and work plan.

The climate change issues as per the Salekhard Declaration are addressed within all PAME projects. The participation of indigenous and other residents in PAME projects, in particular the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA), is fully recognized.

The joint PAME/SDWG Integrated Ocean Management (IOM) Project led by Norway is not referred to in the current PAME Work Plan as it was first introduced at the 2006 Ministerial meeting. PAME notes its relevance to the PAME/LME Project.

The release of the Oil and Gas Assessment in 2007 and its possible application and inputs to relevant PAME projects (i.e. AMSA and LME) is fully recognized by PAME.

Overall, the PAME Working Group activities continue to be aimed at implementation of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP).

3. Summary of Progress on PAME Projects

Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA)

Preparations of AMSA are underway by the lead countries, Canada, Finland and USA. The AMSA chapter outline has been drafted in the spirit of past Arctic Council Assessments as follows: (1) Introduction; (2) Geography and History of Arctic Marine Use; (3) Current (2004) Levels of Arctic Marine Use; (4) Historical & Current Indigenous Arctic Ocean Use; (5) Scenarios of Future Arctic Ocean Marine Activity ~ 2020 & 2050; (6) Environmental Impacts of Current & Future Marine Activity; (7) Social and Economic Impacts of Current & Future Marine Activity; (8) Current Arctic Marine Infrastructure & Anticipated Needs; (9) Findings of the Assessment, in addition to Appendices, Research Agenda.

Lead/co-lead authors have been established for Chapters 2 (Canada/USA), 3 (Canada), 4 (USA/Henry Huntington) and 5 (USA/Lawson Brigham). There is a need to nominate lead/co-lead author(s) for the other Chapters in addition to the need to nominate a group of contributing experts and Permanent Participants. Countries have been urged to explore ways to assist and support the assessment, financially and/or in the form of providing experts.

Russia has offered to assist in the preparations of Chapters 2, 6 and 8. Iceland has offered to assist in the preparations of Chapters 6, 7 and 8. Norway, Denmark and Finland are committed to assist in the preparations of the AMSA Chapters and will give this a further consideration as to availability of expert(s) and associated resources.

2004 baseline shipping activity data collection is underway and all Arctic states are participating. Those countries that have not yet submitted marine shipping data to the AMSA team are urged to do so as soon as possible. Norway will provide their marine shipping data to the AMSA team by Easter of 2007.

Evaluation and Update of the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines

The United States as the lead country in Evaluation and Update of the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines (2002) has proposed that countries submit their views on the adequacy of the guidelines, areas they see in need of discussion, or the general need for updating by May 31, 2007. This decision will be considered within the context of available resources and the outcome of the AMAP Oil and Gas Assessment.

If it is deemed necessary, a follow-up workshop will be held in the United States in late 2007 to begin the process for updating the Guidelines. Depending on the scope of revisions, work may continue via an internet-writing group and side groups during regular PAME meetings with a possible delivery date of mid to late 2008.

Port Reception Facilities

Norway as the lead country on the assessment of existing measures for port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues (PRF-Norway) have informed PAME of an IMO website with more advanced information on PRFs the this assessment covers. The link to the IMO PRF information is: www.imo.org (select the GISIS tab).

Based on this and the lead country (Norway) recommendations, PAME has decided that the continuation of this work as identified in the PAME Work Plan 2006-2008 will not be undertaken during the period of 2006-2008 but may be revisited depending on the outcome of AMSA.

Update of the Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA)

Canada and Iceland as the lead countries in updating the Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA) have developed and distributed to PAME a draft Work Plan for this update. This work plan will be further revised based on comments from PAME representatives. A point of contact from each country was requested by 21 March 2007.

Iceland has offered to host a RPA-related workshop in parallel with next PAME meeting (September 2007). The expected timeline is to have a product ready for PAME approval at the spring 2008 meeting, and then seek Ministerial approval at their Fall 2008/Spring 2009 meeting.

Ecosystem Approach (Large Marine Ecosystems)

The United States is the lead on ecosystem approach. The current status is that a working map of 17 Arctic Large Marine Ecosystems has been agreed upon and PAME/LME experts group has been established with experts from all Arctic Council countries. This expert group will take steps to contribute their expertise and products to the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment and the updating of the RPA projects.

Discussions have been initiated with GEF for a project to be conducted jointly by the US and the Russian Federation on the West Bering Sea LME project. Discussions with Norwegian, Russian and Canadian members of the PAME-LME Working Group will also continue to consider the Barents Sea LME and the Beaufort Sea LME as possible demonstration projects.

Integrated Oceans Management (IOM) Project (Norway)

Norway is the lead country on the Implementation of Integrated, Ecosystem-based oceans Management in the Arctic Project (IOM Project). This project will be a joint PAME/SDWG effort and is based on one of the priorities of the Norwegian chairmanship i.e. integrated oceans management, and the mandate given on this issue at the 2006 Salekhard Ministerial meeting.

The objective of this Project is to examine the concepts and practices the Arctic countries have developed for implementation of integrated oceans management and the ecosystem-based approach. Thus it is important the Project be transparent to avoid overlaps and duplication of efforts with particularly the PAME/LME work.

PAME approval of the IOM draft project proposal (2 March 2007 version) is subject to the changes as discussed and agreed to at the last PAME meeting. Norway has agreed to add the following to the draft project proposal:

- The project will be managed jointly by PAME and SDWG. Norway will serve as the project lead country. In this capacity, Norway will provide overall project leadership and coordination of a contact group of individuals identified by countries.
- PAME and SDWG will review and approve the project documents including the project proposal, a process timetable, report outline, draft reports and the final report.

The Russian National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Anthropogenic Pollution in the Arctic Region of the Russian Federation (Russian NPA-Arctic):

Russia has reported to PAME on the progress of the GEF/Russian NPA-Arctic Project "The Russian Federation: Support to the National Programme of Action on the Protection of Arctic Marine Environment". This is consistent with the Ministerial Declarations of Iqaluit 1998, Barrow 2000, Inari 2002, Reykjavik 2004 and Salekhard 2006.

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 forwarding its work plan with their representation present at PAME meetings. Representatives from CAFF, EPPR and SDWG participated at the last PAME meeting 6-7 March 2007.

4. Expected Deliverables to the Next Ministerial Meeting

- Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) final report.
- Updated version of the Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA)
- Status report on the Update of the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines (2002)
- Status report on the progress on the LME approach as per PAME Work Plan, Objective II, Action 1
- Joint PAME/SDWG Integrated Oceans Management (IOM) Project

5. Direction from SAOs

There is an urgent need to nominate lead/co-lead author(s) for AMSA Chapters in addition to the need to nominate a group of contributing experts and Permanent Participants. Thus countries are urged to explore ways to assist and support the assessment, financially and/or in the form of providing experts.