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PROGRESS REPORT

MEETING OF SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

MARCH 16-17 2016

**PROTECTION OF THE ARCTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT (PAME)
WORKING GROUP OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL**

PAME

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

A Working Group of the Arctic Council



PAME Progress Report

Meeting of Senior Arctic Officials 16-17 March, 2016
Fairbanks, Alaska

1 Introduction: Response to Arctic Council priorities and potential new projects under consideration

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 Arctic Council Ministerial Declarations and SAO Reports to Ministers; implementation and follow-up on previously approved projects of relevance to PAME's mandate; and its 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.

PAME's work reflects the priorities as agreed to by the 2015 Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting and of relevance to PAME's mandate. Furthermore, PAME contributes to the U.S. Chairmanship Program, in particular the theme on *Arctic Ocean Safety, Security and Stewardship* and follows the work of the Arctic Council Task Force on Scientific Cooperation and the Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation.

2 Summary of progress on PAME activities

PAME's first biennial meeting of 2016 was held in Stockholm, Sweden from 1-3 February with PAME's individual expert group pre-meetings held on Sunday 31 January.

Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs):

PAME and CAFF Secretariats are jointly developing an *inventory and mapping of existing Arctic MPAs*. All member states have submitted MPA datasets and the 1st draft maps have been developed. Next steps include the development of a short and concise visual document directed towards policy and decision makers that indicate status and trends regarding marine protected areas in the circumpolar Arctic (Building upon CAFF's protected Area indicator for the Arctic), and review and final approval to release the MPA datasets.

The USA-led "*Desktop study on area-based conservation measures and its linkages to categories of Arctic marine biodiversity 'Toolbox'*" will convene following two workshops in support of this project:

- ✓ The 1st connectivity workshop to identify and vet models for migratory species and larval dispersal, be held 22-23 September 2016 on the east coast of the USA.

- ✓ The 2nd connectivity workshop integrating 1st workshop models with climate change and reviewing management tools for protecting connectivity, be held in the October/November 2016 timeframe.

PAME will collaborate closely with CAFF in the MPA activities and workshops.

Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment Follow-up Activities and Projects:

PAME discussed a range of AMSA follow-up activities addressing such issues as collaboration with organizations to explore issues of common interests, safety at Arctic seas, indigenous marine resource use, ship traffic in the high seas areas, ship traffic data, alien and aquatic invasive species, impacts on marine mammals, reducing air emissions, infrastructure deficit and sustainable tourism in the Arctic.

Input from other Arctic Council Working Groups will be sought on the paper titled *“Closer Cooperation and Collaboration between PAME and the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)”* Taking into account any input received, the USA will submit to PAME II-2016 a proposed draft project plan that sets forth issues of common interest on which IALA, PAME and, if requested, other Arctic Council working groups, can collaborate to advance safe and environmentally sound Arctic shipping.

Final version of the HFO Phase III(a) paper titled *“Heavy Fuel Oil releases from Shipping in the Arctic”* (USA lead) and final HFO Phase III(b) project report on *“Possible Hazards for Engines and Fuel Systems Using Heavy Fuel Oil in Cold Climates”* (Norway lead) will be submitted to PAME II-2016.

PAME members have been invited to submit proposals for mitigating the risks associated with the use and carriage of HFO by vessels in the Arctic. Based on this, a paper will be developed that proposes recommendations to mitigate these risks.

PAME continues to follow-up work within IMO and has invited the USA and Canada to submit

a brief report on developments at the IMO with respect to a proposed Phase II of the Polar Code and PAME invited Norway to submit a brief update on IMO’s work with respect to black carbon to the Shipping Expert Group at PAME II-2016.

PAME supports continued work of the Regional Reception Facilities (RRF) Expert Group (EG) in consideration of the group’s progress report to PAME I-2016, and encourages input into the ongoing work of the RRF-EG from all Arctic States, Permanent Participants and Observers.

The USA will make a presentation at PAME II-2016 to the Shipping Expert Group on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) planning, including its potential application to Arctic marine transportation activities. PAME also invites the USA to submit a proposal for a pilot project that would apply HACCP to Arctic marine transportation activities.

PAME has partnered with CAFF in its project to develop a strategy to prevent the introduction of alien and aquatic invasive species into Arctic ecosystems (Invasive Species Project) (refer to a separate PAME/CAFF joint memo on this issue).

PAME approved the Arctic Shipping Traffic project plan as developed by the Arctic shipping Traffic Data (ASTD) expert group subject to circulation and inputs from other Arctic Council working groups and subsidiary bodies. The ASTD expert group will convene a virtual briefing and Q&A session on the ASTD project for other interested AC working groups and subsidiary bodies.

The ASTD expert group will start the Phase II, including the development of a draft systems design document taking into account any intercessional input obtained from PAME’s Shipping Expert Group and other Arctic Council working groups and subsidiary bodies. Preparing a draft data-sharing document and a draft cost-sharing document is also part of Phase II of the ASTD project.

The USA will undertake an informal review of the 1st World Ocean Assessment, giving particular consideration to those chapters relating to shipping in the Arctic and current

and proposed PAME work on shipping-related issues, and provide a report to the Shipping Expert Group.

To facilitate enhanced communication and information exchange between PAME and EPPR on shipping-related work, PAME will arrange one or more conference calls, as necessary, with the Chairs and interested Heads of Delegation of PAME and EPPR. The PAME Shipping Expert Group Co-Chairs will also invite EPPR member government participation in its monthly conference calls.

The PAME I-2016 meeting received presentations from the International Whaling Commission's (IWC) Arctic relevant programs and activities and on the role of marine insurance in support of the Polar Code.

PAME decided to invite a representative of the Arctic Coast Guard Forum and a representative of the Arctic Economic Council's Working Group on Maritime Transportation to make presentations at PAME II-2016 as a means of communication and outreach with respect to addressing issues of common interest between the two groups.

PAME has started work on prioritizing its shipping related activities. Norway, Finland and Iceland will lead the preparations of the 4th AMSA Implementation Progress Report for the period 2015-2017.

Follow up on the 2009 Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines and other relevant oil and gas activities

The *Meaningful Engagement of Arctic Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities project (MEMA)* is progressing according to plan and the project team continues to explore collaboration with SDWG. The MEMA project team. Next steps include analyzes of the information in the database and prepare a narrative summary of the analysis and planning of a workshop on Best Practices for engagement to be held on the 17th of September in conjunction with PAME II-2016, and draft a workshop summary.

A concept paper will be developed on updating *non-emergency operating practices*

and environmental monitoring sections of the AOOGG (2009). Furthermore, the Oil and Gas Contact Group will develop an implementation Tracking Matrix for the recommendations of the 2014 "*Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines Systems Safety Management and Safety Culture Report: Avoiding Major Disasters in Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Operations*", to be considered for adoption at the PAME II 2016 meeting.

Ecosystem Approach to Management:

The progress report on the work of the Ecosystem Approach expert group (EA-EG) described work over the last 6 months noting the planning of the international conference on status of implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to management in the Arctic, to be held in Fairbanks, Alaska, 23-25 August 2016. A steering group has been established and an announcement and a more detailed program will be forthcoming. Arctic Member States, Permanent Participants and others are invited to submit examples of implementation of EA to the steering committee via the PAME Secretariat.

ICES/PAME Working Group on Integrated Ecosystem Assessment for the Central Arctic Ocean (WGICA) has been established and will have as one of the items of work to consider vulnerability of the ecosystem of the Central Arctic Ocean in relation to climate change and Arctic shipping, and welcomes progress report on that work at future meetings. The WGICA will meet at the ICES headquarters in Copenhagen, 24-26 May 2016. It is expected that AMAP and CAFF will join as co-sponsors of WGICA from 2017.

The report on "*Status of Setting Ecological Objectives in the Arctic*" is still under development and the aim is to finalize this work prior to the 2017 Ministerial meeting.

Follow-up/Implementation of the AMSP 2015-2025

PAME approved the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) communication Plan and the AMSP Implementation Plan, including the AMSP implementation tracking table, and

encourages close involvement of other Arctic Council working groups and subsidiary bodies in reporting progress on its strategic actions and note the usefulness of using this in developing respective work plan items and contributing to collaboration on cross-cutting issues, as relevant.

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Deliverables for the next Ministerial

The following list is very preliminary:

- ✓ Toolbox on area-based conservation measures and its linkages to categories of Arctic marine biodiversity.
- ✓ 4th AMSA Implementation Progress Report for the period 2015-2017.
- ✓ Two reports on the HFO Phase III project:
 - HFO Phase III(a): Heavy Fuel Oil releases from Shipping in the Arctic.
 - HFO Phase III(b): Possible Hazards for Engines and Fuels Systems Using Heavy Fuel Oil in Cold Climates.
- ✓ Possible follow-up activities based on the Arctic Marine Tourism Project (AMTP 2015).
- ✓ Reporting (interim/final) on the Regional Reception Facilities plan.
- ✓ 1st reporting on progress/implementation of the 2015-2025 Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP).
- ✓ Final report on the Meaningful Engagement of Arctic Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities (MEMA).
- ✓ Progress Report on the Ecosystem Approach work for the period 2015-2017 and a report on “Status of Setting Ecological Objectives in the Arctic”.
- ✓ PAME Summary Report of 2015-2017 Activities.
- ✓ 2017-2019 PAME Work Plan.

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Administration and next meeting(s)

PAME will convene its next meeting in Portland, Maine from 19-21 September 2016 with September 18 set aside for PAME pre-meetings and the MEMA workshop on September 17. PAME II-2016 meeting is expected to be followed by a 2-day meeting of the TFAMC from Thu-Fri.

NEXT MEETINGS

- *PAME I 2016: 1-3 February (Stockholm, Sweden)*
- *SAO meeting: 15-17 March (Fairbanks, Alaska)*
- *ICES/PAME Working Group meeting: 24-26 May (Copenhagen, Denmark)*
- *EA Conference: 23-25 August (Fairbanks, Alaska)*
- *MEMA Workshop: 17 September (Maine, USA)*
- *PAME II 2016 meeting: 19-21 September (Maine, USA)*
- *MPA 1st Workshop: 22-23 September (East coast, USA)*
- *SAO Meeting: 4-6 October (Maine, USA)*
- *MPA 2nd Workshop: October/November*

5 Collaboration with other working groups/other organizations

PAME cooperates actively with the other Arctic Council Working Groups in an effort to contribute to improved efficiency and effectiveness of the Arctic Council, and the participation of indigenous peoples and other Arctic residents is fully recognized.

- ✓ PAME recognizes the importance of collaborating with EPPR in the oil and gas activities and provides input to the TOPP matrix, recognizing that PAMEs mandate covers non-emergency operating practices and environmental monitoring.
- ✓ PAME cooperates with CAFF, in the MPA activities and workshops and in the project to develop a strategy to prevent the introduction of alien and aquatic invasive species into Arctic ecosystems (Invasive Species Project as per Joint PAME/CAFF memo on this subject).
- ✓ PAME recognizes the value and potential benefits of the Arctic Shipping Traffic Data (ASTD) project which is likely to have significant benefits for other Arctic Council working groups and subsidiary bodies and has invited them to provide inputs and convened a virtual briefing and Q&A session on the ASTD project.
- ✓ PAME cooperates with AMAP and CAFF through the joint Ecosystem Approach expert group.
- ✓ PAME continues to explore collaboration with SDWG in the MEMA project.
- ✓ PAME collaborates and communicates with all Arctic Council working groups on the development of the 1st progress/implementation reporting of the AMSP.

PAME EXPERT GROUPS

- ✓ *Shipping Expert Group*
- ✓ *Ship Traffic Data Expert Group*
- ✓ *Oil & Gas contact group*
- ✓ *Regional Reception Facilities Expert group*
- ✓ *Marine Protected Areas Project Group*
- ✓ *Ecosystem Approach to Management Expert Group*



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