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EPPR Working Group Report to SAOs, November 2018

Rovaniemi

Introduction

EPPR held its first meeting of 2018 in Helsinki, Finland on June 5-7. 65 participants attended representing the Arctic States, one Permanent Participant (AIA), one Working Group (PAME), four observer states (Italy, Singapore, South Korea and Spain), four observer organizations (IFRC, UArctic, WMO, and WWF) and two invited guests (International Atomic Energy Agency and the EU GRACE project). The meeting focused on follow-up activities from the last EPPR meeting in Malmö, reviewing the progress and planning of activities according to the approved 2017-2019 workplan. EPPR Heads of Delegation met in advance of the plenary session. SAO Chair Aleksis Härkönen welcomed delegates to Helsinki. The relevant sections of the AmaroK were updated after the meeting.

Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response (MOSPA Agreement)

On June 5, 2018, the MER EG met in Helsinki to discuss 1) follow-up from the 2018 MOSPA Exercise (March Oulu), 2) receive updates on relevant projects and 3) country specific initiative, and 4) map out the way head until EPPR II 2018. The MOSPA TTX planning framework/cycle was reviewed, noting that Iceland plans to hold the next MOSPA exercise during its 2019-2021 Chairmanship. Exercises can be designed as a unique event or held in coordination with another exercise and can be discussion-based and/or operational.

The 2018 MOSPA TTX was led by Finland, and focused on the following elements: 1) comparison of the communication and notification protocols under the Copenhagen and MOSPA Agreements, 2) maximizing the use of the EPPR website, SharePoint and social media channels, 3) the request for assistance process and use of the Pan-Arctic Spill Response Equipment Database, 4) liaisons, 5) Circumpolar Response Viability Analysis (COSRVA), and 6) capitalizing on the ACGF presence at the Conference. Deliverables from the 2018 MOSPA TTX include the After-Action Report, development of a Copenhagen Agreement to MOSPA flow chart, development of a liaisons guidance library, development of a lessons learned/best practices library, approval of the next phase of the Pan-Arctic Spill Response Equipment Database, and approval of the next phase of the COSRVA.

Upcoming work includes, development of exercise planning guidance, next steps of the Pan-Arctic Spill Response Equipment Database, next steps of the COSRVA, and administrative updates to the Operational Guidelines. The next meeting of the MER EG will take place via teleconference in November 2018.

SAR Agreement

On June 5, 2018, the Search and Rescue Expert Group (SAR EG) had a full day meeting to discuss 1) country updates, 2) next steps towards a SAR Asset Database, 3) coordination/information sharing with the Arctic Coast Guard Forum (ACGF) and 4) crosswalk to identify which clauses of the Arctic SAR

Agreement are within the SAR EG's responsibility and which of them could be areas of collaboration with ACGF or other Arctic Council WGs.

Cross-Cutting activities

- EPPR participated in meetings of the TFICA, EGBCM and has agreed that representation at future meetings would be beneficial. EPPR has continued to follow and provide input to the TFAMC.
- EPPR worked together with the SDWG Chair and other WGs on input to the UNHLPF session in New York in July 2018.
- EPPR Chair and Executive Secretary participated in the Arctic Resilience Forum, the Arctic Biodiversity Congress, the Arctic Environment Ministers Meeting and the Arctic Circle.
- EPPR will continue to work with PAME on the joint PAME/EPPR project titled the Compendium of Arctic Shipping Accidents (CASA).
- EPPR and PAME continue to work together on follow-up to the Framework Plan on Oil Pollution Prevention (FPOPP). Projects developed in support of addressing gaps will be approved by EPPR, or other WGs, as appropriate. EPPR agreed to move develop a google form to capture information for the status of implementation report of the FPOPP for the 2019 Ministerial meeting.

Current projects

ARCSAFE: EPPR approved Sweden and the Kingdom of Denmark as partners to the ARCSAFE project. EPPR approved the initiation of work for the possible establishment of an EPPR Radiation Expert Group. Norway agreed to lead intersessional work to develop a suggested mandate and a description of a proposed organizational structure, for approval by the EPPR. EPPR approved the proposed radiation exercise from Norway as a planned EPPR-activity in conjunction with EPPR-I 2019.

Prevention, Preparedness and Response for Small Communities: The second phase of the project includes developing a series of three short videos to communicate the results of Phase I. The first video on spill response is under development.

Pan-Arctic Database of Arctic Response Assets: EPPR decided that the MER EG will continue to explore next steps to expand upon the current database to a more permanent and sustainable platform. An update with options for decision will be provided at EPPR II 2018.

Review of legal challenges related to the MOSPA Agreement: This project was approved in February 2017, and seeks to review of legal liability issues for operational safety during requests for international assistance under the MOSPA Agreement. EPPR decided that a summary report synthesizing information gathered during the project should be developed for approval by EPPR, and potentially submitted as a Ministerial deliverable in 2019.

Safety Systems in the Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural projects: The goal of this ongoing project is the improvement of industrial and environmental safety related to economic and infrastructure projects, primarily the development of hydrocarbons on the Arctic continental shelf and hydrocarbons transportation. In support of these projects, SAR and Oil Spill Response exercises are undertaken annually.

Arctic Rescue: The focus of this on-going Russian-led project is to elaborate best practices, recommendations and key elements of the emergency risk assessment system and the system for improving safety of potentially hazardous facilities. EPPR Chair attended the International Conference in Murmansk in July 2018.

New Projects

EPPR approved three new projects:

Risk assessment methods and metadata – development of guideline and toolbox

Circumpolar Oil Spill Response Viability Analysis – Phase 2

ARCSAFE Maritime SAR/RN - Sharing of competence within SAR in a maritime radiological/nuclear (RN) scenario (RADSAR)

Upcoming Working Group Meetings

EPPR II 2018 will be held in New Orleans, USA, December 4-6, 2018.

Norway has offered to host EPPR I 2019, (June 4-6, 2019) in Bodø (TBC).

EPPR II 2019, will be hosted by Iceland, location and dates (December 3-5, 2019) TBC.Text