



PAME PROGRESS REPORT TO SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS



Selfoss, Iceland 4-5 May 2004

1. DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE LAST SAO MEETING

The PAME working group has met twice since the last SAO meeting. Firstly in connection with the workshop held in support of the development of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP), 20-22 October 2003 in Reykjavik, Iceland and secondly as a back-to-back meeting in relations to the AMSP meeting held in Helsinki, Finland 3-6 February 2004. PAMEs activities and progress follows the 2002-2004 Work Plan as presented below.

Development of an Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP)

- Preparations of the AMSP are underway with Canada and Iceland as the lead countries and a workshop in support of the development of the AMSP was held in Reykjavik, Iceland 20-22 of October.
- The purpose of the AMSP workshop was to provide a forum for exchanging information and ideas on drivers of change, trends in oceans management and possible circumpolar responses to Arctic oceans issues. It was not intended as a decision-making event.
- A broad-based input for the development of the AMSP has been ensured through a collective approach. Discussions have taken place with PAME representatives, Arctic Council Working Groups Chairs, Permanent Participants and Observers and input has been ensured through the PAME/AMSP meeting.
- The 2nd draft of the AMSP is meant to capture the advice and recommendations of many groups and individuals and, in particular, the outcome of the AMSP/PAME meeting. The 2nd draft AMSP was sent to PAME country representatives, Chairs of the Working Groups, Permanent Participants and Observers of the Arctic Council on March 2, 2004. At that time it was also posted on the PAME website. A deadline for comments was set at March 26, 2004. The 2nd draft AMSP has also been translated into Russian.
- A variety of comments from many contributors have been received on the 2nd draft AMSP. Generally, the response has been quite positive. Some key strategic measures have been identified of particular attention to the SAOs for their directions. Please refer to a separate submission by the co-lead countries, Canada and Iceland, on further details and guidance sought in the development of the AMSP

Other PAME-related activities

- Overall mandate and individual land and sea-based activities addressed by PAME will be incorporated into the development of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan.

- Canada as the lead country in developing the Arctic Waters Oil Transfer Guidelines (refer to the PAME Work Plan 2002-2004, Objective III) presented its final version at the last PAME meeting for adoption by the PAME working group prior to submission to the SAOs for review and approval and submission to the next Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council in November 2004. The PAME meeting approved the Guidelines subject to a possible change to the title to clarify that the Guidelines are for small-scale oil transfers only.

The U.S. Coast Guard has indicated its willingness to fund the translation of the Guidelines into Russian.

The Guidelines will be made available on the PAME's homepage at: www.pame.is when ready.

The final version of the Guidelines is attached as a separate document and its approval is sought by the SAOs prior to submission to the next Ministerial meeting.

Collaboration with groups and organizations within and outside the Arctic Council

- All working groups, permanent participants and observers of the Arctic Council have been informed on the work of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan to ensure their early participation in this process through inputs on respective marine components of their existing programmes to ensure that they are accurately and appropriately reflected in the strategic plan.
- PAME has provided input into the document on best practices in capacity building that is being prepared by Canada in response to request by SAOs.
- PAME continues to participate in UNEP's annual meetings of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in their efforts to strengthen these programmes as many of the issues and problems addressed have relevance to PAME's work.
- PAME is involved and well informed on the ongoing developments of the EU Marine Strategy as a way to collaborate and ensure synergies in efforts and focus.
- The PAME Secretariat has been in contact with the University of the Arctic to explore ways in which to establish a practical-level cooperation between the PAME working group and the program teams of the University of the Arctic. One way to proceed is to develop fact-sheets. For this purpose the PAME Secretariat prepared for the last PAME meeting an example of a possible fact-sheet for illustrative purposes only, on "Alternative Sewage Treatment Systems for Small Communities in the Arctic Region".

The PAME Working Group agreed on its last meeting that the PAME Secretariat should develop a more detailed "proposal" in cooperation with the chair of PAME, as a means to further explore ways and means of possible

future cooperation with the University of the Arctic both within the context of possible fact-sheets and other work of PAME.

2. ONGOING WORK AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- The elements of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) will evolve with ongoing consultations and meetings up to the Ministerial meeting. Much of PAME's work up to the next Ministerial meeting will be within the context of the development and finalization of the AMSP.
- The development of the 2004-2006 PAME Work Plan for submission at the next Ministerial meeting.

3. QUESTIONS TO SAOS

- Guidance on the AMSP for its further development and finalization prior to the next Ministerial meeting.
- Approval of the Arctic Waters Oil Transfer Guidelines prior to its submission to the next Ministerial meeting.