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Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)

Work plan 2017-2019

Introduction

The PAME Work Plan 2017-2019 was developed according to: PAME's mandate; priorities identified and recommendations made in reports and arrangements developed by or negotiated in Arctic Council subsidiary bodies that are approved by the SAOs and Arctic Ministers; direction provided in Ministerial declarations; follow-up on recommendations from Arctic Council projects and the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (2015-2025), which outlines the overall direction of the Arctic Council for the protection of the Arctic marine environment, in addition to policy follow up to the scientific and other relevant assessments of the Arctic Council. Additional project proposals may be developed within the scope of this work plan between 2017-2019, subject to confirmed lead/co-lead commitment and financing.

List of individual projects and activities

Arctic Marine Shipping Projects

Project/activity: Collect and report information on use of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) in the Arctic

Lead/co-leads: Canada, USA (utilizing the ASTD system if approved)

Rationale and overall Objective: Continue to advance the work by PAME on mitigating risks associated with the use and carriage of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) by vessels in the Arctic (AMSP Strategic Action 7.3.10)

Main activities: Collect and report information for the most recent three-year period on the number, types and routes of ships in the Arctic that used HFO as fuel (including quality or grade) or transported it as cargo, including if available the volume of HFO carried as bunker fuel and/or cargo as well as the destination of HFO transported as cargo.

Timeline: 2017-2019

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A safe Arctic/A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Project/activity: collect, report and/or review information about on-shore use by indigenous peoples and local communities of HFO

Lead/co-leads: USA, AIA, CCU

WG partners – SDWG

Rationale and overall Objective: Continue to advance the work by PAME on mitigating risks associated with the use and carriage of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) by vessels in the Arctic.

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Main activities: A project in partnership with the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) (subject to SDWG to confirmation) to collect, report and/or review information about on-shore use by indigenous peoples and local communities of HFO as well as the extent to which such peoples and communities rely on ships that burn HFO to deliver supplies and provisions.

Timeline: 2017-2019

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A safe Arctic/A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge/A Strong Arctic Council

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Project/activity: prepare an information paper summarizing PAME's work on HFO

Lead/co-leads: Canada, PAME Secretariat

Rationale and overall Objective: Continue to advance the work by PAME on mitigating risks associated with the use and carriage of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) by vessels in the Arctic.

Main activities: A project to prepare an information paper summarizing PAME's work on HFO for possible submission by one or more Arctic States to IMO's Marine Environmental Protection Committee.

Timeline: 2017-2019

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge/A Strong Arctic Council

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Project/activity: Explore the environmental, economic, technical and practical aspects of the use by ships in the Arctic of alternative fuels.

Lead/co-leads: Norway, WWF

Rationale and overall Objective: Continue to advance the work by PAME on mitigating risks associated with the use and carriage of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) by vessels in the Arctic.

Main activities: A project to prepare or commission a report that explores the environmental, economic, technical and practical aspects of the use by ships in the Arctic of alternative fuels, including liquified natural gas.

Timeline: 2017-2019

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge/A Strong Arctic Council

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Project/activity: Harmonized implementation of the Polar Code

Lead/co-leads: Finland, Russian Federation

Rationale and overall Objective: Harmonized implementation and enforcement of the Polar

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Code, where both the IMO and Arctic Council have a major role to play.

Main activities: Help assess and advance harmonized implementation of the Polar Code (still under development)

Timeline: 2017-2018

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Healthy Arctic Environment/ A Strong Arctic Council

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Project/activity: Collect and summarize information on Arctic State safe and low-impact marine corridor initiatives

Lead/co-leads: Canada, Iceland, AIA

Rationale and overall Objective: collect information on best practices for safe and low impact shipping corridors in the Arctic and contribute to enhanced marine navigation safety.

Main activities: Collect and summarize information on Arctic State safe and low-impact marine corridor initiatives and programs with a view to submitting a report by PAME I-2019

Timeline: 2017-2019

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Healthy Arctic Environment/A Strong Arctic Council

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Project/activity: Compendium of Arctic Shipping Accidents, Joint PAME/EPPR project

Lead/co-leads: USA

WG partners – EPPR

Rationale and overall Objective: Update the database of shipping accidents in the Arctic contained in the 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Report.

Main activities: Develop a compendium of shipping accidents in the Arctic for the period 2005 – 2017 to update the database of shipping accidents in the Arctic contained in the 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Report and provide information useful to considering measures that might be pursued to reduce the risk of accidents

Timeline: 2017-2019

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Safe Arctic/A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Project/activity: Engagement with Observer States

Lead/co-leads: USA, AIA (Shipping Expert Group)

Other Partners: Observers – Republic of Korea, Italy

Rationale and overall Objective: Identify options for leveraging Observer State interest and expertise.

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Main activities: Develop an approach/framework for more systematically engaging with Observer States on PAME's shipping-related work, and identifying opportunities for Observer States to contribute to and/or support such work.

Timeline: 2017-2019

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Strong Arctic Council

Project/activity: Update of PAME's shipping priorities and recommendations

Lead/co-leads: USA, Canada

Rationale and overall Objective: Update shipping priorities and recommendations.

Main activities: develop and adopt updated shipping priorities and recommendations under the three themes of the 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Report (Enhancing Arctic Marine Safety; Protecting Arctic People and the Environment; and Building the Arctic Marine Infrastructure).

Timeline: 2017-2019

Kiruna Vision Element(s): Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge/A Strong Arctic Council

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Project/activity: Operationalization of the Arctic Shipping Traffic Database (ASTD) System

Lead/co-leads: Arctic states (PAME HoDs), ASTD Expert Group, PAME Secretariat

Rationale and overall Objective: operationalize the ASTD database

Main activities: Subject to national approval of the Arctic Shipping Traffic Database (ASTD) MOU, Among the Arctic States regarding Arctic ship traffic data sharing, this activity will operationalize the ASTD, including the construction by 2018 and subsequent operation, administration and management of a data repository hosted by the Norwegian Coastal Administration as set forth in the MOU.

Timeline: 2017-2018

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Safe Arctic/A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge/A Strong Arctic Council

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Project/activity: Operationalization of Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum

Lead/co-leads: Shipping Expert Group (SEG) co-chairs (USA/Canada), Finland, PAME Secretariat

Rationale and overall Objective: This project aims to foster increased use of the Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum.

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Main activities: Develop a web portal with links to key information as well as an annual meeting of stakeholders to serve as a hub of information, guidance and guidelines that aid decision makers involved in Arctic maritime navigation and those affected by maritime operations.

Timeline: 2017-2019

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Safe Arctic/A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge/A Strong Arctic Council

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: NA

Project/activity: Develop an Implementation Plan for the ARIAS Strategy and Action Plan

Refer to CAFF's work plan on this item. CAFF, in cooperation with PAME, will develop an Implementation Plan for the ARIAS strategy and action plan (AMSP Strategic Action 7.2.5 and 7.3.5).

Ecosystem Approach to Management (EA)

Project/activity: Preparation of Guidelines for EA/EBM Implementation in the Arctic

Lead/co-leads: Norway, United States, Joint EA Expert Group

WG partners – [CAFF, AMAP, SDWG]; Other Partners: Observers – [WWF]

Rationale and overall Objective: continue to integrate the ecosystem approach into assessments and management recommendations through follow-up to the 2013 EBM marine-related recommendations, taking into account previous work on Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs), and new and ongoing EA activities of cross-cutting nature. (AMSP strategic actions 7.1.3 and 7.2.1.-7.2.4)

Main activities: 1) Prepare guidelines addressing EA/EBM implementation in Arctic (marine) ecosystems (per Iqaluit declaration) following the EA Framework elements to include adoption of LMEs for management, descriptions of Arctic Ecosystems, integrated ecosystem assessments, ecological objectives, and valuation of ecosystem services. EA Framework elements to receive particular attention are ecological objectives and integrated assessments; 2) 6th EA workshop in late autumn 2017/spring 2018; scoping guidelines for implementing EA in the Arctic, with focus on Integrated Ecosystem Assessment; and 3) 2nd International EA Conference 2018. Integrated Ecosystem Assessment in the Arctic, Marine Protected Areas in Implementation of EA, Review of status of implementation EA and EA framework elements. Continue to promote common understandings and share knowledge and experiences on EA.

Timeline: 2017-2019

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge/A Strong Arctic Council

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

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Project/activity: Integrated Ecosystem Assessment of the Central Arctic Ocean

Lead/co-leads: PAME

WG partners – [CAFF, AMAP(TBC)]; Other Partners: Observers – NA; Others – ICES/PICES

Rationale and overall Objective: provide scientific advice on issues such as the prospect for future fisheries in the central Arctic Ocean and sensitivity and vulnerability to shipping activities. Contribute to the implementation of the ecosystem approach in the central Arctic Ocean.

Main activities: Continue an emphasis on the development of an Integrated Ecosystem Assessment. Continue to report on developments within the ICES/PICES/PAME Working Group on Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (WGICA) and other ICES activities, and the meetings of scientific experts on fish stocks in the Central Arctic Ocean.

Timeline: 2016-19

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of MPAs

Project/activity: Expansion/Refinement of the Desktop study on area-based conservation measures and its linkages to categories of Arctic marine biodiversity 'Toolbox'

Lead/co-leads: Canada, Finland, Sweden, United States

WG partners – CAFF; Other Partners: Observers – WWF, CCU

Rationale and overall Objective: Enhance PAME's work on a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas and contribute to some of the near-term actions listed in the Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of MPAs (near-term actions number 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9). (AMSP strategic action 7.2.10)

Main activities: The project will include workshops and associated desk-studies that will build on previous work of the MPA Expert Group. This information will be integrated into the Arctic MPA Toolbox, a practical, hands-on resource for MPA programs and partners in advancing the design and implementation of MPA networks. Building on the first two MPA network workshops in September 2016 and February 2017, the PAME MPA-EG plans to hold two more workshops during the 2017-2019 work cycle to dedicate space for interactions and discussions among technical and country experts (e.g. researchers, government scientists, MPA managers, traditional and local knowledge-holders.), Permanent Participants, and others. Finland and Sweden are organizing the third workshop in September 2017, while Canada may be in a position to organize the fourth in 2018.

Timeline: 2017-2019

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge/A Strong Arctic Council

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Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Arctic Offshore Resource Exploration and Development (REDEG)

Project/activity: Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities project (MEMA) Part II Report

Lead/co-leads: USA, Canada, AIA, Saami Council, ICC – (REDEG)

WG partners – SDWG

Rationale and overall Objective: Analyze and assess the existing guidance and requirements in the region for engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in marine activities to inform the Arctic Council on whether more or consolidated recommendations need to be made (AMSP Strategic Action 7.4.1 and 7.4.4)

Main activities: Expand and reanalyze information and finish the MEMA Part II Report; Explore cooperation with SDWG and the PPs to follow up on the MEMA outcomes and other potential projects, such as the Human Dimensions of Arctic EIAs (refer to the SDWG project on Arctic Environmental Impact Assessment and Public Participation - Good Practice Recommendations (EIA) [Proposed: lead Finland])

Timeline: 2017-2019

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge/A Strong Arctic Council

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Project/activity: Resource Exploration and Development Expert Group (REDEG) Information gathering

Lead/co-leads: USA, Canada

WG partners – EPPR

Rationale and overall Objective: The REDEG will focus on information gathering on a number of germane and timely topics for the next two years.

Main activities: 1) Identify and invite experts to address PAME at biennial meetings on the following topics: Offshore Renewable Energy; Noise in the Marine Environment; Offshore and Coastal Mining; and Offshore Oil and Gas. REDEG may also invite information papers - "Think Pieces" - from PAME members on any of these issues. The first being considered are on marine noise and/or offshore renewable energy. 2) Online Survey results for implementation of selected recommendations from the Systems Safety Management and Safety Culture Report with EPPR.

Timeline: 2017-2019

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Safe Arctic/A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge/A Strong Arctic Council

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Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Project/activity: Follow-up on the Framework Plan on Oil Pollution Prevention (FP-OPP)

Refer to EPPRs work plan on this item. EPPR, in cooperation with PAME, will continue to report on the status of implementation of the FP-OPP. Currently led by Norway and Canada, the Status report on implementation identifies follow-up activities that support the objectives in the Framework Plan. The report will include input from other Arctic Council working groups and relevant stakeholders capturing activities that are already taking place.

Project/activity: Good Practice Recommendations for Environmental Impact Assessment, EIA, and Public Participation in EIA in the Arctic (Arctic-EIA)

Refer to SDWGs work plan on this item. PAME will include this Project in the 2017-2019 Work Plan and contribute to this work based on its project plan and relevance to PAME's work.

Marine Litter in the Arctic

Project/activity: Desktop Study on Marine Litter [and Microplastics] in the Arctic (Phase I)

(final project plan currently under review by PAME)

Lead/co-leads: Sweden, Norway, Iceland and AIA [project plan still under final review by PAME]

WG partners – AMAP as relevant for Phase I; Other Partners: Observers – e.g. UNEP/GPA;
Others: e.g. OSPAR as relevant

Rationale and overall Objective: To evaluate the scope of knowledge on marine litter in the Arctic, and its effects on the marine environment (AMSP Strategic Action 7.2.10)

Main activities: Conduct a Desktop Study on Marine litter [and microplastics] in the Arctic, and based on its outcomes, explore the need for a Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (possible Phase II for the period 2019-2021).

Timeline: 2017-2019

Kiruna Vision Element(s): A Healthy Arctic Environment/Arctic Knowledge/A Strong Arctic Council

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: Environmental protection

Capacity building and Outreach

Project/activity: Capacity building, information outreach and collaboration

Lead/co-leads: PAME Chair/Secretariat

Rationale and overall Objective: Strengthen information outreach and cooperation and collaboration with international/regional organizations and to build the capacity and engagement of indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants:

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Main activities: Liaise and exchange information with relevant organizations and programs (e.g. UNEP Regional Seas Programme) regions, and other regional programs; encourage activities and proposals from Permanent Participants; strive for the development of outreach and communication efforts and plans for PAMEs activities (e.g. through updates on the PAME homepage, brochures, roll-up stands and other communication material)

Timeline: 2017-2019

Kiruna Vision Element(s): Arctic Knowledge/A Strong Arctic Council

Finnish Chairmanship Priorities, if applicable: NA

Communications and outreach

The lead of PAME's overall communications activities is the PAME Secretariat. PAME develops necessary project-related communications which include brochures, promotional materials, websites, video production, event hosting, presentations at key events, and press inquiries. PAME participates in relevant international symposia, meetings and other appropriate venues to communicate PAMEs activities.

Administration

The PAME International Secretariat is located in Akureyri, Iceland. The Secretariat has a staff of three (1) the Executive Secretary; (2) Executive Assistant and (3) Project Officer. Canada has chaired and United States co-chaired the PAME Working Group during 2015–2017 period. At the Fairbanks Ministerial [PAME Chairmanship/Canada?], and the United States will continue to serve as the PAME Vice-Chair]. PAME has held four working group meetings, two MPA Expert Workshops, one Ecosystem Approach Conference and one MEMA workshop, in addition to a number of meetings of the PAME expert groups during the U.S. Chairmanship of the Arctic Council. A Ministerial agreement (1997) provides the framework for country voluntary contributions to the operation of the PAME Secretariat. PAME cooperates closely with CAFF to share fixed secretariat overhead costs.