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PAME 2-pager Summary Progress Report **SAO Meeting 24-26 October 2017, Oulu, Finland**

Summary of progress on PAME activities: PAME's second biannual meeting of 2017 (PAME II-2017) was in Helsinki, Finland from 18-20 September, following pre-meetings on 17 September of PAME's five thematic expert groups (shipping, marine protected areas, ecosystem approach, marine litter, and resource development) and preceding the 3rd MPA Networks Workshop from 21-22 September.

Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of MPAs: USA provided an update on the 2017 Toolbox project and confirmed that the MPA Expert Group (EG) should add chapters that incorporate key information and outcomes of the 2nd (USA/Kingdom of Denmark, February 2017), 3rd (Finland/Sweden, September 2017), and 4th (Canada, Fall 2018) workshops, on resilience, climate change and ocean acidification, and indigenous engagement, respectively.

The MPA-EG will compile the list of potential next steps from workshops and existing MPA reports into a tracking table for the purpose of developing project proposals for future PAME work plans. The experience of many Observers in MPAs and MPA networks is important to this work, and they will be invited, as well as Member States and Permanent Participants, to provide any relevant information and propose future presentations. PAME continues to liaise with AMAP and CAFF on this topic.

Arctic Marine Shipping: PAME discussed a range of Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) follow-up activities and approved the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum's Terms of Reference (ToR), as amended at the meeting. Proposed launch of the Forum's web portal is for February 2018. The next Forum meeting is tentatively scheduled in conjunction with the 72nd Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 72), a committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), 9-13 April 2018 or the 99th Session of IMO's Marine Safety Committee (MSC-99), 16-25 May 2018;

Work has started on the four HFO projects as follows:

HFO Phase IV (a): *Collect and Report on Information on use of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) in the Arctic.* Collection of information initiated.

HFO Phase IV (b): *Collect, Report and/or Review Information about On-Shore use by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities of HFO.* Collaboration with SDWG partner is work in progress.

HFO Phase IV (c): *Prepare an IMO Information Paper Summarizing PAME's Work on HFO.* 1st draft has been sent out for review and comments.

HFO Phase IV (d): *Explore the Environmental, Economic, Technical and Practical Aspects of the use by Ships in the Arctic of Alternative Fuels.* Norway has retained a consultant to provide a presentation at PAME I-2018.

Phase I of the revised Finland/Russia project proposal on harmonized implementation of the Polar Code has been approved, including a timeline to finalize for consideration at PAME I-2018. PAME is reviewing the Safe and Low Impact Shipping Corridors project proposal by Canada, Iceland and AIA. Member States and Observer States will submit to PAME I-2018 information on low impact shipping corridors or other comparable ship traffic schemes.

Russia/USA will coordinate the process for a timely paper submission to MEPC 72 on the concept of regional reception facilities in the Arctic, based on the Regional Reception Facilities Plan and Planning Guide developed by PAME and welcomed by Ministers. Member States and Observer States are to notify the PAME Secretariat of a point of contact who is able to work intercessionally with PAME's Regional Reception Facilities (RRF) expert group co-chairs and serve as a liaison to their respective IMO delegations for the purpose of reviewing the paper.

The Coastal Monitoring of Arctic Marine Invasive Alien Species Report project proposal by USA was approved.

Canada's will co-lead with WWF on the development of the State of the Knowledge report on underwater noise.

Good progress has been made in operationalizing the Arctic Ship Traffic Data (ASTD) Project and noted with appreciation the financial contributions and commitments made by many Arctic States.

Work on updating the shipping priorities and recommendations is underway and the Shipping Expert Group is seeking input with particular interest in strategic priorities and/or ranking of the existing or potentially updated AMSA recommendations.

PAME continues to coordinate its work with EPPR noting in particular the project on “Compendium of Arctic Ship Accidents (CASA).”

Arctic Offshore Resource Exploration and Development: The Resource Exploration and Development Expert Group (REDEG) reported on progress on Part II of the *Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities (MEMA) Project*, in particular in locating additional indigenous information from Russia. The Project Team is following leads on securing an analyst/editor as well as possible funding for the project.

PAME noted the relevance of the evolving work of the International Seabed Authority to PAME’s work on ecosystem approach to management, marine protected areas networks and resource exploration and development, following a presentation by Dr. Cindy Van Dover from Duke University.

Ecosystem Approach to Management: PAME has agreed to the prospectus for the 6th EA Workshop for 9-11 January 2018 in Seattle for the purposes of scoping and starting work on development of guidelines for Ecosystem Approach to management (EA) in the Arctic and reviewing status of work on developing and doing Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) to develop best practices for Arctic IEA. This workshop will be co-sponsored by ICES, and an invitation has been sent out to AMAP and CAFF to join in planning the workshop. PAME discussed the planning of the Second International Conference on the Status of Implementation of Ecosystem Based Management in the Arctic (Fall 2018 TBC). The purpose of the Conference is to exchange information on integrated ecosystem assessment and management experiences, including highlighting examples from Member States. Development of the conference will focus on examining the degree of implementation of the first four elements of IEA: Identify the ecosystem, Describe the ecosystem, Set ecological objectives, and Assess the ecosystem.

PAME was informed about progress made by the Ecosystem Approach Expert Group in advancing understanding of IEA through its continuing participation in the ICES Working Group on Integrated Ecosystem Assessment in the Central Arctic Ocean, WGICA, and participation in the meetings of scientific experts on fish stocks in the central Arctic Ocean, FiSCAO.

Desktop Study on Marine Litter, including Microplastics, in the Arctic: The five co-leads (Iceland, Norway, Sweden, AIA and OSPAR) are in the process of compiling literature, and a Marine Litter Expert Group has been established to contribute actively to this work. PAME notes the importance of collaborating with AMAP on this study and has been in communication with AMAP in this regard and invited them to participate in the Expert Group to ensure synergies and coordination on this issue.

Collaboration on other working group projects: PAME and CAFF plan to jointly develop an ARIAS plan of implementation. PAME will contribute to the Finnish Chairmanship’s Arctic EIA initiative (led by SDWG) as appropriate and distribute to PAME members the online link to the project’s Newsletter. REDEG will consult with EPPR on progress of the online survey and implementing recommendations of the System Safety Management and Safety Culture Report.

Observers at the PAME II-2017 Working Group Meeting: PAME continues its engagement with Observer States in PAME’s shipping-related activities by inviting one representative for each meeting to give a presentation on its Arctic interest and activities, including shipping. Germany gave such a presentation at PAME II-2017. Six Observer States were represented at the meeting : Germany, France, the Republic of Korea, China, Japan and the United Kingdom. Ten Observer Organizations were represented: OSPAR, UNEP WWF, OCEANA, CCU, UArctic, GRID-Arendal, National Geographic, IASC and EU/EEA.

PAME Administration for Next Meeting: Canada has offered to host the next PAME meeting (PAME I-2018). Suggested dates are in the middle of February (week 12-16 February/TBC).