



Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum

Progress Report

2017-2019

May 2019



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Acknowledgements

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PAME's establishment of the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum is in response to the newly adopted [International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters \(Polar Code\) by the International Maritime Organization \(IMO\)](#). IMO has adopted the Polar Code by means of amendments to the [International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea \(SOLAS\)](#), and the [International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships \(MARPOL\)](#), and the [International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers \(STCW\)](#).

[The Polar Code](#) entered into force on 1 January 2017 and is intended to cover the full range of shipping-related matters relevant to navigation in waters surrounding the two poles – ship design, construction and equipment; operational and training concerns; search and rescue; and, equally important, the protection of the unique environment and eco-systems of the Polar Regions.

The aim of the Forum is to raise awareness of the Polar Code's provisions amongst all those involved in or potentially affected by Arctic marine operations and to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices between the Forum participants on specific shipping topics, including but not limited to; hydrography, voyage planning, polar waters operations manuals, and industry guidelines on Arctic operations. A publicly accessible web-portal has been created with information specific to each chapter of the Polar Code
- www.arcticshippingforum.is.

Forum participation is open to Arctic States, Permanent Participants and Arctic Council Observers as well as any widely-recognized professional organization dedicated to improving safe and environmentally sound marine operations in the Arctic as demonstrated by expertise and experience in Arctic shipping and/or related issues.

PAME approved the Forum's Terms of Reference in February 2017.

Operational documents:

- [Forum Terms of Reference](#)
- [Forum Methods of Operation](#)
- [Factors to be Considered in Selecting Hyperlinks for Posting to the ASBPIF Web Portal](#)

The Forum's Organization Committee:

- Anita Makinen, Finland, Forum Chair 2017-2019
- Drummond Fraser, Canada
- Hjalti Hreinsson, Iceland
- Michael Kingston, Ireland
- Peter Oppenheimer, USA
- Siv Christin Gaalaas, Norway
- Soffía Guðmundsdóttir, Iceland
- Sverrir Konráðsson, Iceland

Forum meetings

The Forum has held two meetings, [the first one on 5-6 June 2017](#), the [second on 14-15 May 2018](#) and the Forums' Organizing Committee has started preparations for the [3rd Annual Forum meeting](#). It is scheduled to take place on 3-4 June 2019 at the U.S. Embassy in London, immediately preceding the 101st Session of the IMO's Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) 5-14 June 2019.

First meeting

The first Forum meetings discussed how the Forum would work, its key objective being to gather information for the education and implementation of the Polar Code using existing information that could be collected in one place. This would then help to identify knowledge gaps and further areas of consideration. It was envisaged that a public web portal would be used to disseminate that information.

Mr. Ashok Mahapatra, Director of the Maritime Safety Division of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), gave an address emphasizing the importance of compiling information to assist in effective implementation of and compliance with the Polar Code. He indicated that the Forum is a template to be used elsewhere in the world.

The Forum was attended by Arctic Council members, including Arctic States, Permanent Participants and Observers, and also by a wide spectrum of stakeholders with an interest in Arctic shipping. Altogether over 50 participants were in attendance.

Industry has played a key role in shaping the Forum, with significant input from maritime organizations and insurers, including Lloyd's of London, and Lloyd's Register. Many other significant industry representative bodies were present including e.g. International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), and national Shipowners' Associations, and other representative bodies such as IALA, the Nautical Institute, OCIMF and the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat.

The agenda, list of participants and presentations can be accessed [here](#).

Second meeting

The 2nd Meeting commenced with opening remarks by distinguished delegates, including the Forum's Chair, who emphasized the utility of the newly launched web portal as a tool for the effective implementation of the Polar Code. Specifically, Polar Ship Certificates (PSC), Polar Waters Operations Manuals (PWOM), and Operational Assessments, were identified as three key components of the Polar Code that would benefit from the authoritative and reliable information available via the web portal.

Representatives of the Forums' Organizing Committee jointly presented on the web portal (www.arcticshippingforum.is), navigating the audience through its layout (organized according to the individual chapters of the Polar Code) and hyperlinks received to date. The presenters noted that the web portal is designed to be iterative, and that both layout and substance will be continually supplemented and refined based on feedback received. At the time of launch, the web portal contained hyperlinks to over 120 sources of Polar Code relevant information.

Over the course of the day-and-a-half meeting, presentations focused on the unique experiences gained by Arctic States, shipowners, classification societies and intergovernmental organizations in implementing, complying with and/or making information available to support implementation of or compliance with the Polar Code. More specifically, for those involved with implementing or complying with the Polar Code, presentations highlighted the specific type of information needed to apply for or issue a PSC, including information to prepare or review the required Operational Assessment and PWOM.

The agenda, list of participants and presentations can be accessed [here](#).

Third meeting

The third meeting of the Arctic Council's Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum is scheduled to take place on 3-4 June 2019 at the Embassy of the United States, London. The meeting will focus on the Polar Code Implementation progress and challenges encountered to date, in addition to the human element of the Polar Code and voyage planning.

Draft agenda and meeting website [here](#).

Forum web-portal

At the conclusion of the Forum's 2018 annual meeting, a [public Web Portal](#) was launched to assist with the effective implementation of the IMO's Polar Code. Accessible at www.arcticshippingforum.is, the Web Portal provides links to an impressive range of authoritative information essential to effective implementation of and compliance with the Polar Code.

The Forum's Organization Committee, decided that the best way to collect information for the Web Portal would be to create a questionnaire template that followed the Chapters of the Polar Code, send it to each participant and ask them to send in information indicating which chapter they thought it was relevant to – with hyperlinks and an explanation that we could publish on the Web Portal.

Arctic States were also asked to make submissions as to how they were implementing the Polar Code and what hyperlinks they had that would help users of the Web Portal. It was decided that if Participants were submitting information for the Chapters of the Polar Code it would be very helpful and demonstrate responsibility if the Arctic States on a dedicated State Administration Page on the Web Portal, explained the approach in their jurisdiction and who to contact.

Experts in State delegations were asked to check eligibility of information submitted in accordance with the aforementioned guidelines.

Forum Participants

There are currently over 50 Participants in the Forum's work. According to the Terms of reference of the Forum, the "Arctic States intend Forum participation to be open to [Arctic States](#), [Permanent Participants](#) and [Arctic Council Observers](#) as well as any widely-

recognized professional organizations dedicated to improving safe and environmentally sound marine operations in the Arctic as demonstrated by expertise and experience in Arctic shipping and/or related issues...".

Stakeholder involvement in the Forum includes individual Governments, regional governmental bodies (Arctic Council / Antarctic Treaty Secretariat), international regulators (IMO), the research community, industry, the indigenous community, educational institutions, and others, including other Arctic Council Working Groups such as EPPR.

List of Participants:

Alaska Maritime Prevention & Response Network (Alaska Network)
American Bureau of Shipping (ABS)
Arctic Coast Guard Forum (ACGF)
Arctic Economic Council (AEC)
Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC)
Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO)
Bonn Agreement
British Antarctic Survey
Bureau Veritas
Chamber of Marine Commerce (Canadian Shipowners Association)
Chamber of Shipping of America
Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA)
Danish Shipping
DNV GL
European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)
Icelandic Federation of Trade & Services (including shipping)
Finnish Shipowners Association
Forum of Arctic Research Operators
International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO)
International Association of Classification Societies (IACS)
International Association of Institutes of Navigation (IAIN)
International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)
International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH)
International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)
International Ice Charting Working Group (IICWG)
International Maritime Organization (IMO)
International Mobile Satellite Organisation (IMSO)
International Salvage Union (ISU)
International Tank Owner Pollution Federation (ITOPF)
International Union of Marine Insurance (IUMI)
Lloyd's Market Association (LMA)
Lloyd's Agency Department
Lloyd's Register (LR)
Nautical Institute
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Northern Sea Route Administration
Norwegian Shipowners Association

Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF)
Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty
Swedish Shipowners Association
Union of Russian Shipowners
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)



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