



*Arctic Ship Traffic Data Project*

# Progress Report

2017-2019

May 2019

**PAME**  
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment



ARCTIC COUNCIL

## Arctic Ship Traffic Data Project

# Summary Progress for the period 2017-2019



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### Acknowledgements

PAME gratefully acknowledges the financial support provided to this project by the Nordic Council of Ministers.



## Arctic Ship Traffic Data

PAME's Arctic Ship Traffic Data (ASTD) project has been developed in response to a growing need to collect and distribute accurate, reliable, and up-to-date information on shipping activities in the Arctic. To develop the ASTD System was an overarching goal which led to its launch in February 2019.

The ASTD System collects a wide range of historical information, including ship tracks by ship type, information on number of ships in over 60 ports/communities across the Arctic, detailed measurements on emissions by ships, shipping activity in specific areas (e.g. the EEZ's, Arctic LME's and the Polar Code area), and fuel consumption by ships.

The ASTD Expert Group was formed to advance the project and included experts from all Arctic Council member states. These experts concluded that basing the ASTD System on the Norwegian Havbase System would best fit the needs of PAME. The expert group worked closely with the Norwegian Coastal Administration in developing the System. The System components, including its geographical scope, was developing with input from PAME meetings.

PAME and the Arctic Council will use the data from the System to conduct analyses and develop projects that will benefit many different projects across working groups. Participant countries, currently seven of the eight Arctic States, will have access for their own research and analysis, while Permanent Participants, Arctic Council Observers and other subsidiary bodies can gain access to the system upon request. Each user is designated access via a username and password and can download the data for their own analysis. Users are also provided with the ability to add their own data to the system, including shapefiles, to display in the System.

This project is a significant step by PAME to reduce the knowledge gap of circumpolar ship traffic in the Arctic. With changes in the Arctic sea ice extent and projected changes and increase in shipping in the Arctic, the ASTD System will allow the Arctic Council to be at the forefront of monitoring trends and assessing any changes for use in its studies, assessments, analyses, and the development of recommendations that enhance Arctic marine safety and support protection of Arctic people and the environment.

Several applications for access to the ASTD System have already been sent in. It is also highlighted in the PAME 2019-2021 Work Plan that many projects will benefit from this System, either to gather data for analysis or seek to add content to the System.

## ASTD Documents

[ASTD User guide:](#) Detailed user guides for ASTD users.

[ASTD Access:](#) Who can get access to ASTD and its data.

[ASTD Data:](#) Information about the ASTD data - how reliable it is, where it comes from and how it is used. This document is crucial to read for those who have access to ASTD.

[ASTD Library:](#) The ASTD Library has various items to be freely used, including maps, graphics and data from the ASTD database.

[ASTD Cooperative Agreement:](#) Describes and defines the general conditions for the intended sharing of Arctic Shipping Data among the Participants.