

AMSA II(A) – Arctic Indigenous Marine Use Survey (AIMUS)

Update

September 14, 2011

Background

In 2010 at PAME – II, AIA initiated preliminary scoping of possible follow up activities under the Arctic Council working groups that could address some of the issues related to this recommendation. Saami Council expressed their interest in joining this work.

In 2011, AIA and Saami Council wrote a paper entitled “Development of an Arctic Marine Use Survey Process, a Scoping Paper to Assess Possible Joint Efforts of PAME & Other Arctic Council Working Groups “. The paper discussed such topics as understanding of and the need for AIMUS, other AC projects that could be relevant for possible synergies, as well potential project themes for future development. The draft was presented at the PAME 2011- I meeting. It was decided that the paper would be shared with other working groups with the aim of generating ideas for joint projects, and that Saami Council and AIA would continue leading this activity.

Status as of September 2011

AIA received no comments or changes to the draft of the scoping paper, so draft presented at the PAME meeting is the final version. AIA’s representatives will present the paper at the next CAFF and AMAP meetings in October in Moscow.

In addition to this, AIA developed a relevant paper for a science symposium that will take place in Anchorage in September. This paper explores advantages of density mapping for AIMUS based on the experience gained in the Bering Sea Sub Network (BSSN, a project gathering local observation on subsistence use and the environment in the Bering Sea region in Russia and the U.S.) Since this paper addresses an effective innovative methodology that could be applied circumpolar, AIA would like to consider using this as a possible project under one of the themes identified in the scoping paper – Best practices and methods of AIMUS mapping.

In particular, the project could involve writing a handbook or a workshop could be organized with elements of training. These ideas will be shared with CAFF and AMAP.

Unfortunately, no one has been able to approach SDWG yet. Perhaps, a connection could be made at the next SAO meeting.

Way Forward

AIA would like to see a formal expert group formed to develop concrete activities. This could be done by the next PAME meeting after other working groups will have been consulted. AIA envisions this as a joint PAME-CAFF-possibly AMAP and other working groups endeavor with PAME taking the lead; as PAME is responsible for oversight of AMSA follow up.