



PAME SUMMARY REPORT 2009-2011 ACTIVITIES

7th Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting

12th of May 2011, Nuuk, Greenland

PAME

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment



ARCTIC COUNCIL



**PAME SUMMARY REPORT ON 2009-2011 ACTIVITIES
AND
PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE 2011 ARCTIC
COUNCIL MINISTERIAL MEETING**

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Table of Contents

I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. DIRECTION FROM TROMSØ MINISTERIAL DECLARATION	1
III. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF PAME DURING THE 2009-2011 PERIOD.....	2
ARCTIC MARINE STRATEGIC PLAN (AMSP 2004) – IMPLEMENTATION STATUS:	2
FOLLOW-UP OF THE ARCTIC MARINE SHIPPING ASSESSMENT REPORT (AMSA 2009):.....	2
ARCTIC OCEAN REVIEW PROJECT (AOR).....	3
ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT (EA) PROJECT	3
FOLLOW UP ON THE 2009 OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS GUIDELINES (OOGG 2009)	4
COLLABORATION WITH OTHER WORKING GROUPS AND COMMUNICATIONS	4
IV. PAME WORKING GROUP ADMINISTRATION	4
PAME FINANCES	4
COMMUNICATIONS	5
V. DELIVERABLES AND PROPOSALS FOR THE 2011 MINISTERIAL MEETING	5
PROPOSED TEXT FOR THE NUUK DECLARATION	5
LIST OF DELIVERABLES TO THE 2011 MINISTERIAL:.....	5
PROPOSED TEXT FOR THE SAO REPORT TO THE 2011 MINISTERIAL MEETING	5

I. Introduction

The PAME Working Group addresses policy and other measures related to the protection of the Arctic marine and coastal environment from both land and sea-based activities. These measures include coordinated strategic actions, programmes, assessments and guidelines, complementing existing international arrangements.

II. Direction from Tromsø Ministerial Declaration

The 2009 Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Tromsø, Norway endorsed PAME's 2009-2011 activities with specific reference to the following paragraphs:

- Recalling that an extensive legal framework applies to the Arctic Ocean including, notably, the law of the sea, and that this framework provides a solid foundation for responsible management of this ocean,
- Noting the extensive reduction of sea ice coverage and thickness resulting in increased marine access to the Arctic, and acknowledging the stress being placed upon sea-ice dependent and other species,
- Approve the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) 2009 Report including its recommendations on enhancing Arctic marine safety, protecting Arctic people and environment and building Arctic marine infrastructure and request Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) to develop appropriate follow up actions,
- Note that increased marine access and navigation in the Arctic Ocean calls for development and implementation of suitable national and international regulations, where appropriate, to advance the safety of Arctic marine shipping, including marine pollution prevention, reduce accident risk, and facilitate effective emergency response,
- Encourage active cooperation within the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on development of relevant measures to reduce the environmental impacts of shipping in Arctic waters,
- Urge that the ongoing work in the IMO to update the Guidelines for Ships Operating in Arctic Ice-Covered Waters be completed, application of its relevant parts be made mandatory, and global IMO ship safety and pollution prevention conventions be augmented with specific mandatory requirements or other provisions for ship construction, design, equipment, crewing, training, and operations, aimed at safety and protection of the Arctic environment,
- Approve the revised Arctic Council Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines and urge all States to apply these Guidelines throughout the Arctic as minimum standards in national regulations,
- Approve the revised Arctic Council Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA), and encourage the continued implementation of the RPA,

- Welcome the report of the Best Practices in Ecosystems Based Oceans Management in the Arctic Project, and endorse the summary of Observed Best Practices for ecosystems-based oceans management,
- Adopt the recommendations in the SAO report and instruct SAOs to review and adjust, if needed, the working mandates of the Arctic Council working groups and their work plans for 2009-2011 in accordance with the guidance provided in this Declaration,

III. Main Achievements of PAME during the 2009-2011 Period

Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP 2004) – Implementation Status:

Several of the specific PAME Working Group activities have been aimed at implementing the AMSP 2004 and the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment. The other Arctic Council working groups AMAP, CAFF, EPPR and SDWG have provided response to the status of the AMSP strategic actions and their replies clearly show that all the strategic actions have been completed or are progressing according to plan and are expected to conclude within this or the next workplan period. Based on this, PAME in cooperation with the other Arctic Council working groups is developing a process to update and expand, as relevant, the AMSP 2004 to improve a coordinated and integrated ecosystem approach to marine management.

Follow-up of the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment Report (AMSA 2009):

PAME is following up the recommendations from the AMSA 2009 Report and SAOs have approved a matrix developed by PAME for this work where each recommendation has been assigned the appropriate responsibility for follow-up, and reporting on progress and status is provided to PAME. PAME has prepared an AMSA 2011 Status Report reflecting the status and progress on all 17 recommendations promoting the safety and environmental awareness of current and future Arctic shipping activity. The AMSA 2011 Status Report involve multiple stakeholders and apply at national, Arctic Regional, and international levels. The recommendations are aligned under three themes: Enhancing Arctic Marine Safety; Protecting Arctic People and the Environment; and Building the Arctic Marine Infrastructure. The Report notes that significant progress is being made in implementing the recommendations.

Experts on Arctic-relevant issues of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) have been invited to meetings of PAME in an effort to provide the continuum of relevant work within the Arctic Council and visa versa. There has been a significant increase in their participation and collaboration on relevant measures to reduce the environmental impacts of shipping in Arctic waters.

Recommendation I(B) – IMO Measures for Arctic Shipping: Work is well underway in IMO to develop a mandatory Polar Code and PAME will continue to receive regularly update on its progress. Phase I of the project on the identification of, environmental risks and options for, avoiding or minimizing risks regarding the use and carriage of heavy fuel oil (HFO), aiming at establishment of appropriate international regulations has been finalized and will be submitted to the 2011 ministerial as part of reporting progress achieved in follow-up and implementation of AMSA recommendations. PAME has approved the project proposal for Phase II of the (HFO) project for the period 2011-2013.

Recommendation I(D) - Strengthening Passenger Ship Safety in Arctic Waters: Work is ongoing at IMO on several initiatives to improve passenger vessel safety and PAME will continue to receive regularly update on its progress. Tour operators are strongly encouraged to implement, share and improve best practices for operating in such conditions.

Representatives from the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators and the Cruise Lines International Associations have presented their respective practices or standards at PAME meetings. A report has been prepared identifying relevant international, national, and industry best practices standards with a menu of options for further PAME action based on information from Arctic Council Member States along with information provided by the cruise ship industry and others on any best practices or standards that may help improve the safety, sound navigation, and environmental protection of Arctic cruise ship operations.

Recommendation II(D) – Specially Designated Arctic Marine Areas: PAME has approved a project on follow-up of Recommendation II(D) for the purpose of environmental protection in regions of the Arctic Ocean for implementation in 2011-2013. Work is under way by AMAP/CAFF/SDWG on the follow-up of Recommendation II(C) on identification of Areas of Heightened Ecological and Cultural Significance in the Arctic, and its products will form an important base for the implementation of Recommendation II(D).

Arctic Ocean Review Project (AOR)

The AOR is a multi-phased project that will result in a review of global and regional measures that are in place for the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment, and analyze options to address any gaps or weaknesses, as necessary. Phase I (2009-2011) of the project focuses on information gathering and outreach and outlines existing measures.

This work progressed through consultations with Working Group, including a meeting with Working Group Chairs and Secretaries held in Copenhagen on 2nd of March 2010 and by sharing drafts of the AOR Phase I Report with particular focus on their respective expert inputs on relevant chapters.

AOR Communication and Outreach Plan has been developed and published and an AOR expert workshop was held 13-14 September 2010 in Washington D.C to gather input on the status and trends of the Arctic marine environment. AOR Workshop Summary Report is available on the PAME homepage.

PAME has approved the project plan for Phase II of this project for the period 2011-2013.

Ecosystem Approach to Management (EA) project

PAME continued to advance the work towards implementation of the ecosystem approach to assessment and management by taking into account the previous work on the Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) and the summary of Observed Best Practices for Ecosystem-based Ocean Management (as a part of the 2009 Best Practices in Ecosystem Based Oceans Management in the Arctic project) and other relevant Arctic Council work on this issue.

A PAME Group of Experts on the Ecosystem Approach to Management has been established and a workshop on the EA project was convened in Tromsø, Norway 22-23 January 2011 in connection with the Arctic Frontier Conference 28-29 January 2011 and addressed the following issues:

- Review and update the working map on Arctic LMEs and provide justification for the chosen boundaries based on ecological criteria.
- Prepare a synthesis of existing or planned reports on ecosystem status, trends and pressures for regional ecosystems in the Arctic area.

The EA Workshop was prepared and organized in collaboration with relevant experts from the AMAP and CAFF working groups in an effort to coordinate existing and future work on EA to management.

Based on the discussions at the workshop, a revised working map with options for boundary changes was prepared. The workshop did not conclude on a set of recommended changes but rather envisioned that further consultations with national experts were required before conclusions could be reached. Such consultations will take place over the next 6 months with the aim to produce a recommended revised LME map that can be forwarded for consideration at the next meeting of *PAME in the autumn 2011*. Work is also underway in producing an overview of existing or planned reports on status, trends and pressures on the Arctic LMEs that are linked to management and can support the further development and implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to management of Arctic LMEs. This will be further consolidated and developed into a tabular list or inventory with links to existing reports where available.

Follow up on the 2009 Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines (OOGG 2009)

The need for and possible development of specific guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) within the offshore oil and gas industry has been assessed. A contact group was established and a questionnaire developed and sent to all Arctic countries. This questionnaire included inquires on the legal base, responsible authority/agency, stakeholders, traditional knowledge, public consultations and review processes. Based on the replies received, PAME agreed that there is currently no need to develop harmonized Arctic EIA Guidelines beyond what is currently available in the *OOGG 2009*. In addition, Arctic countries have provided links to respective EIA reports and practices as a means of information sharing and which is available on the PAME homepage.

PAME has approved the following project proposals:

- 1) *Health, Safety and Environmental Management Systems and the Use of Best Operating Practices for Offshore Arctic Oil and Gas Drilling Activities—A Report and Possible Guidelines, and*
- 2) *Arctic Oil and Gas Management, Regulation and Enforcement a Legal Regime Web-Based Information Resource for the period 2011-2013.*

Collaboration with other working groups and communications

PAME continues to actively communicate with the other working groups of the Arctic Council in developing its work plan and in involvement in projects. EPPR is working on the AMSA follow-up activities on Recommendations II(F) on Oil Spill Prevention and III(C) on Circumpolar Environmental Response Capacity, and provide regular updates to PAME. AMAP, CAFF and SDWG are working on follow-up of AMSA Recommendations II(C) on Areas of Heightened Ecological and Cultural Significance.

Representatives from all Arctic Council working groups and Permanent Participants were invited to contribute to the AOR Phase I process and to participate in the AOR Expert Workshop (13-14 September 2010). Furthermore, initial steps have been taken in inviting the other Arctic Council working groups to consider the inclusion of the review of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP 2004) in their respective work plans for 2011-2013, as a matter of full cooperation.

IV. PAME Working Group Administration

PAME Finances

The finances of the PAME Secretariat are good as a result of a positive response from the member countries in increasing their respective annual contributions. The PAME Secretariat

provides financial statements including voluntary country contributions and itemized expenditures to the PAME National Representatives.

Communications

The PAME homepage serves as the main outreach and communication tool. All PAME-related reports, brochures, posters and other resources are available on the homepage at: www.pame.is and many are provided in English and Russian.

V. Deliverables and Proposals for the 2011 Ministerial Meeting

Proposed text for the Nuuk Declaration

*Recognize the increased emphasis on the ecosystem approach to management as the foundation of the Arctic Councils' work and **support** the PAME initiative to invite all Arctic Council working groups working on marine-related issues to participate in the PAME led Expert Group on the ecosystem approach to jointly integrate the application of this approach within the Arctic Council work and contribute to the revision of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan which is based on this approach.*

List of deliverables to the 2011 Ministerial:

- Phase I Report from the HFO project
- AMSA status report on the follow-up of AMSA recommendations
- AOR Phase I Report and AOR Workshop Summary
- EA Workshop Report
- 2011-2013 PAME Work Plan

Proposed Text for the SAO Report to the 2011 Ministerial Meeting

Existing and emerging challenges to the health of the Arctic marine environment

Arctic marine activities are likely to expand considerably as a result of increased resource demand and improved marine access. These activities will increase risks to the environment and its ecological processes. Hence, strengthened efforts are needed by Arctic states to develop adequate and timely national and international regulations and measures to reduce the risks and the potential negative impacts of shipping and other activities in Arctic waters. Existing and emerging challenges to the health of the Arctic marine environment warrant a more integrated ecosystem based approach to address future needs related to shipping, oil and gas development, fisheries, coastal zone development, and other ocean-related activities. The work plan and activities of the Working Group of the Arctic marine Environment (PAME) is developed to respond to these challenges by giving priority to measures related to shipping and offshore oil and gas activities, and to apply an ecosystem approach to integrated ocean management in order to maximize environmental protection and sustainable use of the marine environment. Through this, the Arctic Council has an opportunity to provide international leadership on the global sustainable development agenda. In the implementation of these activities PAME will work in close cooperation with the other Arctic Council working groups.

***Welcome** the report on follow-up of the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Report and note that significant progress is made on implementing its recommendations and encourage the continued strengthening of this work in cooperation with other working*

groups, including to consider the need for policies and measures to reduce the risk caused by the carriage and use of heavy fuel oil by ships in the Arctic and the need for internationally designated areas for the purpose of environmental protection in regions of the Arctic Ocean.

***Note** that existing and emerging challenges to the health of the Arctic marine environment warrant a more integrated ecosystem based approach to ocean management to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment related to shipping, oil and gas development, fisheries, coastal zone development, and other ocean-related activities and **welcome** the Phase I Report of the Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) project on existing global and regional measures that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic Ocean and **look forward to** the delivery of the final report of the AOR project in 2013 in an effort to strengthen governance and demonstrate Arctic States' stewardship in the Arctic Ocean.*

***Welcome** the progress made on the implementation of the „Ecosystem Approach to Assessment and Management” project. Recognize the increased emphasis on the ecosystem approach to management as the foundation of the Arctic Councils' work and **support** the PAME initiative to invite all Arctic Council working groups working on marine-related issues to participate in the PAME led Expert Group on the ecosystem approach to cooperatively integrate the application of this approach within the Arctic Council work and contribute to the revision of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP 2004) which is based on this approach.*



PAME

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

Borgir, Nordurslod / 600 Akureyri / ICELAND

Tel: +354 461 1355 / Fax: +354 462 3390

Email: pame@pame.is / Homepage: www.pame.is