Response to Arctic Council Priorities

PAME’s work reflects the priorities as agreed to by the 2013 Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting and of relevance to PAME’s mandate. Furthermore, PAME contributes to the Canadian Chairmanship Programme as it relates in particular to the theme on Safe Arctic Shipping and follows the work of the Arctic Council Task Force on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Prevention (TFOPP), the Arctic Council Task Force on Black Carbon and Methane (TFBCM), and the Arctic Council Task Force on Scientific Cooperation. It does so both to contribute to the work of these Task Forces and in an effort to ensure coordination with relevant PAME work. PAME has also started a process to systematically consider implementation and follow-up actions for the range of Arctic Council reports, assessments and other recommendations of relevance to PAME work in order to focus its future activities.

Summary of progress on PAME activities

PAME’s Second biennial meeting of 2014 was held in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada from 16-18 September with a joint AMAP/PAME session on Wednesday the 17th of September. PAME convened the following three project workshop meetings back-to-back with PAME II-2014 meeting:

Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment
Follow-up Activities and Projects:
PAME discussed a range of AMSA follow-up activities addressing such issues as linkages with international organizations on Arctic-related activities, safe and environmentally sound navigation, shipping industry engagement with Arctic communities, specially designated Arctic marine areas, port waste reception facilities, reducing air emissions, infrastructure deficit and Arctic marine traffic systems.

✓ PAME’s Arctic Marine Tourism Project (AMTP) will be convening its 2nd workshop on 16th of October in Oslo, Norway, back-to-back with the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators’ (AECO) 11th Arctic Cruise Conference. The AMTP’s objective is to develop voluntary guidelines and/or best practices for Arctic marine-based tourism activities that would be submitted to the Senior Arctic Officials and Arctic Council Ministers for approval in 2015.

✓ PAME member governments decided to take interim steps before pursuing any actions relevant to IMO with respect to the AMSA II(D) Report on Specially Designated Marine Areas in the Arctic High Seas due to the Report's self-acknowledged limitations on the present state of knowledge and the considerable uncertainty in some of its estimates.

✓ Work is well underway on a project for the development of a draft Regional Reception Facilities Plan (RRFP) that could serve as the basis for action by Arctic State at the IMO.

This project is in keeping with established principles and existing IMO/MARPOL guidance. This project is meant to compliment any work being undertaken by IMO and other bodies with relevant competence (co-leads: USA and the Russian Federation).

✓ PAME has agreed to collect information on studies and assessments, both existing and ongoing, on ship air emissions (in particular black carbon) in the Arctic, methodologies for measuring emissions, and the effect of such emissions on the Arctic marine environment. This information will be shared with AMAP.

✓ Work is underway in providing a template for the submission by member governments of information on ship traffic within Arctic waters subject to their jurisdiction. The template envisioned would identify specific elements (i.e. number and type of ships, ship flag, ports of call, existing ship routes, etc.) that would be requested. The objective would be a consensus template that would guide the submission of this information on a recurring basis. Norway has offered to evaluate the extent to which it can provide to PAME/Arctic Council at no cost both raw and processed satellite AIS data for the Arctic (as defined in the Polar Code) for use, among others, in updating the AMSA report’s ship traffic information.

✓ The third AMSA Implementation Progress Report covering 2013-2015 is under development and will be submitted for SAO approval in March 2014 (co-leads: USA, Canada and Finland).

Developing a new Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP 2015-2025):

Work is proceeding according to plan and next draft version is under development based on written comments and comments received during the 2nd AMSP Workshop. Inputs from other Arctic Council working groups continues to be important in this work and PAME agreed to a timeline to finalize this work for submission to the 2015 Ministerial meeting (Co-leads: Canada, Norway, and the United States).

Ecosystem Approach Expert Group (EA-EG):

Presented a progress report to the last PAME meeting and noted the importance of making this a joint group with active participation of other Arctic Council working groups (AMAP, CAFF and SDWG in particular). The planning of a 5th EA workshop on the topic of setting ecological objectives and notes the importance of a planning group being established with participation of other Arctic Council working groups and Permanent Participants is underway. A draft Terms of Reference
(ToR) has been agreed to and sent to the other Arctic Council WGs (AMAP, CAFF, SDWG) for their consideration and comments as it is important the EA-EG be broadened to include an active network of experts on EA including IEA, ecological objectives and ecosystem evaluation. PAME representatives are also encouraged to coordinate nominations of experts with their national representatives to ensure an adequate breadth in expertise of nominated members to the EA-EG.

Follow up on the 2009 Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines:

PAME supports the proposal to develop the project with the working title of: “Meaningful Engagement of Arctic Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities” for approval at the PAME-I 2015 meeting and inclusion into the PAME 2015-2017 Work Plan. The Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Regulatory Resource website is being redesigned by the PAME Secretariat in cooperation with the member states.

2014-2015 Timeline

- PAME II-2014 (Canada)
- 2nd AMSP Workshop
- 2nd MPA Framework meeting
- PAME Shipping Expert meeting
- 2nd AMTP Workshop (Norway)
- 1st draft PAME Work Plan 2015-2017
- Revised draft AMSP 2015-2025
- Revised draft MPA Framework
- 1st draft PAME Achievements
- Revised draft ToR for EA-EG
- Revised draft AMSP 2015-2025
- Revised draft MPA Framework
- Revised draft PAME Work Plan 2015-2017
- Revised report for EA-EG
- Final report on the Framework for a Pan-Arctic Marine Protected Area (MPA) network:

Work is proceeding according to plan and PAME agreed to a timeline to finalize this work for submission to the 2015 Ministerial meeting (MPA Expert Group co-led by Canada, Norway, and the United States).

Administration and next meeting

PAME has agreed to process and timeline to develop and finalize submissions for the 2015 Ministerial meeting.

Expert Groups:
- Shipping Expert Group
- Regional Reception Facilities Expert Group
- Oil and Gas Contact Group
- MPA Project Group
- Ecosystem Approach Expert Group

PAME will convene its next meeting during the 1st week of February in Akureyri, Iceland.

Deliverables for the next Ministerial

The following list is preliminary:

- Final report on the Framework for a Pan-Arctic Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network project - Recommendations.
- Final Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) for the period 2015-2025 for Ministerial approval.
- Approved ToR for the EA Expert Group and the Progress Report on the Ecosystem Approach work, including follow-up to the EBM Recommendations of relevance to PAME.

Collaboration with other working groups/organizations

PAME cooperates actively with the other Arctic Council Working Groups in an effort to contribute to improved efficiency and effectiveness of the Arctic Council, and the participation of indigenous peoples and other Arctic residents is fully recognized.

PAME and AMAP convened a joint session during their working group meetings in Whitehorse in September 2014 and at this joint session, SDWG provided information on their relevant cross-cutting activities.

PAME collaborates and communicates with all Arctic Council Working Groups on the development of the revised Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) and emphasizes the importance of their inputs in this work.

PAME regularly communicates with expert organisations as a mean of outreach and information sharing of relevance to AMSA shipping follow-up activities:

- The Cruise Lines International Associations (CLIA)
- The Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO).
- Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC)
- The World Maritime University (WMU)
- The International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
- The International Group of P&I Clubs.
- European Maritime Safety Agency
- The Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO)
- ExactEarth