Implementation of the Polar Code – experiences and challenges, a Norwegian perspective

Siv Christin Gaalaas, Specialty Director International Regulations and Polar Affairs

Helsinki, 22 February 2018
• Introduction
• Experiences and Challenges
  – Interpretation
  – 5 day survivability criteria
    • Life saving appliances and arrangements
    • SARex 1 and 2
• Final note
"Adventure is just bad planning" – Roald Amundsen
Polar Code

- The understanding of the Code and its requirements
  - Goal Based Standards
  - Challenge for both administrations and industry
- Ongoing work
  - Arctic Council
    - Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum
- Important to ensure an effective and harmonised implementation of the Polar Code
Life saving appliances and arrangements

- Standards for new and existing appliances and arrangements
  - Must be adapted to the conditions appliances are exposed to in polar waters
  - Ongoing work in IMO
SARex 1 and 2

- SARex 1, Svalbard April 2016
- Aim: evaluation of the Polar Code
- Scenario: Mass evacuation from a cruise vessel in the Arctic
- Investigate the functional requirements as defined in the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (IMO Polar Code)
- Findings: Not all equipment fulfil criteria in Polar Code
SARex 2, Svalbard May 2017

- Same scenario as SARex 1
- Aim: test improved life saving equipment and training of search and rescue crew
- Outcome
  - Improved life-saving appliances is by itself not sufficient.
  - Multiple mechanisms are at play and interact.
• Survival is not only about providing the correct equipment but also about physical and mental robustness
• Focus on the human element
• Strong leadership is crucial
• Reports
  – SARex1 https://brage.bibsys.no/xmlui/handle/11250/2414815
  – SARex2 https://brage.bibsys.no/xmlui/handle/11250/2468805
- Ensuring a harmonised and effective implementation of the polar code
- Raising awareness
- Training
Thank you for the attention