

Mr. Bertil Håkansson  
Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management  
P.O. Box 11930  
Goteborg

July 4, 2013

**Subject:** Arctic Council Partnership in an International Conference on Safe and Sustainable Shipping  
in a Changing Arctic Environment

Dear Mr. Håkansson

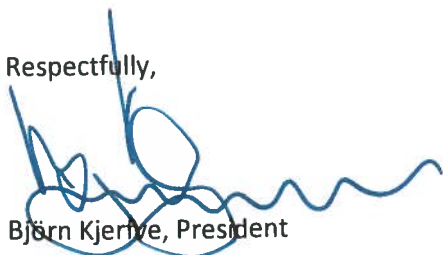
I am writing to explore the interest of the Arctic Council in partnering with the World Maritime University (WMU) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in the organization and conduct of an international conference on Safe and Sustainable Shipping in a Changing Arctic Environment - "ShipArc 2014" – to be held in Malmö, Sweden in August, 2014.

WMU and IMO have been working on the preliminary design of this conference and considering the main actors who should be intimately involved in this venture. The Arctic Council, given its mandate and priorities for the Arctic and its current focus on 'Safe Arctic Shipping', strikes us a natural and essential partner. We would very much like to see this conference as a joint WMU-IMO-Arctic Council event, in co-chairmanship, design and delivery.

I understand that the Arctic Council's PAME Committee will be meeting soon and has, through discussion with WMU Professor Olof Linden, agreed to consider our proposal which I am pleased to attach to this letter. We appreciate you agreeing to take this forward to your committee.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and we look forward to hearing the results of your deliberations.

Respectfully,



Björn Kjerfve, President  
World Maritime University

Attachment: Conference proposal

**International Conference**  
on  
**“Safe and Sustainable Shipping in a Changing Arctic Environment”**  
**“ShipArc 2014”**  
**AUGUST 26-29, 2014**  
**Malmö Sweden**

**Context:** An increasingly ice-reduced environment in the Arctic is accelerating interest and potential for resource development such as mining, oil & gas, tourism and fishing. All of these activities will involve increased shipping activity. The IMO and the Arctic Council are both currently focused on ‘Safe Arctic Shipping’, through the IMO Polar Code and as a key theme for the Council’s 2013-2015 biennium.

**Conference Rationale & Objective:** The pace of development and related activity in the Arctic marine environment is already challenging our capacity to prepare for it in a safe and sustainable way. It is therefore timely, indeed urgent, to engage those proposing resource development and shipping and those responsible for its wise and sustainable management, to come together in an international symposium to discuss and agree on a forward-looking regulatory, governance, research and capacity-building agenda that will define and assist in achieving safe and sustainable shipping in a changing Arctic environment.

**When & Where:** This three- day conference will be held at Malmö University in Malmö, Sweden on August 26-29, 2014. This allows 14 months for proper engagement and planning. These dates were chosen to be in advance of the beginning of the university academic year and at the end of many summer holidays.

**Conference Organization:** This international conference will be co-organized and co-chaired by:

- The World Maritime University (WMU) (confirmed)
- The International Maritime Organization (IMO) (confirmed)
- The Arctic Council (**invited**)

**Who:** The conference organizers will invite and engage key representatives of the regulatory (e.g., IMO), governance (e.g., Arctic Council, observer nations, EU), development (e.g., mining, oil & gas, tourism and fishing industry associations), shipping (companies and transportation agencies), Indigenous, and research and academic communities in this working conference on safe and sustainable Arctic shipping. Selected conference participants will be invited and an open call for submitted papers and participation will be issued to all of the key Arctic stakeholders.

**Conference Structure:** The conference will be structured to support a combination of keynote and plenary addresses, specialized topical paper presentations and working sessions, and the cross-sectoral development of an action, research and capacity-building agenda, for safe and sustainable shipping in the Arctic.

## Potential Agenda (suggested topics only):

### Tuesday, August 26, 2014 – Setting the Scene

- 13:00 Opening/Welcome/Conference Objectives (WMU, IMO, AC)
- 13:30 Keynote Address: State-of-knowledge on changing Arctic conditions (IPCC)
- 14:30 Regulatory developments & challenges / Polar Code (IMO)
- 15:00 Nutrition break
- 15:30 Evolving Arctic governance (Arctic Council)
- 16:00 Industry developments & challenges (Industry Association(s))
- 16:30 Highlights from opening day and expectations for conference outcomes
- 17:00 Conclude for Day
- 17:30 Sponsored Networking Reception

### Wednesday, August 27 – Paper Presentations

Invited and submitted papers will be presented throughout this first full day, to inform and enrich the discussions and agenda-development that will follow. To accommodate and benefit from an anticipated wealth of expertise, experience and expert opinion, paper presentations will be organized into concurrent thematic sessions. Session chairs will be knowledgeable in the subject areas and rapporteurs will record the key points presented and discussed. The following proposed thematic sessions are preliminary only and open to discussion and strengthening.

#### Proposed Themes:

1. Arctic Governance (IMO and the Arctic Council)
2. The Polar Code – Safe Shipping in the Arctic & Antarctic
3. Antarctic Shipping Issues – SAR, Tourist/Cruise Shipping
4. Pollution Preparedness and Response / Black carbon
5. Search & Rescue / Places of Refuge / Ports & Repair Facilities
6. Arctic Navigation (Aids and Charting)
7. Research Needs and Priorities – Building an Arctic Shipping Research Network
8. Developing a Curriculum for Polar Code Training

#### Schedule:

- 09:00-10:30 – Paper presentations (20 minute presentation+10 minutes questions)
- 10:30-11:00 – Networking break
- 11:00-12:30 – Paper presentations
- 12:30-14:00 - Lunch
- 14:00-16:00 – Paper presentations (with refreshments)
- 16:00-16:30 – Chair & Rapporteur summary of key points and highlights

Evening - Free Time for Delegates in Malmö and area

## **Thursday, August 28 – Concurrent Working Sessions (4 each in a.m. and p.m.)**

This second full day will build on the context-setting provided in the opening day and the insights presented on Day 2. Presenters from each thematic session, plus other experts in the field and interested participants, will convene in concurrent working sessions to discuss, debate and develop an action-oriented agenda comprising regulatory, governance, research and capacity-building steps that need to be taken to ensure safe and sustainable shipping in a changing Arctic environment. Each session will begin with and be informed by rapporteurs' summaries from the previous day's sessions. Conference participants will be able to choose from one of four concurrent sessions in the morning and from another four sessions in the afternoon.

### **09:00-12:00 (with nutrition breaks)**

1. Arctic Governance (IMO and the Arctic Council)
2. The Polar Code – Safe Shipping in the Arctic & Antarctic
3. Antarctic Shipping Issues – SAR, Tourist/Cruise Shipping
4. Pollution Preparedness and Response / Black carbon

### **12:00-13:30 Lunch**

### **13:30 – 16:30 – Four new Concurrent Sessions (with nutrition breaks)**

1. Search & Rescue / Places of Refuge / Ports & Repair Facilities
2. Arctic Navigation (Aids and Charting)
3. Research Needs and Priorities – Building an Arctic Shipping Research Network
4. Developing a Curriculum for Polar Code Training

Evening – Sponsored dinner

## **Friday, August 29 – Setting the Future Agenda (in plenary)**

09:00 - 12:00 Reporting out from each Concurrent Session (20 minutes each)

12:00 – 13:00 Components of a Regulatory, Governance, Research and Capacity-building Agenda (Panel Presentation and Discussion)

13:00 - 13:30 Wrap-up / Closing – Next Steps

**Expected Outcomes:** The conference will be designed to achieve the following outcomes:

- A current and shared science-based understanding among all interested and responsible parties of how the Arctic environment is changing and the implications for current and proposed economic activities;
- Broad agreement on what 'safe and sustainable shipping' in the Arctic entails;
- Strengthened partnership links between the IMO and the Arctic Council;
- Development of a training platform for the Polar Code
- A research and capacity-building agenda to support safe and sustainable shipping in the Arctic;