

## **PAME II-2014 Agenda Item 4.3**

### **AMSA Recommendation I(D) – Strengthening Passenger Ship Safety**

#### **Update and Status of the Arctic Marine Tourism Project (AMTP)**

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##### **Overview**

The Arctic Marine Tourism Project (AMTP) is the first project in a potential suite of renewed efforts by the Arctic Council to analyze and encourage sustainable tourism across the circumpolar Arctic. Specifically, the AMTP is attempting to identify issues or gaps where the Arctic Council (PAME in particular) can add value by articulating best practices in relation to vessel-based Arctic tourism. This initiative is being co-led by Canada and the US.

##### **Background**

Canada submitted a draft AMTP workplan (known then as the Arctic Shipborne Tourism Initiative) for consideration by PAME during PAME I-2014 in Girdwood, Alaska. The workplan was discussed in detail by the PAME shipping experts group and subsequently approved in principle by PAME plenary. It was further agreed that Canada would organize and host the first AMTP workshop the following month (March 18 & 19, 2014).

Over 40 participants from government, industry, academia and the NGO community attended this workshop and advanced an interdisciplinary understanding of the cruise tourism industry in the Arctic. Particular focus was placed on: i) existing guidelines and best practices; ii) practical problem areas/actual issues requiring resolution; iii) regional variations, stakeholder perspectives and practical usability; and iv) intended audiences for best practices.

A formal workshop report was prepared and circulated to all attendees and the wider PAME/Arctic Council community. This report contained summaries of the workshop discussions and established a framework for the creation of a Best Practices Document for submission to Arctic Council Ministers in time for the 2015 Ministerial.

##### **Status Update**

While the March Ottawa workshop met its stated objectives, a range of factors prevented representatives from northern communities, Permanent Participants and some Arctic countries from attending. Accordingly, a follow up workshop is being convened. The goal of this second workshops is to i) increase circum-Arctic participation and add comprehensiveness to the AMTP, and ii) distill more concrete best practices based on foundation material contained within the March AMTP Workshop Report.

This second workshop will be held in Oslo, Norway on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in conjunction with the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO) annual general meeting.

Workshop invitations (containing specific details and logistics) will be circulated in early September.

Taking the PAME meeting schedule and workshop date into consideration, further refinement and development of an AMTP Best Practices Document will occur from September to December 2014. Circulation of a final draft is anticipated for January 2015, with PAME plenary approval occurring in February 2015. Appropriate SAO approval will follow in time for the spring Ministerial meeting.

### **Considerations**

Other AC Working Groups were involved in the first AMTP workshop and will continue to be engaged moving forward. In particular, SDWG's Social, Economic and Cultural Experts Group (SECEG) has indicated a particular interest in the AMTP and has agreed to review and comment upon draft material provided by PAME.

Additionally, a 'Call for Papers' on Sustainable Arctic Tourism was jointly issued by Canada and the US through the International Arctic Social Science Association (IASSA) in March 2014. Several papers (primarily from Ph.D students and academics) have been received. Relevant content from these papers will be incorporated into the AMTP Best Practice document.

### **Guiding Documentation**

AMTP Ottawa Workshop Report (2014)

Arctic Ocean Review (2013)

"Vision for the Arctic" adopted by Arctic Council Ministers (2013)

Senior Arctic Official's Report to Ministers (2013)

Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council (2013-2015)

PAME Workplan (2013-2015)

Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (2009)