



January 18, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Working Group and the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) co-Lead countries (Canada, Norway and USA), please find attached for your review and comment, PAME's final draft of the 2015-2025 Strategic Plan, clean version (with brackets remaining). Also attached is a tracked-change version (2nd Nov 2014, for reference only).

The document that we will be working from and seeking comments on is the final draft 2015-2025 Strategic Plan, clean version (with brackets remaining). This document has been developed and updated as a result of input received to date from many sources, including Senior Arctic Officials, Working Group representatives, Permanent Participants, and international experts who have engaged at various points during its development, including in the two AMSP Workshops (13-14 June, 2013 in Reykjavik, Iceland and 16 September in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada).

This will be the last significant opportunity to comment and provide specific textual suggestions. PAME is required to approve the Strategic Plan during meetings to be held February 2-6, in Akureyri, Iceland in order for the document to be forwarded to Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs), and subsequently the Arctic Council Ministers for endorsement.

Overall, we are pleased that we have been able to achieve significant consensus on the Strategic Plan thus far. Outstanding issues are in [brackets] and highlighted in gray color for ease of reference within the following sections:

- ✓ Section 5 - 3rd paragraph
- ✓ Section 7.1 - Strategic actions - 7.1.5 and 7.1.8
- ✓ Section 7.3 - Strategic actions - 7.3.3, 7.3.5, 7.3.12 and 7.3.13

In preparation for PAME's final meeting before the 2015 Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council's Canadian Chairmanship, please forward your comments to the clean version (brackets remaining) to the PAME Secretariat and the co-lead countries copied in this correspondence by Friday the 30th of January. Comments can also be provided during the PAME I-2015 meeting under agenda item 5.

Given the need to finalize all PAME deliverables for submission to the SAOs, it will be necessary to focus in particular on the outstanding issues noted above in addition to any written or verbal comments received before and during the PAME I-2015 meeting.

Finally, on behalf of PAME, I would like to thank you for your continued efforts to produce a Strategic Plan of this nature. It is our hope that the SAOs will see this as a useful product and are aware of the level of effort devoted to achieve this result.

Regards,

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