

PAME I-2015 Agenda Item 4.10(a)

**Update of AMSA Arctic Ship Traffic Data:
Proposed Template for Voluntary Submission of Information by
Arctic States**

References and Related Documents

- Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Report (2009)
- The Arctic Ocean Review: Final Report (2013)
- PAME Work Plan (2013-2015)
- PAME II-2014 Record of Decision #9
- USA Paper, *Update of AMSA Arctic Ship Traffic Data* (PAME (II)/14/4.10/b)

Background

For some time, PAME has been seeking to update the Arctic ship traffic data contained in the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Report. When issued in 2009, the AMSA Report represented the most authoritative and comprehensive assessment of Arctic ship traffic, traffic composition, and traffic trends in the Arctic ever compiled. Since then, ship traffic has continued to increase and its composition to evolve as natural resource development and economic ties between the Arctic and the global economy have expanded. With the continuing diminishment of Arctic sea ice, greater marine access and longer seasons of navigation and operations are expected. This has significant implications for the conservation and sustainable development of the Arctic as well as for the health and welfare of Arctic peoples.

To carry out its mandate of addressing policy and non-emergency pollution prevention and control measures related to protection of the Arctic marine environment from both land and sea-based activities, PAME has recognized the importance of updating Arctic ship traffic data contained in the AMSA Report. PAME's 2013-2015 Work Plan identifies such an update as one of its listed activities, noting:

The working group will explore opportunities for updating the Arctic ship traffic data contained in the AMSA report for use in studies, assessments, trend analysis, and the development of recommendations that enhance Arctic marine safety and support protection of Arctic people and the environment¹.

A record of decision (ROD) adopted at PAME II-2104 "accepted the USA's offer to prepare for PAME I-2015 a (joint) paper that sets out a template for the [voluntary] 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

¹ PAME WORK PLAN (2013-2015) at p. 8. This Work Plan is available on the PAME website at http://www.pame.is/images/01_PAME/Work_Plan/2013_2015.pdf.

consensus template that would guide the [voluntary] submission of this information on a recurring basis.”

Proposed Template

The co-sponsors propose that the following data elements be included in the proposed template which is based on the 2004 AMSA shipping database format:

Position Date Time
Vessel Name
IMO Number
Maritime Mobile Service Identify (MMSI)
Call Sign
Vessel Type
Vessel Size (length/beam/draft)
Fuel type (if available)
Cargo (if available)
Flag
Latitude
Longitude
True Heading
Course Over Ground
Speed Over Ground
Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA)
Destination
Source (e.g., LRIT, AIS, other)

The co-sponsors also proposes that the data be delivered in a comma-separated values (CSV) format

Recommendation

The USA, Canada and Iceland recommend that PAME adopt this proposed template and pursue follow-on discussions on how best to request that Arctic States voluntarily provide this information for an initial time period (e.g., calendar year 2014) to the PAME Secretariat, and on a regular recurring basis thereafter (e.g., every two years).