

**PAME I-2018: Agenda item 6.10(a)**  
**Developing an Approach/Framework for More Systematically Engaging**  
**with Observers on PAME's Shipping-Related Work**  
**Response from Poland**

*Develop an approach/framework for more systematically engaging with Observer States on PAME's shipping-related work, and identify opportunities for Observer States to contribute to and/or support such work.*

The United States and Aleut International Association (AIA), and partners Republic of Korea and Italian Republic, present this paper on developing an approach for improving engagement with Observers.

The authors of this paper are interested in soliciting input and recommendations on how to more systematically engage with Observers on shipping-related issues.

***1. How are interested Observers, and particularly Observer States, currently engaging with PAME on shipping-related issues?***

There are following activities:

- delegating shipping researchers to PAME meetings and other subsidiary bodies (such as the Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum),
- taking part in other PAME sponsored events (such as the Ship Arc joint IMO-PAME-WMO conference in Malmö, Sweden in 2015)
- facilitating information flow between PAME and IMO national delegation

***2. Consistent with the Arctic Council Rules of Procedure and the Observer Manual for Subsidiary Bodies, what types of involvement with PAME's shipping-related work are Observers most interested in undertaking? Are there specific shipping issues of interest to Observers?***

There are certain activities and examples that can be provided:

- supporting PAME initiatives through expertise and potential support at IMO and other relevant fora
- proposing project ideas with relevance for shipping
- ongoing contribution to PAME work based on experience from the Baltic Sea in reference to pollution from ships

- contributing with shipbuilding expertise and development of environmentally friendly solutions for Arctic shipping
- hosting PAME shipping related events in Poland, building up on a successful organisation of ACAP regular meeting in September 2014 in Sopot
- providing in-kind support for PAME projects

**3. *Would Observers be more interested in identifying and pursuing opportunities for engagement that involve financial contributions, in-kind contributions, or other types of involvement?***

This question is unclear. However, any interest has to be related with current policies and work of relevant national authorities and their abilities to engage in more enhanced manner. At this stage, unfortunately, Polish engagement is far from satisfactory, mainly due to financial constraints.

**4. *Would Observers be more interested in partnering with a single Arctic State/Permanent Participant, multiple Arctic States/Permanent Participants, or does the format of a collaborative arrangement not make a difference? Are there examples of collaborative efforts between Observers and Arctic States/Permanent Participants that could serve as models for future collaboration?***

At this stage, we do have the preference to leave the options open as it is now, whilst the format may vary depending on the project/activity needs. Poland would be interested in all forms of collaborative arrangements, depending on the issue/activity/project. As to the reference to shipping, at this stage we cannot provide any examples.

**5. *Would Observers find regular attendance of PAME meetings (e.g., Working Group and/or Expert Group meetings) useful to facilitate more systematic engagement with PAME's shipping-related work? If an Observer is not regularly attending PAME meetings, what is the impediment to attendance (e.g., cost, insufficient information, meeting location, lack of Observer-related agenda items, no commercial ships or research vessels currently using or anticipated to use Arctic waters, no national strategy or priority for Arctic shipping, improper Arctic shipping contact point)?***

The regular attendance is considered essential for more systematic, substantive and effective engagement. However, Poland has not participated regularly in PAME meetings due to financial constraints (partly stemming from meeting locations) and improper Arctic shipping contact point. We have undertaken efforts through internal coordination mechanisms to improve the situation. Nevertheless, at this stage it is difficult to provide more details.

6. *Would providing more specific identification of opportunities and solicitation for Observer assistance via Arctic Council publications be an effective way to engage Observers on shipping-related issues? What types of additional information would be useful for increasing Observer engagement?*

For example, identifying specific institutions or individuals crucial for a given project/activity (for instance, people working on different aspects of the Polar Code or closely related) would give a more convincing argument to engage these individuals or entities.

On the other hand, it is not entirely clear what is meant by providing this information through AC publications - it is already quite common practice to encourage observer in documents; the problem is entirely at the AC/PAME end, therefore a joint workshop focused specifically on shipping issues and PAME activities (not a general AC meeting with observers) would help to identify the best ways of engagement.

Additionally, information on how experiences from regions outside the Arctic (e.g. the Baltic Sea) could assist PAME in its work; certainly there are also Baltic Sea states that are Arctic states, but in some areas the expertise or/and experiences may vary and provide a useful addition.

7. *Given the current involvement of Observer experts in PAME shipping-related work, how could PAME more effectively integrate the knowledge and experience of these experts?*

PAME could consider assigning different functions or tasks to these experts, so that there is more formal involvement and feeling of “ownership” of certain projects - that may give an additional impetus for experts engagement.

Experts could be also invited to work with the Arctic states, PPs and observers inter-sessionally, which is not always the case;

8. *What kind of additional suggestions or ideas would be effective in encouraging Observer engagement in PAME’s shipping-related work in the future?*

A workshop focused specifically on observers engagement in PAME projects and activities might facilitate establishment of effective mechanisms of involvement.

The formula of such as workshop should be as open as possible and include brainstorming sessions and open discussions to find the best possible solutions and develop better procedures

Currently, due to already mentioned limitations, it is too early to say that Poland would consider the organization of such a workshop. However, once we improve the situation internally, it can easily be assessed and discussed.