

IASC Engagement on Shipping-Related Work With PAME

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IASC (the International Arctic Science Committee; www.iasc.info) is a non-governmental, international scientific organization. IASC is committed to pursuing a mission of encouraging and facilitating cooperation in all aspects of Arctic research, in all countries engaged in Arctic research and in all areas of the Arctic region. Overall, IASC promotes and supports leading-edge multi-disciplinary research in order to foster a greater scientific understanding of the Arctic region and its role in the Earth system.

Below is IASC's response to eight questions about engaging with PAME, in particular around shipping-related work.

1. How is IASC currently engaging with PAME on shipping-related issues?
 - IASC responds to PAME expert nomination requests for shipping-related issues as well as other topics.
 - IASC Council Member Henry Burgess has attended and intends to continue attending and contributing to meetings related to the development and implementation of an Arctic Marine Shipping Best Practice Information Forum.
 - IASC Marine Working Group Representative Pauline Snoeijs Leijonmalm has represented IASC at previous PAME meetings (e.g. related to Marine Protected Areas) and intends to continue doing so in the coming three years.
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 is IASC most interested in undertaking? Are there specific shipping issues of interest to IASC?
 - IASC is most interested in ensuring that latest Arctic science is used in driving discussions and decision-making in the Arctic, as well as supporting future science to better understand the Arctic and its environment. As such, IASC is excited to continue nominating experts to contribute to PAME work and connect science with policy, as well as amplifying their contributions within the Arctic science community.
 - We are excited to work with PAME to facilitate scientific contributions in formats that are most conducive to use.
 - IASC is excited about facilitating open access and use of Arctic data and observations and we would suggest cooperation between PAME and the Arctic Data Committee.
3. Would IASC be more interested in identifying and pursuing opportunities for engagement that involve financial contributions, in-kind contributions, or other types of involvement?
 - IASC runs on a limited budget, and scientific funds are allocated by our scientific working groups. Therefore, to partner with IASC's limited funds, it would be important to identify alignment between PAME priorities and IASC's Marine Working Group's scientific foci, detailed below.
 - IASC would be excited to explore co-locating PAME meetings at upcoming Arctic Science Summit Weeks and may be able to provide meeting space for that. In addition, IASC and the PAME Secretariat could explore co-hosting meetings in Iceland in general and Akureyri in particular.

4. Would IASC 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 IASC and Arctic States/Permanent Participants that could serve as models for future collaboration?
 - IASC is an international organization and tries to encourage activities of an open and pan-Arctic nature, but this is not an exclusive preference.
5. Would IASC 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 IASC is not regularly attending PAME meetings, what is the impediment to attendance (e.g., cost, insufficient information, meeting location, lack of IASC-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)?
 - IASC tries to identify a local and/or topically expert representative to participate in PAME meetings, as possible. However, IASC representation is irregular at best.
 - One obstacle is funds to participate in PAME meetings.
 - Also, due to delayed agendas or a breadth of meeting topics, it is not always clear who is most qualified or interested to represent IASC. Perhaps more specific direction would help in this regard.
6. Would providing more specific identification of opportunities and solicitation for IASC assistance via Arctic Council publications be an effective way to engage IASC on shipping-related issues? What types of additional information would be useful for increasing Observer engagement?
 - Yes, specific identification of opportunities and solicitation would be helpful. However, doing so via the PAME Secretariat would be more effective than through Arctic Council publications. Topic, requirements, and timeline are the most important things to IASC.
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?
 - This would be a good opportunity to align PAME work with IASC Marine Working Group scientific priorities, as detailed in their scientific work plan: https://www.iasc.info/images/working-groups/marine/MWG_plan_17.pdf
 - ...or indicated in the ICARP-III report: <https://icarp.iasc.info/>
 - ...or to follow up on the (forthcoming) recommendations from IASC's action group on science-business/industry cooperation.
8. What kind of additional suggestions or ideas would be effective in encouraging Observer engagement in PAME's shipping-related work in the future?
 - IASC's limitation in contributing to PAME's shipping work is most centered around travel funding and the distributed nature of our working group representation. Solutions which can overcome these limitations would help IASC and our experts / members better engage and support PAME's (shipping-related) work.