**PAME I-2019: Agenda 10.1**

**PAME Achievements 2017-2019 for inclusion into the SAO Report to Ministers, May 2019**

# The name and mandate of the Working Group

**By 15 November 2018, each Working Group and other subsidiary body should submit information, maximum 2 pages in length, that contains:**

* The name and mandate of the Working Group or other subsidiary body;
* A reference to relevant sections of the 2017 Fairbanks Declaration (document “tasks from Fairbanks” is attached for your assistance) or SAO Report;
* A summary of achievements during the 2017-2019 period; and
* A first draft list of expected deliverables for the Rovaniemi Ministerial.

**Hard character limit of 6,000 characters**, including spaces.

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Working Group focuses on the marine agenda of the Arctic Council and provides a unique forum for collaboration on a wide range of activities directed towards the protection and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment.

PAME’s mandate: *To address marine policy measures and other measures related to the conservation and sustainable use of the Arctic marine and coastal environment in response to environmental change from both land and sea-based activities, including non-emergency pollution prevention control measures such as coordinated strategic plans as well as developing programs, assessments and guidelines, all of which aim to complement or supplement efforts and existing arrangements for the protection and sustainable development of the Arctic marine environment.*

# Summary of main achievements 2017-2019

PAME’s work has proceeded in accordance with relevant activities captured in PAME’s biennial work plan as approved by the Arctic Council, including implementation of certain Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) recommendations, and policy follow-up on other assessments and reports of the Arctic Council.

PAME cooperates actively with the other Arctic Council WGs in an effort to contribute to improved efficiency and effectiveness of the Arctic Council. Further, PAME works substantively with Arctic inhabitants, including indigenous peoples, to provide a unique forum for collaboration on a wide range of activities directed towards protection of the Arctic marine environment.

In follow-up to paragraphs 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 17, 25, 28 and 32-of the Fairbanks Declaration 2017, PAME has, inter alia, undertaken the following work over the course of 2017-2019:

## Follow-up to the 2009 AMSA and other Shipping Report Recommendations

PAME, aided by its Shipping Expert Group, continues to advance a number of projects and initiatives to promote safe and sustainable navigation in the Arctic. These include a key project to update the 17 Ministerial-approved Recommendations contained in the 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Report, the Arctic Ocean Review Final Report (AOR 2013) and the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP), in consultation with all other Arctic Council working groups and task forces, as relevant.

Examples of topics that have received follow-up include Collaboration with international organizations on Arctic related activities of common interest; The Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum was established by PAME in 2017 to support effective implementation of the IMO’s Polar Code and two annual meetings have been convened to advance this work. The Forum’s web portal was launched at its meeting in May 2018 ([www.arcticshippingforum.is)](http://www.arcticshippingforum.is)); approval of the non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC); joint submission of the *Regional Reception Facilities Plan (RRFP) – Outline and Planning Guide for the Arctic* to IMO’s MEPC 74 meeting in 2019; the finalization of the following papers related to heavy fuel oil (HFO): Report on the environmental, economic, technical and practical aspects of the use by ships in the Arctic of alternative fuels and submission of an information paper summarizing PAME’s work on HFO. This paper was co-sponsored by all Arctic council Member states and submitted to IMO on 31 January 2018.

Official launch of the Arctic Ship Traffic Data (ASTD) database in January 2019. Report on the joint project with EPPR on *Safe and Low Impact shipping Corridors (CASA);* Report on the project on *Underwater Noise in the Arctic – “State of Knowledge Report*; Continued efforts towards a harmonized and effective implementation of the Polar Code; Good progress has been made on the project on *“Developing an Approach/Framework for more Systematically Engaging with Observers on PAME’s Shipping Related Work”* and continuation of this work will include one or more workshops in 2019.

## Protection from Invasive Species:

PAME and CAFF have established a Joint ARIAS (Arctic Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan) Implementation Coordinating Group (ICG) and approved the Terms of Reference for the ICG which has developed project proposals for CAFF and PAME to consider including in their respective 2019-2021 work plans.

## Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

PAME has held four workshops[[1]](#footnote-1) with corresponding websites on MPA networks with the aim to integrate its findings into the Arctic MPA-network Toolbox, a practical, hands-on resource for MPA programs and partners in advancing the design and implementation of MPA networks. The 3rd and 4th MPA workshops where hosted by Finland in September 2017 and Canada/ICC in March 2019, respectively.

## Ecosystem Approach to Management (EA)

PAME continues to follow national and international developments regarding EA and to integrate the principles of EA into assessments and management recommendations. Through this, PAME contributes to the follow-ups to the 2013 Kiruna recommendations, building on previous work on Large Marine Ecosystems. Work on EA activities are done by the joint EA EG with participation from other Arctic Council WGs working on marine-related issues. The EA EG held a 6th EA workshop, in Seattle in January 2018, on the topics of EA Guidelines and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment. The EG Developed *Guidelines for Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Management of Arctic Marine Ecosystems* and preparations. The EG also developed a plan for a 2nd International EA Conference to be held in Bergen, Norway, in 2019, with a focus on the issue of scale integration in EA implementation. PAME continues the joint efforts by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)/North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)/PAME WG on Integrated Ecosystem Assessment for the Central Arctic Ocean (WGICA) and notes the completion of the work to produce the report on *“Integrated Ecosystem Assessment of the Central Arctic Ocean: Ecosystem Description and Vulnerability Characterization”.*

## Arctic Offshore Resource Exploration and Development

The project on *Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities (MEMA)* has produced a Part II report. The MEMA online database is accessible on the PAME homepage at: [www.memadatabase.is](http://www.memadatabase.is) and is publically available as a resource for those interested in engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Promotional flyer has been developed for distribution and outreach.

The Resource Exploration and Development expert group (REDEG) has initiated a process to explore the need to update specific sections of the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines (2009) to e.g. update areas related to non-emergency operations, monitoring, and decommissioning.

## Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) 2015-2025 implementation plan

The 2nd AMSP implementation report has been produced and records status on relevant AMSP strategic actions for the period 2017-2019 and identifies follow-up activities, which are reflected in the PAME work plan 2019-2021 and other WGs’ work plan as per their respective mandates. The AMSP Implementation Plan provides a mechanism to systematically track progress and status on the AMSP’s 40 strategic actions. This report was developed in close collaboration with other Arctic Council WGs to ensure a transparent and systematic cross-working group progress and provide status reporting mechanism to be reflected in their respective work plans as relevant. The aim is to contribute to collaboration on cross-cutting marine-related issues.

# Coordination and collaboration with other Arctic Council WGs

PAME actively pursues cooperation with the other Arctic Council WGs and Task Forces, in particular the Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation, to contribute to improved efficiency and effectiveness of the Arctic Council. PAME collaborated with all Arctic Council WGs on the development of the AMSP implementation tracking matrix and emphasized the importance of their inputs in this work. AMAP and CAFF continue to be engaged in the joint EA EG, and PAME is making efforts to strengthen the communication between the EA-EG co-chairs and the relevant working groups by attending their respective working group meetings for outreach purposes to inform about progress, status and seek inputs, as relevant. PAME provided inputs to CAFF on the “Actions for biodiversity” tracking tool and to EPPR on the “Status report on implementation of the framework plan on oil pollution prevention”. PAME is working with CAFF on projects related to MPAs and invasive species and included all Arctic Council working groups on the circulation and requested their inputs during the development of the Desktop Study on Marine Litter, including microplastics, in the Arctic. PAME has invited ACAP, AMAP and the Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane to submit to PAME short summaries of their work related to black carbon, especially as it pertains to shipping. Finally, PAME makes an effort to participate at other working groups meetings for coordination and outreach purposes on activities of mutual interests.

PAME regularily reaches out to other WGs, industry and organisations with recognized competence as a mean to identify and where possible collaborate on issues of common interest, of relevance to its work, including AMSA shipping follow-up activities. Examples of these include:

* DWF LLP/Michael Kingston Associates
* Foreign and Commonwealth Office - United Kingdom
* OCEANA
* GRID-Arendal
* International Council on Clean Transportation
* Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center
* Comite Maritime International
* EYOS Expeditions
* Armateurs du Saint-Laurent / St. Lawrence Shipoperators
* Secretariat of the International Seabed Authority
* Marine Meteorology and Ocean Affairs - World Meteorological Organization
* NORUT - Northern Research Institute
* Northwest Pacific Action Plan - UNEP

# PAME Deliverables for the 2019 Ministerial Meeting

PAMEs activities for SAO and Ministerial approval/welcome (7 activities):

* Underwater Noise in the Arctic: A State of knowledge report (Canada/WWF)
* Desktop study on Marine Litter, including microplastics in the Arctic (Phase I) (Iceland/Norway/Sweden/AIA/OSPAR)
* Guidelines for Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Management of Arctic Marine Ecosystems (Norway/USA/EA-EG)
* Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities (MEMA) Part II Executive Summary for Policy Makers (Canada/USA)
* MEMA Part II Findings for Policy Makers (full report) (Canada/USA)
* 2nd reporting on progress/implementation of the 2015-2025 Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP).
* PAME 2019-2021 Work Plan

Following documents are for information (6 activities):

* Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum Status Report, Web-portal and Press Release (Finland/Canada/USA/PAME Secretariat)
* Report on the environmental, economic, technical and practical aspects of the use by ships in the Arctic of alternative fuels (Norway/WWF)
* Arctic Ship Traffic Data Project Status Report, Database and Press Release(USA)
* Proposal for a new output to amend MARPOL to allow the establishment of regional arrangements in the Arctic for joint submission by all Arctic States to the 74th Session of IMO’s Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) (13-17 May 2019)
* Progress report on the EA-EG 2017-2019 work plan (Norway/USA)
* Various communication and outreach products
1. Workshops website: <https://pame.is/index.php/projects/marine-protected-areas>

 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)