PAME I-2019 –Agenda Item 6.1(a)

Status Report on the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum

By SEG Co-Chairs and Forum Chair

Background

The purpose of the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum (hereinafter 'the Forum') is to support the effective implementation of the IMO Polar Code by making publicly available on a dedicated web portal information relevant to all those involved in safe and environmentally sound Arctic shipping, including shipowners/operators, regulators, classification societies, marine insurers, and indigenous and local communities. Operational and other approved documents and resources specific to the Forum include:

- Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum Terms of Reference (final agreed version 20 September 2017)[1]

- Forum Methods of Operation (final agreed version 14 Feb 2018)[2]

- Factors to be Considered in Selecting Hyperlinks for Posting to the ASBPIF Web Portal (final agreed version 14 Feb 2018)[3]

- The Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum Webpage: https://pame.is/index.php/projects/arctic-marine-shipping/the-arctic-shipping-best-practices-information-forum and the Reports of the previous Forum meetings therein.

- The Forum's web-portal: http://www.arcticshippingforum.is

PAME II-2018 Records of Decision:

- *PAME encourages Forum participants to continue to submit relevant information for posting to the Forum's web portal via the hyperlinked submission form and to provide feedback to further improve the web-portal content.*

- *PAME instructs the SEG Co-Chairs and the Forum Chair to provide a status report at PAME I-2019 on plans for the 3rd annual Forum meeting.*

Preparation for the 3rd Forum Meeting

The Forums' Organizing Committee have started preparations for the 3rd Annual Forum meeting which will take place on 3-4 June 2019 at the U.S. Embassy in London, immediately preceding the 101st Session of the IMOs Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) on 5-14 June 2019. A "save-the-date" email was sent out on the 9 December 2018 and an official invitation with additional details will be sent out by early March 2019.

Topics for consideration at the 3rd Forum meeting include:

1) Web Portal Content Review

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[1] https://pame.is/images/03_Projects/Forum/Docs/Forum_ToR-final_agreed_version_20_Sep_2017.pdf
[2] https://pame.is/images/03_Projects/Forum/Docs/ASPBIF_-_Methods_of_operation.pdf
[3] https://pame.is/images/03_Projects/Forum/Docs/Forum_Webportal_Hyperlink_Factors_-_FINAL_14_Feb_2018.pdf

2) Polar Code Implementation Progress Reports (including information needs and gaps) by Arctic State & Flag State Maritime Administrations, Classification Societies & Industry with operations in the Arctic

3) The Human Element in the Polar Code

4) Review of POLARIS (four years after entry into force of the Polar Code)

5) Communications in the Polar Regions: Limitations & Gaps

6) Raising the Forum's Public Profile

Forum Web-Portal

At the conclusion of the Forum's 2018 annual meeting, a public Web Portal was launched to assist with the effective implementation of the Polar Code. Accessible at www.arcticshippingforum.is, the Web Portal provides links to an impressive range of authoritative information essential to effective implementation of and compliance with the Polar Code.

In the save-the-date email sent out on 9 December, stakeholders were invited to submit information to the Web Portal, as well as to provide updates and additional information from those who have previously submitted information. Furthermore, stakeholders were welcomed to provide comments on the Web Portal, especially to highlight any gaps in coverage that they may see, and to advise the Forum's Organizing Committee of any relevant projects or initiatives that might be seen as complementary.

The deadline for submissions is **1 March 2019** using the online template available here.

Next Steps

The Forum Organizing Committee will finalize the meeting agenda, send invitations and finalize all preparations via intersessional telephone calls.

Recommendations

The SEG Co-Chairs and Forum Chair recommend that PAME-I 2019 adopt a ROD:

• welcoming the Forum's progress and its collaborative approach to increasing awareness and availability of authoritative information needed to implement the Polar Code;

• noting that the next Forum meeting is scheduled in conjunction for 3-4 June 2019 in London; and

• instructing the Shipping Expert Group's Co-Chairs and Forum Chair to provide a status report on the Forum at PAME II-2019.