

PAME I-2019: Agenda 6.3(a)

Project Title:

Low-Impact Shipping Corridors and other Shipping Management Schemes in the Circumpolar Arctic

Project Leads:

Canada, Iceland and Aleut International Association

Summary:

Growing awareness of fragile ecosystems and increasing interest in shipping in the Arctic have heightened the need to develop shipping routes that minimize the negative impacts on coastal communities and the marine environment. In tackling this challenge, Arctic States would benefit from sharing data and best practices on existing and ongoing efforts to provide environmentally safe shipping routes across the circumpolar Arctic.

Building on measures for area-based protection developed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), this report presents international approaches to Arctic shipping and seeks to stimulate discussions on potential collaboration and coordination amongst Arctic States to provide safer and environmentally sensitive shipping routes across the circumpolar Arctic.

This report also seeks to incorporate non-governmental perspectives on minimizing environmental impacts of increased shipping activity in the Arctic, including Indigenous, academic and industry views. The report would include a section on best practices and recommendations for possible joint action amongst Arctic States.

Status and proposed timeline to finalize:

The anticipated approval date for this report was PAME I-2019. However, due to some unexpected circumstances, timelines have had to be amended.

A first draft of the report has been completed, which will be circulated to PAME Members for feedback shortly before PAME I-2019. It is proposed to finalize the report inter-sessionally and to present it for approval at PAME II-2019.

Actions by PAME I-2019 meeting:

- Agree to timeline to finalize
- Include this project in the PAME 2019-2021 Work Plan