

PAME II-2019 – Agenda Item 6.6

Regional Reception Facilities

Submitted by Russian Federation and United States to PAME, July 30, 2019

Brief update on the MEPC 74 submission on the concept of regional reception facilities

BACKGROUND:

According to PAME's AMSA II(D) 2014 report, "Projected increases in Arctic shipping, especially in the tourism, fishing, energy and mining sectors, means that increased quantities of ship-generated waste will be generated and transported onboard ships travelling through the Arctic waters with an attendant increase in risk of pollution and discharges to the marine environment."

Due to the unique Arctic marine environment, which is both environmentally sensitive and remote, compliance with MARPOL requirements as shipping increases in the future is imperative. One such requirement for Arctic port states is to ensure the provision of adequate port reception facilities (PRF) for certain ship generated waste, long recognized as a key element in MARPOL for the prevention of pollution from ships.

PAME formed a Regional Reception Facility Expert Group (RRF-EG) to study the feasibility of using the existing IMO RRF guidance to create an Arctic specific RRF that could be submitted to IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC). The RRF-EG submitted its final report to PAME I-2017, titled *Regional Waste Management Strategies for Arctic Shipping, Regional Reception Facility Plan and Proposal for IMO Consideration*, which included an RRF Outline and RRF Guide for the Arctic and a draft paper to submit to IMO requesting MEPC to review and comment on the report and take appropriate action.

The draft document was submitted jointly by the Arctic states (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States) at MEPC (72) in May 2018. No comments were received and the MEPC having noted the information provided, invited the co-sponsors of the document to submit a proposal for a new output to MEPC 73, in accordance with the Committees' method of work (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5), to amend the relevant parts of MARPOL to allow the establishment of such a regional arrangement in the Arctic.

This proposal for new output to amend relevant parts of MARPOL was submitted to MEPC 74 by the Russian Federation's Permanent Representative to the IMO, on behalf of all 8 Arctic State Co-sponsors, as MEPC 74/14/2 "Proposal for a new output to amend MARPOL to allow the establishment of regional arrangements in the Arctic".

The proposal for the new output was adopted by MEPC 74 and will be included in the agenda of PPR 8 in 2021, as the PPR 7 for 2020 already has a full agenda.

NEXT STEPS

A RRF Plan is not a new concept as it was adopted for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) by Resolution MEPC.216(63) and subsequent amendments made in MARPOL. This amendment declares that SIDS may satisfy the requirements of adequate port reception facilities through regional arrangements when, because of those States' unique circumstances, such arrangements are the only practical means to satisfy these requirements. It seems that relevant amendments to MARPOL Annexes could follow the similar wording for Arctic States.

Therefore, to implementing MEPC 74's decision it is necessary to develop the amendments in question and submit them to PPR 8 in 2021.

The Correspondence Group (CG) should continue their activities and prepare draft amendments to MARPOL and submit this document for consideration to the PAME I-2020 meeting and, based on PAME feedback, a final smooth version for submission to PPR 8 2021.

At the PPR 8 the Co-sponsors could request the Sub-Committee to take action and invite the submission of a paper, including draft amendment language, to MEPC 77 (2021) for consideration and approval of amendments to MARPOL that would allow for the use of Regional Arrangements in the Arctic for further adoption accordingly the established procedures.

In the meanwhile, the CG should also develop an action plan identifying what steps need to be taken, information collected, resources and funding needed to develop an Arctic RRF plan based on (but not limited to) the strategies and guidelines put forward in *Regional Waste Management Strategies for Arctic Shipping*, *Regional Reception Facility Plan and Proposal for IMO Consideration* and the using the Pacific Islands' SIDS Regional Reception Facility Plan (MEPC 68/11/1) as a possible template.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Russian Federation and USA recommend that PAME adopt a Record of Decision (ROD) inviting the PAME IMO Contact Points from each Arctic State to continue to work collectively and within their own country IMO delegations, intercessionally by correspondence, to draft such submissions related to the amendment to MARPOL and draft action plan, in accordance with IMOs organization of work and MEPC meeting agenda(s) and deadlines for submission of papers; and to provide timely updates to PAME as necessary.