



6 January 2020

To: Arctic States, Permanent Participants, Arctic Council Working Groups and Task Forces, Observers

From: The PAME Working Group

Subject: Request for Review and Comment by 1 June 2020 of Proposed Draft Updates to the 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Report Recommendations

Action Requested

Attached for review and comment **by 1 June 2020** are proposed draft updates to the 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Report Recommendations.¹

Please direct any questions you may have concerning this request or the attached draft updates to the PAME Executive Secretariat (pame@pame.is) as well as to the co-chairs of PAME's Shipping Expert Group, Peter Oppenheimer (Peter.Oppenheimer@noaa.gov) and Drummond Fraser (Drummond.Fraser@tc.gc.ca).

Background

Arctic Ministers approved the AMSA Report and its 17 Recommendations at the 2009 Tromsø Ministerial Meeting. The Recommendations are now ten years old and need updating to reflect progress, developments, and changes since 2009.²

At PAME I-2017 in Copenhagen, member governments adopted a Record of Decision (RoD) approving a project co-led by the USA and Canada --

“to develop and adopt updated shipping priorities and recommendations under the three themes of the 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) report (Enhancing Arctic Marine Safety; Protecting Arctic People and the Environment; Building the Arctic Marine Infrastructure).”

¹ The 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Report is available online at <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/54>.

² PAME issued status reports on the implementation of the AMSA Report Recommendations every two years between 2011 and 2017. Those status reports are available on the Arctic Council's website at <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/53>.

Since then, the U.S. and Canada have worked to coordinate the development of draft updates to the AMSA Recommendations, and have solicited input from PAME members – governments, Permanent Participants, Observers – as well as Arctic shipping experts from academia and industry.

Input received to date is captured in a draft matrix, which is attached to this cover paper. An analysis of this input indicates that it has ranged from the editorial to the substantive and covered all three thematic areas outlined in the 2009 AMSA Report. A handful of trends and reoccurring comments stand out:

- making amendments to avoid the use of prescriptive language in favor of more nimble or inclusive terminology (e.g., avoiding the use of lists);
- removal of dated/antiquated, and in some cases incorrect language or references (e.g., use of ‘Polar Code’ instead of ‘Guidelines for Ships Operating in Arctic Ice Covered Waters’);
- where applicable, the complete removal (or significant reconfiguration) of recommendations that were either finite or have since come to fruition (e.g., the signing of the Arctic SAR Agreement);
- merging or integration of elements of related recommendations, both from within the list of the 17 AMSA recommendations, but also in relation to recommendations put forward by the Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) and Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP);
- the augmentation of certain recommendations with additional language (e.g., regarding marine mammal impacts, consideration of other competent international and regional organizations, not just the IMO); and
- the suggestion of entirely new recommendations, including those not previously captured by the AMSA or other Arctic Council documents.

Examples of other more specific or individual comment suggestions received include:

- broadening the scope beyond passenger ship safety to be inclusive of all vessels types;
- providing an indication or ranking of priority recommendations;
- expanding the scope of marine life analyzed to go beyond impacts to marine mammals only; and
- setting aside the attempt to integrate shipping related Arctic Ocean Review (AOR) Final Report and Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) recommendations with AMSA ones altogether, as many are derivative or already closely resemble the AMSA ones.

Next steps

Canada and the USA are now requesting your review of and comment on the attached draft matrix **by 1 June 2020.**

After 1 June 2020, Canada and the USA as project co-leads will update the draft matrix to address all comments received, and submit the revised draft matrix to PAME II-2020. The objective is for PAME to approve the submission to SAOs and, ultimately, Arctic Ministers at the 2021 Ministerial Meeting of updated draft AMSA Recommendations for approval.