



## **PAME II-2020 – Shipping Expert Group Pre-meeting**

### **Agenda item 6.6.(c)**

#### **Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum**

*Co-leads: Iceland, USA, Canada*

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The establishment of the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum is in response to the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code) by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

**The purpose of the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum** is to support 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 and operators, regulators, classification societies, marine insurers, and indigenous and local communities. The Forum also draws on experiences from the Antarctic.

The Forum coordination team continues to work on advancing the Forum web-portal. The Coordination team consists of Sverrir Konráðsson, the Forum chair on behalf of Iceland, Peter Openheimer and Drummond Frasers as co-chairs of PAME's Shipping Expert Group, Michael Kingston as a special advisor and the PAME Secretariat.

The 2020 Forum meeting was scheduled to take place in London on 11-12 May 2020 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**The Coordination team has decided to convene the 4th annual Forum meeting online during the fall/winter of 2020** based on a survey that was sent out to Forum Participants on 8 July. Exact dates are to be confirmed.

The meeting agenda is in the process of being developed for the online 4th Forum meeting. The Forum coordination team has met regularly online to advance the Forum's Web-Portal and continues to seek submissions from Forum Participants on new, updated, and other information that would benefit the Web portal in efforts to increase awareness of and further the effective implementation of the Polar Code. Such submissions are done via an online submission form.

The Forum coordination team has also reached out to the Arctic Council Working Groups and the Indigenous Peoples Secretary to include their relevant information on the Web-Portal.

Specific improvements have been made to the Web Portal, which include revisions to the main page to more accurately summarize Polar Code provisions, updates to the Arctic State Administration page, the addition of links to authoritative information, and the creation of a subpage for scholarly articles on the Polar Code. The Forum Web-Page can be accessed here: [www.arcticshippingforum.is](http://www.arcticshippingforum.is).