



# PAME SUMMARY REPORT 2015-2017 ACTIVITIES

9<sup>th</sup> Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting  
25<sup>th</sup> of April 2015, Iqaluit, Canada

## The PAME Programme

The programme for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) was established by the Arctic Council Ministers in Nuuk, Greenland, September 1993 with the mandate to address policy and non-emergency pollution prevention and control measures related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment from both land and sea-based activities. These measures include coordinated strategic actions, programs, assessments and guidelines, complementing existing international arrangements.

PAME members include National Representatives of the 8 Arctic Council States: Canada, Denmark (including Faroe Islands and Greenland), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden and United States. Indigenous groups' organizations, termed „Permanent Participants“ also participate in PAME, as well as representatives from several observer countries and organizations. Thus, PAME provides a unique forum for collaboration on a wide range of activities directed towards protection of the Arctic marine environment.

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## Mandate

The Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Working Group was established by the Arctic Council Ministers in Nuuk, Greenland in September 1993. PAME provides a unique forum for collaboration on a wide range of activities directed towards protection of the Arctic marine environment. PAME's mandate is to address policy and other measures related to the protection of the Arctic marine and coastal environment from both land and sea-based activities. These measures include coordinated strategic plans as well as developing programs, assessments and guidelines, all of which aim to complement or supplement existing international arrangements.

## Response to Arctic Council priorities

PAME's work reflects the priorities as agreed to at the 2013 Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting and of relevance to PAME's mandate with particular reference to the following paragraphs of the Kiruna Declaration:

**Recognize** the important ongoing work in the International Maritime Organization to develop a mandatory Polar Code on shipping and **decide** to strengthen our collaboration in that work toward its expeditious completion,

**Welcome** the Arctic Ocean Review report, undertaken to provide guidance to Arctic States on strengthening governance in the Arctic through a cooperative, coordinated and integrated approach to the management of the Arctic marine environment, **approve** its recommendations and **request** appropriate follow-up actions, and report on progress at subsequent ministerial meetings,

**Welcome** the report on Ecosystem Based Management, **approve** the definition, principles and recommendations, **encourage** Arctic States to implement recommendations both within and across boundaries, and **ensure** coordination of approaches in the work of the Arctic Council's Working Groups.

Furthermore, PAME contributes to the Canadian Chairmanship Programme as it relates in particular to the sub-theme on *Safe Arctic Shipping*. PAME has also contributed to the Arctic Council task forces in an effort to ensure coordination with relevant PAME work, in particular the Task Force on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Prevention (TFOPP), the Task Force on Black Carbon and Methane (TFBCM), and the Task Force on Scientific Cooperation.

## Working Group Chair's Summary

PAME focuses on the marine agenda of the Arctic Council working on the basis of the 2004 Arctic Marine Strategic Plan and PAME's biennial work plans. Retreating sea ice

opens Arctic marine areas up for increased shipping and resource use, affecting ecosystems, economies and traditional ways of life of indigenous peoples.

PAME's work aims to help Arctic Council members assess these changes and identify options to address them. In the 2013-2015 biennial work plan, new work was initiated on tourism and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), resulting in a project identifying best practices guidelines for marine tourism, and in a concept paper on MPAs, to encourage further coordination and cooperation in that field. Work on offshore oil and gas included a report on safety management and culture, and work on the ecosystem approach was advanced *inter alia* with workshops on selected issues.

Various projects addressed shipping issues, most of them intended to follow up the 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) and its 17 recommendations. Work in this field included studies on the use and carriage of heavy fuel oil and associated risks, and in identifying options for area-based conservation measures from shipping impacts in the high seas area of the Arctic Ocean. PAME followed closely the development of the IMO's Polar Code, expected to enter into force in January 2017. PAME led efforts to update the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan for a new decade, 2015-2025, taking account of environmental changes, new knowledge and recent assessments.

## **Main achievements**

PAME's work has proceeded in accordance with relevant activities in PAME's biennial work plan as approved by the Arctic Council, including implementation of the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment recommendations and policy follow-up to other assessments and reports of the Arctic Council.

PAME cooperates actively with the other Arctic Council Working Groups in an effort to contribute to improved efficiency and effectiveness of the Arctic Council. Further, PAME works substantively with Arctic inhabitants, including Arctic indigenous peoples, to provide a unique forum for collaboration on a wide range of activities directed towards protection of the Arctic marine environment.

Follow-up of the 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment Report (AMSA): PAME has a designated shipping expert group that includes national representatives, permanent participants, IMO experts, and other shipping experts who work to discuss and implement AMSA and other Arctic Council shipping related reports' recommendations. Examples include: pursuing collaboration with international organizations on Arctic related activities of common interest, safe and environmentally sound navigation, surveying and nautical charting, shipping industry engagement with Arctic communities, specially designated Arctic marine areas, port waste reception facilities, air emissions, the infrastructure deficit, and Arctic marine traffic systems, including the sharing of vessel traffic and monitoring data, etc.

PAME's shipping expert group has prepared the 3<sup>rd</sup> report on the *Status on Implementation of the AMSA Report Recommendations for 2013-2015*. This report reflects the status and progress made on the 17 recommendations promoting the safety and environmental awareness of Arctic shipping activity at national, Arctic, regional, and international levels.

AMSA follow-up improves knowledge of shipping issues and helps assess options to make shipping safer for people and the environment.

The Arctic Marine Tourism Project (AMTP) (co-leads: Canada and USA): The AMTP is the first project in a potential suite of renewed efforts by the Arctic Council to analyze and encourage sustainable tourism across the circumpolar Arctic. Specifically, the AMTP is attempting to identify issues or gaps where the Arctic Council can add value by articulating best practices in relation to vessel-based Arctic tourism. Two workshops have been held during the development of this project. The first workshop was held in Ottawa, Canada from 18-19 March 2014 and the second was held in Oslo, Norway 16th of October 2014 in conjunction with the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO) annual general meeting. The co-leads circulated a draft "Best Practices" document to the Arctic Council working groups for review in January 2015, and a final document, pending SAO approval, is expected to be introduced at the Iqaluit Ministerial in April 2015.

AMTP outcomes are intended to promote sustainability within the Arctic marine tourism industry and make a positive contribution to the environment and Arctic communities.

Updating the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP 2015-2025) (co-leads: Canada, Norway and USA): The stewardship of the Arctic marine environment is of particular importance to the Arctic states. Since the AMSP was adopted in 2004, the Arctic marine environment has been, and will continue to be, subject to increasing pressures from climate change, economic activities, and pollution. Most of the strategic actions in the AMSP have been accomplished or are in the process of being finalized.

Updating the AMSP provides the building blocks towards more coordinated and integrated approaches and supports policy decisions at the local, national, regional, and international levels. It also responds to commitments by the global community to sustainable development and protection of marine biodiversity and the marine environment through the application of ecosystem approach and integrated coastal and ocean management.

The AMSP covers all Arctic marine areas and relates to key activities affecting Arctic marine ecosystems. Inputs from other Arctic Council working groups was important in this process, and two AMSP workshops were convened over the last two years to generate dialogue and capture inputs. The AMSP takes into full account benefits to people, both in general as an integral part of this Strategic Plan and more specifically in one of its four overarching goals, including strategic actions related to an overarching goal on enhancing economic, social, and cultural well-being.

An updated AMSP will chart strategic actions on marine issues for the next decade with the goal of enhancing people's well-being, strengthen their capacity to adapt to changes in the Arctic marine environment and conserving ecosystems.



Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Project (co-leads: Canada, Norway and USA): The MPA Network Expert Group, reporting to PAME, drafted this Framework. The role of the pan-Arctic MPA network, composed of individual Arctic State MPA networks, is to protect and restore marine biodiversity, ecosystem function, and special natural features, as well as to preserve cultural heritage resources. Individual MPAs and MPA networks strengthen marine ecosystem resilience and contribute to human wellbeing, including traditional lifestyles, within the broader context of sustainable oceans management practices and climate change.

This framework sets out a common vision for international cooperation in MPA network establishment and management, based on international best practices and previous Arctic Council initiatives. It aims to support the efforts of Arctic States to develop their MPA networks and chart a course for future collaborative planning, management, and actions for the conservation and protection of the Arctic marine environment.

This framework is not binding; each Arctic State will proceed with MPA network development based on its own priorities and timelines. However, having a common vision in place confers a number of advantages that can support and enhance the work of individual Arctic States. A Framework for a pan-Arctic Network of MPAs also contributes significantly to a number of ongoing Arctic Council objectives such as the Ecosystem Approach to Management.

**The Framework supports Arctic countries in developing MPAs to conserve marine ecosystems and encourage sustainable use of marine resources.**

Ecosystem Approach to Management (EA) activities (co-leads: Norway and USA): PAME continues to integrate the ecosystem approach into assessments and management recommendations through follow-up to the 2013 EBM marine-related recommendations, taking into account previous work on Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs). In 2007 PAME established an expert group on the Ecosystem Approach to Management (the EA-EG). This expert group broadened in 2011 to become a PAME-led joint expert group with participation from other Arctic Council working groups working on marine-related issues (AMAP, CAFF, and SDWG). The EA-EG members have prepared a Terms of Reference, taking into account new and ongoing EA activities of cross-cutting nature. The work of the EA EG has been carried out according to its work plan.

**An ecosystem approach aims to guide sustainable use of marine resources while ensuring a healthy and robust marine ecosystem.**

Follow up on the 2009 Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines (AOOGG): *Systems Safety Management and Safety Culture Report* (lead: USA, in coordination with the PAME Oil and Gas contact group). This report and its recommendations are based on findings from two expert workshops on Health Safety and Environment and Safety Culture in addition to findings from the Deepwater Horizon investigations, regulatory systems reviews, and assessment of management systems in place in the Arctic. PAME submitted the report to the March 2014 SAO meeting, which approved its final version. Online supporting

documents are accessible on the PAME homepage, as they represent the documents in support of the *Systems Safety Management and Safety Culture Report*.

The PAME Oil and Gas Contact Group prepared a proposal, in coordination with the Shipping Expert Group, for a project to follow up or expand guidance in Chapter 2 of the 2009 AOOGG on Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities for inclusion to the PAME 2015-2017 Work Plan.

Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Management, Regulation and Enforcement Web-Based Information Resource (MRE Project): This website has been redesigned and provides links to specific information on national websites related to management, regulation, and enforcement of Arctic offshore oil and gas activities. Member states are in the process of supplying relevant links and explanatory information.

**The Safety Culture Report and the MRE project helps oil and gas regulators and others to understand causes of safety failures and prevent accidents.**

Follow-up and implementation of marine-related Arctic Council Recommendations: PAME has started a process to systematically consider and record/track implementation and follow-up actions for a range of Arctic Council reports, assessments, and other recommendations of relevance to PAMEs work in order to focus its future activities.

**Better focus of PAME's work will make it more streamlined and useful for Arctic inhabitants.**

## **Coordination and collaboration with other Arctic Council working groups**

PAME actively pursues cooperation with the other Arctic Council Working Groups and Task Forces to contribute to improved efficiency and effectiveness of the Arctic Council. Every effort is made to have PAME represented at meetings convened by the other subsidiary bodies, particularly on subjects of direct relevance to PAME's work and mandate. A PAME representative either attends in person or by a remote access.

PAME and AMAP convened a joint session during their working group meetings in Whitehorse in September 2014, and at this Joint session, SDWG provided information on their relevant cross-cutting activities.

PAME collaborates and communicates with all Arctic Council Working Groups on the development of the revised Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) 2015-2025 and emphasizes the importance of their inputs in this work.

AMAP, CAFF, and SDWG are engaged in marine-related issues and have been invited to participate in the PAME-led Ecosystem Approach Expert Group and a joint Terms of Reference for this collaboration has been developed.

PAME has provided input to the Task Force on Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Prevention (TFOPP) regarding offshore oil and gas related issues.

PAME regularly reaches out to other Working Groups, industry and organisations with recognized competence as a mean to identify and where possible collaborate on issues of common interest, of relevance to AMSA shipping follow-up activities:

- The Cruise Lines International Associations (CLIA)
- The Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO).
- Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC)
- The World Maritime University (WMU)
- The International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
- International Chamber of Shipping
- The International Group of P&I Clubs.
- European Maritime Safety Agency
- The Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO)
- ExactEarth





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