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Circular Letter No.4460
13 October 2021

To: IMO Member States and Associate Members
United Nations and specialized agencies
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Fifth Annual Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum
(16 to 18 November 2021)**

1 The Fifth Annual Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum (the Forum) will be held virtually, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, from 16 to 18 November 2021.

2 Hosted by the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Working Group of the Arctic Council, the meeting is supported by the Organization, which obtained observer status with the Arctic Council in May 2019.

3 The Organization has participated in the Forum since its inception and contributed to the Forum's Web Portal (www.arcticshippingforum.is), a publicly accessible website containing information specific to each chapter of the Polar Code and relevant to all those involved in safe and environmentally sound Arctic shipping, including, but not limited to, regulators, international organizations, shipowners/operators, regulators, classification societies/recognized organizations, marine insurers, indigenous and local communities and other interested parties. A particular emphasis is placed on information used by shipowners and operators in developing Polar Water Operational Manuals, as required by the Polar Code.

4 Participation in the Forum is open to Arctic States, permanent participants and Arctic Council observers, as well as to any widely recognized professional organization dedicated to improving safe and environmentally sound marine operations in the Arctic as demonstrated by expertise and experience in Arctic shipping and/or related issues. The Forum also draws on experience from the Antarctic. The theme of this fifth annual Forum meeting is: **The Polar Code: Nearly Five Years On.**

5 PAME has extended the invitation to the Fifth Annual Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum to interested IMO Member States and Associate Members, United Nations and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status and requests those wishing to participate to contact the PAME Secretariat via the registration (see paragraph 8).

6 More information on the Arctic Council's PAME Working Group and the Forum's web portal can be found [here](#),¹ and on the Forum's website [here](#).²

¹ <https://pame.is/component/content/article?id=92&Itemid=1579>

² <https://pame.is/projects-new/arctic-shipping/pame-shipping-highlights/412-arctic-shipping-best-practice-information-%09forum>

7 This meeting will take place via the GoToMeeting videoconference platform from 16 to 18 November 2021. The virtual meeting will convene each day at the following time: 14.00-17.00 (UTC/GMT/UK) (05.00-8.00 Alaska/09.00-12.00 North America east coast/15.00-18.00 (CET)D/16.00-19.00 FIN/17.00-20.00 Moscow).

8 Registration is required by 1 November 2021 by registering here: [on-line registration](#)³

9 The provisional agenda is set out in the annex.

10 In case of further queries about this virtual Forum meeting, please contact the PAME Secretariat at: pameshippingforum@pame.is.

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<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeEgrkHVkAkzXuOa4wLKL89LKM9YhpKIr2N6HRxf6vFU51Gxg/viewform>

**ANNEX
PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE
FIFTH ARCTIC SHIPPING BEST PRACTICE INFORMATION FORUM***

**ARCTIC SHIPPING
BEST PRACTICE
INFORMATION FORUM**



* https://pame.is/images/03_Projects/Forum/5th_meeting/Forum_5th_meeting_agenda_-_12_October_draft.pdf

DAY 1: 16 NOVEMBER

1

OPENING SESSION

- 14.00** **Welcome & Opening Remarks - Russian Federation**
Senior Official of the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation (TBC) & Mr. Sergey Tolmachev (Forum Chair)
- 14.05** **Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum Developments**
Mr. Peter Oppenheimer and Mr. Drummond Fraser (Co-chairs of PAME's Shipping Expert Group)
- 14.10** **Forum Web-Portal Update (www.arcticshippingforum.is)**
Mr. Michael Kingston (Michael Kingston Associates, Special Advisor to PAME)
- 14.20** **Shipping in the Arctic Polar Code Area: Recent Developments**
Mr. Hjalti Hreinsson (PAME Secretariat)
- 14.30** **Update from the IMO**
Dr. Heike Deggim (Director, Maritime Safety Division, IMO)
- 14.45** **Discussion**

2

SUPPORTING AWARENESS, INTERPRETATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLAR CODE

- 15.00** **Interpretation of the Polar Code: Status of the PAME Project**
Ms. Turid Stemre (Director IMO Affairs, Norwegian Maritime Authority)
- 15.15** **Procedures Related to the Navigation on the Northern Sea Route as an Element of Comprehensive System to Ensure Maritime Safety in the Russian Arctic**
Mr. Nikolay Monko (Acting Head of the Northern Sea Route Administration, the Russian Federation)
- 15.30** **Overview of Insurance Perspective**
Mr. Neil Roberts (Head of Marine and Aviation, Lloyd's Market Association)
- 14.45** **Discussion**

HEALTH BREAK

3

SEARCH AND RESCUE & EMERGENCY MARINE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN THE ARCTIC

16.00

Providing Search and Rescue Services in the Arctic Region

Mr. Yury Malyshev (Deputy Head, Marine Rescue Coordination Center of the Marine Rescue Service of the Russian Federation)

16.15

The Emergency Preparedness, Prevention and Response Working Group of the Arctic Council

EPPR Representative

16.30

Arctic Guardian Exercise in Search and Rescue and Marine Environmental Response in the Arctic

Mr. Steve Thompson (Chair, Combined Operations Working Group - Arctic Coast Guard Forum)

16.45

Discussion & Closing of Day 1

17.00

END OF DAY 1

DAY 2: 17 NOVEMBER

14.00

Opening of the Meeting and Day 1 Recap

Mr. Sergey Tolmachev (Forum Chair)

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ICE NAVIGATION AND ICE PILOTAGE IN THE ARCTIC

14.05

Ice Pilotage in the Northern Sea Route

Capt. Vasily Ilin (Deputy Director for Safety of Navigation of the Russian Federation Federal State Unitary Enterprise - 'Rosmorport', Arkhangelsk Branch)

14.20

A Canadian Perspective

Capt. Duke Snider (CEO of Martech Polar)

14.35

A Swedish Perspective

Capt. Mattias Pettersson (Master, Icebreaker *Oden*) TBC

14.50

Discussion

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ARCTIC VOYAGE PLANNING

15.00 **Navigation and Information Support of Voyage Planning in the Northern Sea Route: the Case of a Conventional Icebreaker**
Mr. Nikolay Zelenkov (Deputy Director for Maritime Safety of the Russian Federation Federal State Unitary Enterprise "Rosmorport", Murmansk Branch)

15.15 **Voyage Planning: Forum of Arctic Research Operators (FARO), The Polar Code, Logistics & Safety**
Dr. Jennifer L. Mercer (Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation (USA) & Chair, Forum of Arctic Research Operators (FARO)) & Dr. Åsa Lindgren (Head of Department for the Ship-Based Research Support, Swedish Polar Research Secretariat)

15.30 **Considerations When Planning for Multi-Ship Ice Management Operations in Polar Waters**
Mr. Åke Rohlen (Chairman of Arctic Marine Solutions) TBC

15.45 **Discussion**

HEALTH BREAK

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NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY SERVICE PROVIDERS

16.00 **Communications in the Arctic Region**
Mr. Kyle Hurst (Director Maritime Safety and Security Services, IRIDIUM)

16.15 **Arctic Hydrography**
Dr. Geneviève Bécharde (Chair of the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission, Hydrographer General of Canada and Director General for the Canadian Hydrographic Service); Collaborations in Arctic Hydrography to Maritime Safety and the protection of the Arctic marine environment)

16.30 **Ice Information**
Ms. Florence Fetterer (U.S. National Snow & Ice Data Center Liaison to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

16.45 **Discussion & Closing of Day 2**

END OF DAY 2

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16.05

Status Update

Mr. Rob Hindley (Head of Machinery & Structural Design, Aker Arctic) &
Mr. James Bond (Director, Polar Research and Ice Class Ships, American Bureau of Shipping)

16.20

Discussion

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CLOSING SESSION

16.30

Forum Developments and Next Steps

Mr. Peter Oppenheimer and Mr. Drummond Fraser (Co-chairs of PAME's Shipping Expert Group)

16.55

Closing Remarks

Mr. Sergey Tolmachev (Forum Chair)

17.00

END OF MEETING