

For the protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

**2006-2008**

# WORK PLAN



**PAME**

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment



## **Work Plan 2006-2008**

**Preface:**

The purpose of the PAME Work Plan is to provide a framework for PAME's work related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment for the period of 2006 – 2008.

PAME's Working Group activities are directed towards protection of the Arctic marine environment. PAME consists of National Representatives responsible for its work in their respective countries. Permanent Participants, representing Arctic indigenous groups, also participate in PAME, as well as representatives of several observer countries and interested organisations. PAME provides a unique forum for collaboration on a wide range of Arctic marine environment issues.

The PAME Working Group generally meets twice a year to assess progress and advance its work. PAME is headed by a chair and vice-chair, which rotate among the Arctic countries and is supported by an International Secretariat. PAME reports to the Senior Arctic Officials, and through them, to the Ministers of the Arctic Council that meets every two years.

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## INTRODUCTION

The PAME working group addresses policy and non-emergency pollution prevention and control measures related to the protection of the Arctic marine environment from land and sea-based activities.

The PAME Work Plan 2006 – 2008 was developed according to its mandate and agreed priorities and identifies 3 objectives followed by a set of specific actions which in most instances represent a continuation of ongoing activities. This Work Plan is in line with the implementation of specific strategic actions of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (2004) that outlines the overall direction of the Arctic Council for the protection of the Arctic marine environment.

## OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

### OBJECTIVE I:

**Improve knowledge and respond to emerging knowledge of the Arctic marine environment**

### RATIONALE:

Scientific findings (e.g. IPCC and ACIA) note that the present findings of declining sea ice in the Arctic is expected to accelerate and ACIA projects in its Key Finding No. 6 that: *Sea ice is very likely to lengthen the navigation season and increase marine access to the Arctic's natural resources.*

Increased economic activity together with the projected retreat of Arctic sea ice presents several plausible futures for the Arctic's regional seas, Northern Sea Route, the Northwest Passage, and the central Arctic Ocean. Continued sea ice reductions will likely lengthen the navigation season in all regions and increase marine access to the Arctic's natural resources. Activities such as development of hydrocarbon and mineral resources, cruise ship tourism and commercial fishing are expected to expand with increased accessibility and marine transportation in the Arctic. This may require greater infrastructure support and may pose increased environmental risks to the Arctic marine environment and its ecological processes, including the introduction of alien species and potential for pollution.

## **ACTIONS:**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Lead</b>
<p>1. Conduct a comprehensive circumpolar assessment of current and future Arctic shipping including economic, social and environmental impacts.</p> <p>Final report from this assessment will be presented to the 6<sup>th</sup> Arctic Council Ministerial in Autumn 2008</p> <p><i>(From sections 7.1.4; 7.2.2 and 7.2.6 in the AMSP)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Conduct a survey of marine activity for 2004 that will be provided by the six Arctic coastal states.</li> <li>➤ Conduct a survey of the regions of indigenous Arctic marine use including hunting, fishing, transport and other critical uses of the Arctic Ocean.</li> <li>➤ Conduct a series of Town Hall Meetings throughout the Arctic to gather critical local and regional information about the concerns, interests, and ideas of Arctic residents.</li> <li>➤ Based on ACIA and regional economic analyses, project the level of marine activity for 2020 and 2050.</li> <li>➤ Determine current and future social, economic, and environmental impacts of current and future Arctic marine activity.</li> <li>➤ Conduct studies on risk, accident scenarios and responses to future Arctic marine activity.</li> <li>➤ Develop a of list of key AMSA findings and recommendations for PAME, the Member States and the international maritime community.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CANADA</b> <b>FINLAND</b> <b>USA</b></p>
<p>2. Continue to respond to the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) taking account of new information on climate change.</p> <p><i>(From section 7.2.1 in the AMSP)</i></p>	<p>Monitor and consider any new climate change information to determine additional activities to be included in future workplans of PAME.</p>	<p><b>PAME</b> <b>Chair/Secretariat</b></p>
<p>3. Responding to the Arctic Council <u>Assessment of Potential Impacts of Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Review the findings and recommendations of the Arctic Council oil and gas assessment as it related to marine protection from the environmental impacts of oil and gas activities.</li> <li>➤ Examine the adequacy of Arctic Council guidelines related to the prevention of marine environmental impacts of oil and gas activities in light of the Council's oil and gas assessment and in keeping with the review cycle approved by the Council.</li> <li>➤ Organize a workshop to assess the implementation of the Arctic Council Oil and Gas Guidelines, and whether there are gaps and a need to update in light of the findings and recommendations of the Arctic Council Marine Strategic Plan and Oil and Gas Assessment..</li> </ul>	<p><b>PAME</b> <b>Chair/Secretariat</b></p> <p><b>USA</b></p> <p><b>USA</b></p>

Actions	Activities	Lead
<p>4. Continue the <u>assessment of existing measures for port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues</u> (PRF-Norway)</p> <p><i>(From sections 7.2.4 and 7.2.6 in the AMSP)</i></p>	<p><u>Phase 2</u> – Identify gaps in existing coverage and possible improvements in availability and incentives for delivery.</p> <p><u>Phase 3</u> – Develop proposal for common guidelines based on the gap analysis.</p>	<p><b>NORWAY</b></p>

## OBJECTIVE II:

**Determine the adequacy of applicable international/regional commitments and promote their implementation and compliance**

### RATIONALE:

Promote the implementation and compliance of applicable international instruments and governmental commitments through increased coordination and collaboration and trends towards integrated approaches such as ecosystem approaches in addressing the challenges of coastal and marine environment. An integrated ecosystem approach to management requires that development activities be coordinated in a way that minimizes their impact on the environment and integrates thinking across environmental, socio-economic, political and sectoral realms.

The Arctic Council has an opportunity to provide international leadership on the global sustainable development agenda through the adoption and application of an integrated, ecosystem-based approach to managing the Arctic marine environment.

The *Arctic RPA* serves to bridge the gap between the global agreement and the national plans that give it substance and recognizes and supports sub-regional and national efforts in the Arctic for the protection of the marine and coastal environment from land-based activities. It has been successfully used to assist in addressing pollution from land-based activities. Canada, Finland, Iceland and Russia have found the *Arctic RPA* approach helpful in developing their National Programme of Action (NPAs). Further, Russia used the RPA to support an application for the GEF/UNEP Russian NPA-Arctic Project funding.



**ACTIONS:**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Lead</b>
<p>1. Apply the ecosystem approach.</p> <p>This work will be carried out in collaboration with other Arctic Council working groups, in particular AMAP and CAFF.</p> <p><i>(From section 7.3.2 and 7.4.3 in the AMSP)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Initiate by correspondence review of the indicator suites for assessing and monitoring the changing states of the LMEs of the Arctic based on productivity, fish and fisheries, pollution and ecosystem health, socioeconomics, and governance.</li> <li>➤ As a follow on to the presentation on Arctic LMEs, made during the Feb 2006 meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science encourage the preparation for peer review and publication of a volume on the changing conditions of LMEs of the Arctic for publication in the Elsevier Science LME series.</li> <li>➤ Organize a session on Arctic LMEs for the Second Global Conference on LMEs to be held in Qingdao, China, Sep 11-13, 2007.</li> <li>➤ Develop the LME approach for pilot assessment and management projects for the Arctic, for example the West Bering Sea, the Barents Sea and the Beaufort Sea.</li> </ul>	<p><b>USA</b> <b>CANADA</b> <b>NORWAY (to be confirmed)</b></p>
<p>2. Review and update the Regional Programme of Action (RPA) and expand where necessary, taking into account new information since 1997.</p> <p><i>(From section 7.3.3 in the AMSP)</i></p>	<p>Prepare a Terms of Reference, including reference to engagement of other Arctic Council working groups and other relevant organizations</p> <p>Prepare a draft updated RPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ for PAME review and discussion</li> <li>➤ to present to other Arctic Council working groups</li> <li>➤ to finalize an updated RPA</li> </ul> <p>Finalize an updated RPA and forward to SAOs and Ministers for approval in 2008.</p>	<p><b>CANADA</b> <b>ICELAND</b></p>
	<p>Facilitate technical cooperation for Russian Federation's activities aimed at protecting the Arctic marine environment <i>(From section 7.5.3 in the AMSP)</i> and continue support for Russian NPA Arctic. The exact nature of future cooperation will be determined on the basis of opportunities identified.</p>	<p><b>RUSSIA</b> <b>PAME</b> <b>Chair/Secretariat</b></p>

## OBJECTIVE III:

**Facilitate partnerships, programmes and technical cooperation and support communication and outreach both within and outside the Arctic Council.**

### RATIONALE:

There is a need to coordinate work with other working groups of the Arctic Council, regional and international organizations and programmes, local authorities and indigenous organizations in an effort to promote capacity building, sharing of information and technology transfer on the state of the Arctic marine environment (e.g. provide a periodic watch briefs on IMO projects and ISO Arctic Standards).

### ACTIONS:

Actions	Activities	Lead
<p>1. Information outreach and efforts to increase cooperation and collaboration with international/regional organizations. <i>(From section 7.5.2 in the AMSP)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provide AMSP progress reports to the Arctic Council with assistance of all Arctic Council subsidiary bodies.</li> <li>➤ Information exchange with UNEP Regional Seas Programme regions, and other regional programs.</li> <li>➤ Liaise with fisheries organizations and organizations associated with marine-related conventions and agreements to inform and be informed of possible cooperative opportunities including information exchange.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PAME Chair/Secretariat</b></p> <p><b>PAME Chair/Secretariat</b></p> <p><b>PAME Chair/Secretariat</b></p>
<p>2. Build the capacity and engagement of indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants. <i>(From section 7.6 in the AMSP)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Implement the 2006 AMSP Communication Plan.</li> <li>➤ Ongoing development of communication products and activities to support understanding and involvement in implementation of the AMSP. <i>(From Section 8.0 in the AMSP)</i> and other PAME-related activities.</li> <li>➤ Promote oceans education and training related to best operating practices through:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PAME homepage</li> <li>○ Brochures and posters</li> <li>○ Providing our information to other organizations for posting on their websites.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>All Member Countries</b></p> <p><b>PAME Chair/Secretariat</b></p> <p><b>PAME Chair/Secretariat</b></p>

