



PAME PROGRESS REPORT TO SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS



Svartsengi, Iceland 23-24 October 2003

1. DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE LAST SAO MEETING

The PAME working group has not met since the last SAO meeting. PAMEs activities and progress follows the 2002-2004 Work Plan as presented below.

Development of an Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP)

- The purpose of developing an Arctic Council strategic plan for the protection of the Arctic marine environment is based on comprehensive, collaborative and integrated ecosystem management approaches.
- Preparations of the AMSP are underway with Canada and Iceland as the lead countries and a workshop in support of the development of the AMSP be held in Iceland 20-22 of October.
- To ensure a broad-based input and facilitate the development of the AMSP through a collective approach, discussions have taken place with PAME representatives, Arctic Council Working Groups Chairs, Permanent Participants and Observers.
- The purpose of the AMSP workshop is to provide a forum for exchanging information and ideas on drivers of change, trends in oceans management and possible circumpolar responses to Arctic oceans issues. It is not intended as a decision-making event.
- The following themes are covered in the background papers and serve the purpose of assisting PAME in the development of the AMSP. These papers are also intended to inform participants at the AMSP workshop, but will not be presented at the workshop.

1. Arctic Marine Transportation Into The Next Decade

Principal Author/Contact Person: Norway, Mr. Per W. Schive

2. Understanding Arctic Marine Pollution

Principal Author/Contact Person: Mr. Helgi Jensson Chair of AMAP

3. Indigenous Peoples Interests and Needs in the Protection and Utilization of Arctic Marine Resources

Principal Author/Contact Person: Mr. John Crump IPS Executive Secretary

4. Offshore Arctic Oil and Gas Development

4a. Offshore Arctic Oil and Gas Development - What Does The Future Hold?

Principal Author/Contact Person: Mr. Dennis Thurston (MMS)

4b. Conservation Issues and Offshore Oil and Gas Development

Principal Author/Contact Person: Ms. Samantha Smith, WWF in cooperation with ICC and RAIPON.

5. Ocean Governance and its Implementation: Guiding Principles for the Arctic Region

Principal Author/Contact Person: Dr. François N. Baillet, Deputy Executive Director, International Ocean Institute (IOI)

6. Ecosystem - based Approaches To Conserving and Managing Arctic Flora and Fauna

Principle Author/Contact Person: Mr. Kent Wohl Chair of CAFF

7. Financial and Partnership Approaches in Addressing Land-Based Sources (LBS) of Marine Pollution

Principle Author/Contact Person: Mr. Per Dovle Chair of ACAP

8. Environmental Emergencies and Risk Management

Principle Author/Contact Person: Ms. Laura Johnston Chair of EPPR and Mr. Mark Meza, EPPR Working Group member, U.S. Coast Guard.

- A summary of the main outcomes of the AMSP workshop will be provided at the SAO meeting under agenda item 10.

Other PAME-related activities

- Overall mandate and individual land and sea-based activities addressed by PAME will be incorporated into the development of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan.
- Canada is the lead country in developing Arctic Waters Oil Transfer Guidelines. These Guidelines are intended to address additional provisions deemed necessary for consideration beyond existing requirements of the SOLAS Convention in order to take into account the climate conditions of Arctic ice-covered waters and to meet appropriate standards of maritime safety and pollution prevention. Work is progressing according to schedule.
- The updated version of the Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines (2002) has been translated into Russian and is available on PAME's homepage: www.pame.is. Hard copies have been made available in English and Russian and sent out for distribution. Translation and printing was financed by the United States.
- The Russian NPA-Arctic is an important component of the RPA implementation phase and as such PAME follows the process of the GEF/Russian NPA-Arctic Project "The Russian Federation: Support to the National Programme of Action on the Protection of Arctic Marine Environment" that entered into force in August 2003, following approval of CEO of GEF and signature of the Project Document. This concludes a period of nearly two years since the approval by the GEF Council of the Project Brief in December 2001.
 - The first meeting of the projects' Steering Committee is scheduled to take place in Moscow 13-14 November 2003. PAME continues the dialogue and information exchange with the two co-executing agencies as it, in particular, relates to the projects' parallel activities, namely

private/public sector round tables and the Partnership Conference which will be organized by the Russian Federation, led by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economic Development and Trade.

- The planning of the round table meetings is important in the preparatory process of the Partnership Conference. United States intends to host one of the round table meetings. The timing of the roundtables is linked to the preparation of sufficiently detailed projects proposals that would be expected about 15 months after the beginning of the GEF Project and following decisions of the 1st Steering Committee meeting.

Collaboration with groups and organizations within and outside the Arctic Council

- All working groups, permanent participants and observers of the Arctic Council have been informed on the work of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan to ensure their early participation in this process through inputs on respective marine components of their existing programmes to ensure that they are accurately and appropriately reflected in the strategic plan and the planned workshop.
- PAME has provided input into the document on best practices in capacity building that is being prepared by Canada in response to request by SAOs.
- PAME continues to participate in UNEP's annual meetings of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in their efforts to strengthen these programmes as many of the issues and problems addressed have relevance to PAME's work.
- PAME is involved and well informed on the ongoing developments of the EU Marine Strategy as a way to collaborate and ensure synergies in efforts and focus.
- The University of the Arctic has asked that PAME explore ways in which to establish a practical-level cooperation between the PAME working group and the program teams of the University of the Arctic. This will be discussed and further elaborated on at the next PAME meeting. In the meantime, the PAME Secretariat will be the main point of contact.

2. ONGOING WORK ACTIVITIES

- The elements of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan (AMSP) will evolve with ongoing consultations after the AMSP Workshop held in Reykjavik, Iceland 20-22 October, 2003. Much of PAME's work up to the next Ministerial meeting will be within the context of the development of the AMSP.

3. FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND PLANS

- PAME future activities and plans will be forwarded within the framework of the 2002-2004 Work Plan, with particular focus on finalizing the AMSP through a collaborative and transparent process.
- PAME will consider ways to consolidate reporting on the implementation of the RPA in light of the reporting requirements of the RPA as identified in its section on “Programme Supporting Elements” and the upcoming review meeting of the GPA in 2006.
- The final draft of the Arctic Waters Oil Transfer Guidelines will be reviewed at the next PAME meeting (early part of 2004) followed by submission to the SAOs for review and approval and submission to the next Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council in September 2004.

4. QUESTIONS TO SAOS

No questions at this time.