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Circular Letter No.4009
24 July 2019

To: All IMO Members
United Nations and Specialized Agencies
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 101st session (5 to 14 June 2019), having noted document MSC 101/INF.18 (Canada et al.), providing interesting and useful information on a public web portal launched by the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum ("the Forum"), to assist in the effective implementation of the Polar Code, requested the Secretariat to circulate the information set out in the annex to all Member States and international organizations.

2 The aforementioned Forum was established by the Arctic Council's Working Group on the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) in 2017 and facilitates the exchange of information and best practices between Forum members on specific shipping topics.

3 Participation in the Forum is open to Arctic Council Member 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.

ANNEX
INFORMATION SHARING

1 In May 2018, the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum launched a web portal to assist in the effective implementation of the Polar Code. The publicly accessible web portal contains information specific to each chapter of the Polar Code and relevant to all those involved in safe and environmentally sound Arctic shipping, including vessel owners/operators, regulators, classification societies, marine insurers, and indigenous and local communities.

More information on PAME and the web portal can be found here:

The Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group (PAME)

<https://pame.is/index.php/shortcode/about-us>

Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum

<https://pame.is/arcticshippingforum>

2 The web portal provides links to authoritative information essential to implementation of, and compliance with, the Polar Code. For example, links are available on hydrographic, meteorological, and ice data information needed to plan for safe and environmentally sound navigation in the Arctic.

3 This compilation, exchange and public sharing of information will assist all those involved in the decision-making processes in relation to Arctic marine operations under the Polar Code.

4 Many stakeholders have contributed information to the web portal, including Arctic States, intergovernmental organizations, classification societies, the shipping industry, marine insurers and non-governmental organizations. The web portal will be regularly updated and expanded as new information becomes available.
