

# Arctic Marine Tourism

## Development in the Arctic and enabling real change

### Project plan

#### Background:

The [Arctic Marine Tourism Project – Best Practice Guidelines document \(AMTP\)](#), was approved at the Iqaluit 2015 Ministerial Meeting. It is a voluntary document encouraging action on behalf of the Arctic Council, Arctic States, and in some instances collaboration between the two, and is meant to strengthen, not preclude, the range of existing mandatory requirements and voluntary policies and guidance currently in place to support sustainable and responsible Arctic marine tourism issued by levels of government, Indigenous communities, industry, industry associations and the NGO community.

AMTP recommended that the Arctic Council should note the potential benefits of sustainable Arctic marine tourism and be mindful that these benefits are best realized through active and collaborative engagement among coastal communities, government agencies, industry, academia, and other stakeholders. Based on this, follow up on selected AMTP recommendations is proposed during the 2019-2021 period with the aim to better understand and assess impacts from the growing Arctic marine tourism sector. Potential next steps in 2021-2023 could e.g. involve more specific socio-economic activities/tasks carried out by other Arctic Council working groups, such as the SDWG, potentially in collaboration with PAME.

This project will contribute to the following AMTP recommendations:

- ✓ *Compile a publicly available repository of circum-Arctic marine tourism information.*
- ✓ *Develop a standardized framework for, and encourage the preparation of, site-specific guidelines for near-shore and coastal areas of the Arctic visited by passengers of marine tourism vessels and pleasure craft.*

Furthermore, this project contributes to follow-up on the following Arctic Council documents:

- ✓ The 2006 Final Report on Sustainable Model for Arctic Regional Tourism (SMART) (download [here](#)).
- ✓ The Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (2009) Recommendation I(D): Strengthening Passenger Ship Safety in Arctic Waters.
- ✓ The Arctic Ocean Review (2013), recommendation (4) that the “Arctic states should explore the possibility of developing voluntary guidelines and, if appropriate, best practices in implementing such guidelines for sustainable tourism. Moreover, that the role the cruise industry plays in facilitating tourism in the region and the impacts of this industry on Arctic peoples, ecosystems and the environment should be acknowledged. The Arctic Council should also give consideration towards the development of a broader sustainable tourism initiative.”

- ✓ The Arctic Marine Strategic Plan, including Strategic action 7.3.5: *“Develop recommendations for consideration by Arctic states to promote maritime safety and environmental protection with the objective of reducing risks related to international shipping activities in Arctic waters.”*

## Objectives

The project has the following two components:

### Work package 1 objective: Arctic Marine Tourism knowledge and information

- **To** compile data on tourism vessels in the Arctic using the ASTD database to better understand recent developments, identify gaps in data, and explore the feasibility to map the use and carriage of AIS by vessels not obligated to do so by IMO regulations.

### Work package 2 objective: Framework for Best Practice Guidelines

- **To** summarize existing site-specific guidelines for near-shore and coastal areas of the Arctic visited by passengers of marine tourism vessels and pleasure crafts.

The final product would be a summary report with recommendations on next steps, for Ministerial approval in May 2021.

## Scope and Approach

- ✓ The project has direct relevance to PAME’s Arctic Ship Traffic Data (ASTD) system, which contains detailed information about ships in the Arctic.
- ✓ The geographic scope of the project is left to each Arctic state to determine and should focus on areas of Arctic-specific nature.
- ✓ The project will contribute to PAME’s work on HFO, as it could contribute to gathering information about emissions and other vectors of pollution (e.g. greywater) by cruise ships and, where appropriate, pleasure crafts.

## Main Activities

This project is composed of two work packages which can either run in parallel or as back-to-back activities.

### Work package 1: Arctic marine tourism knowledge and information

**To** compile data on tourism vessels in the Arctic using the ASTD database to better understand recent developments, identify gaps in data, and explore the feasibility to map the use and carriage of AIS by vessels not obligated to do so by IMO regulations.

- i. Assessing the trends in the Arctic marine tourism based on e.g. available information in the ASTD system to include the number of cruise ships, their size, pollution information etc.
- ii. The project will also identify where there are gaps in data, including in remote areas, the effect of gaps and potential next steps to close these gaps.

### Work package 2: Framework for Best Practice Guidelines

**To** summarize existing site-specific guidelines for near-shore and coastal areas of the Arctic visited by passengers of marine tourism vessels and pleasure crafts.

- i. The aim is to identify common themes in existing guidelines, and make them publically available in one place.
- ii. Seek input from the Indigenous Peoples and local communities who are impacted by the marine tourism industry.
- iii. Coordinate with the marine tourism industry, such as the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO) as they have made [guidelines](#), including visitor guidelines and site-specific guidelines in Svalbard and Franz-Josefs land.
- iv. Next steps and recommendations will be a key component of the project.

## **Timeline and Major Milestones**

- ✓ Feb. 2019: Approval by PAME of project proposal – co-leads identified
  - Project team assembly in succession
  - Finalization of project plan, including report content and project scope
  - Seek input from other working groups
- ✓ May 2019: Project in approved PAME Work Plan at Ministerial meeting
- ✓ Sept. 2019: PAME II-2019 meeting
  - Project team meeting
- ✓ Oct. 2019: Possible project workshop
  - Invitation of AECO and other related tourism industry bodies
  - Aim to feed into the report
  - Identify data from the ASTD database to analyze and portray in repository
  - Identify relevant conferences/meetings to participate in to present the work
- ✓ Nov. 2019: Work on online repository
- ✓ Feb. 2020: PAME I-2020 meeting
  - Project team meeting, including on communication material
- ✓ Sept. 2020: PAME II-2020 meeting
  - Draft report submitted to PAME
  - Launch of the online repository of shipping analysis
- ✓ Feb. 2021: PAME I-2021 meeting
  - Products approved by PAME
  - Project team meeting
- ✓ May 2021: Report (for approval) and repositories (for information) presented at ministerial meeting

### Overall estimated Budget:

Consistent with the overall Arctic Council approach, the development of this project will be financed through voluntary contributions and in-kind support from member governments. The proposed stepwise approach, with PAME approval required for each phase, will facilitate financial planning and budgets. Financial contributions will be sought from other sources as well, such as the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Item	Budget (USD/in-kind)
Project management and coordination	30.000
External expert(s)	15.000
Project team meeting/Workshop	20.000
Technical: Operability of the Repository with the ASTD system	15.000
Communication and outreach material	15.000
Editing, final layout and communication	15.000
<b>Estimated Total:</b>	<b>110.000</b>

The PAME Secretariat will provide support with data and will be responsible for setting up the online repository.

### Main outcomes:

- ✓ A summary document with recommendations.
- ✓ Online repository of information, including data, maps, and a repository of best practice guidelines.
- ✓ Outreach material, e.g. factsheets or online information campaigns.

### Project Team Structure/Lead Countries

Iceland and Canada will co-lead. the project. All Arctic Council Member States, Permanent Participants and Observers are invited to participate.