

By USA, Russia, Denmark (Greenland) and Norway

PAME II-2015
Annotation to agenda Item 4.3(a)
AMSA Recommendation I(B)
HFO Project Phase III
Heavy Fuel Oil Releases from Shipping in the Arctic

Background

AMSA Report Recommendation I(B) provides in relevant part:

“That the Arctic states, in recognition of the unique environmental and navigational conditions in the Arctic, decide to cooperatively support efforts at the International Maritime Organization to strengthen, harmonize and regularly update international standards for vessels operating in the Arctic.”¹

The PAME 2015-2017 Work Plan approved by Senior Arctic Officials at Iqaluit in April 2015 notes that PAME will, subject to funding, develop “a compendium of case study information on maritime incidents in the Arctic that resulted in a spill or release of HFO and the environmental impact thereof.”² Norway, the USA and Canada volunteered to co-lead this project, which is a follow-on to the HFO Phase I and Phase II projects previously undertaken by PAME, and Norway has made available the requisite funding.

USA, Russia and Denmark (Greenland) Recommendations

The USA, Russia and Denmark (Greenland) recommend that, in furtherance of the HFO Work Plan HFO Phase III project, PAME II-2015 adopt RODS that:

- invite PAME member governments, PPs and Observers to review and comment on this Paper, in particular to correct, clarify and add information to that contained in Appendix A, Table A.1;
- invite PAME member governments, PPs and Observers to identify additional sources of information on spills and releases of HFO from vessels in the Arctic and near-Arctic with the goal of supplementing Appendix A, Table A.1; and
- invite the USA, in consultation and cooperation with other PAME member governments, to prepare an update of this Paper for PAME I-2016.

¹ The AOR Final Report notes that PAME is conducting a study on the environmental risks associated with the use and carriage of HFO by vessels in the Arctic and “will identify options and make recommendations – including the possible adoption of new international regulations – to mitigate those risks.” Arctic Council, Arctic Ocean Review Final Report (May 2013), at p. 39.

² PAME Work Plan (2015-2017), available at http://www.pame.is/images/01_PAME/Work_Plan/PAME%20Work%20Plan%202015-2017.pdf.