

PAME II-2018 Agenda Item 6.2(a)(ii)

AMSA Recommendation I (B)

PAME Work Plan 2017-2019 HFO Phase IV(b)

Mitigating Risks Associated with the Use and Carriage by Ships of HFO in the Arctic:
Assessment of Indigenous and Local Community Reliance on Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO)
Status Update by USA, AIA, CCU

References and Related Documents

- PAME (II)/17/5.2/a/ii, *HFO Indigenous Use Project Plan Outline and Key Elements (USA, AIA, CCU)*
- SDWG Project Proposal, *Assessing the Use of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) in Indigenous Communities (USA, AIA, CCU) (24 January 2018)*
- PAME II-2017 Final RODs (*“PAME approves the project plan outline and key elements contained in the paper submitted to PAME II-2017 and looks forward to SDWG’s decision to partner on the project. PAME requests that States and PPs identify a point of contact for this project by 15 October. PAME invites its members to submit any information they may have by 15 December relevant to this project.”*)
- PAME I-2018 Final RODs (*“PAME approves the draft field survey developed by the USA/AIA/CCU and invites its translation and distribution as soon as practicable via the Permanent Participants to indigenous and local communities after approval by SDWG. PAME advises that a layperson definition of HFO be appended to the survey. The project co-leads anticipate compiling and synthesizing the responses in a draft report to be submitted to PAME II-2018 and the second SDWG meeting of 2018.”*)

Background

Under AMSA Recommendation I(B), the PAME II-2017 meeting decided to include in its 2017-2019 Work Plan four projects in connection with mitigating risks associated with the use and carriage of HFO by vessels in the Arctic. Co-led by the USA, AIA and CCU, the project undertook a process to assess Arctic indigenous and local community reliance upon HFO. The Arctic Council’s Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) subsequently decided to partner with PAME and pursue the project jointly. PAME’s 2017-2019 Work Plan includes the following:

“A project in partnership with the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) (subject to SDWG confirmation) to collect, report and/or review information about on-shore use by indigenous peoples and local communities of HFO as well as the extent to which such peoples and communities rely on ships that burn HFO to deliver supplies and provisions.”

The goal of this project is to provide a greater understanding of the importance of HFO to Arctic communities. As States at the International Maritime Organization consider phasing out the use of HFO as a fuel by ships in the Arctic to protect the marine environment, it is

important to understand whether such actions might have unintended impacts on Arctic residents. By surveying Arctic communities and asking how they generate electricity, heat their homes, and move goods in and out of their communities, this project is intended to help States make better-informed decisions regarding the regulation of HFO use in the Arctic.

In the fall of 2017, the project co-leads developed a set of draft survey questions aimed at assessing indigenous Arctic communities' use of and reliance on HFO. PAME I-2018 approved the draft field survey and AIA took the lead on the logistics of survey implementation, with support from the USA and CCU. After discussions with other Permanent Participants, AIA added an open-ended question to the survey and drafted a letter describing the project and procedures to accompany the survey. Finally, AIA translated the survey into Russian, Norwegian, and five dialects of Inuktitut before beginning to distribute the survey in the summer of 2018. If requested, respondents are offered compensation for completing the survey, paid through AIA pursuant to funding provided by CCU.

Status and Next Steps

- AIA distributed the survey in fillable PDF format through listservs managed by some Permanent Participants and the Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat (IPS). IPS provided the largest listserv.
- After receiving few initial responses, AIA generated a Survey Monkey tool and again shared the survey through listserv networks and on social media.
- To date AIA has received about a dozen responses, the majority of which come from AIA's network in Russia. However, AIA anticipates increased response rates now that summer is over (at least from the Alaskan Aleut region).
- AIA would like to continue its efforts to elicit survey responses through the fall before distilling the responses and preparing an initial draft report.

Recommendation

USA, AIA, and CCU recommend that PAME members continue to support this important joint PAME/SDWG project by adopting the following ROD:

“PAME II-2018 welcomes the progress made in translating and distributing the HFO field survey to indigenous communities throughout the Arctic. PAME notes the importance of this joint project with SDWG and encourages timely responses to the survey so that a draft report can be prepared in advance of the 2019 Ministerial.”