

## **PAME II-2018**

### **Annotation to Agenda 6.2(c)(i):**

#### **Proposal to Develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission**

**By the USA and Canada**

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##### **Document:**

Proposal to Develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission by the USA and Canada.

##### **Background**

PAME works on matters related to the protection and sustainable use of the Arctic marine environment. One of PAME's key focus areas is Arctic shipping. Its 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Report noted that critical improvements are needed to Arctic navigational charts and recommended linking with international organizations to enhance Arctic marine safety. Further, the first goal identified in the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan 2015–2025 is improving knowledge of the Arctic marine environment, including increased collection and dissemination of hydrographic data.

The Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC) aims to improve Arctic regional coordination in the domain of hydrographic surveying and marine cartography. The ARHC's objectives include widening hydrographic activity in the Arctic Ocean and identifying regional surveying and charting needs. PAME and ARHC therefore have mutually supportive missions. In particular, both recognize that improving hydrographic surveys and charts in the Arctic is crucial to enhancing marine safety and protecting the environment from the effects of shipping.

##### **Recommendations to PAME II-2018**

The USA and Canada recommend that PAME II-2018 adopt a RoD:

- ✓ approving the development of a draft MOU between PAME and ARHC;
- ✓ authorizing the PAME SEG Co-Chairs to work with appropriate ARHC representatives to negotiate the terms of a draft MOU;
- ✓ directing the PAME SEG Co-Chairs to submit a report to PAME I-2019 on the status of their efforts, including a draft MOU for consideration if negotiations have proceeded to that stage.