

PAME II-2018

Annotation to Agenda 6.5(a):

Noise in the Arctic: A State of Knowledge Report

Document:

Underwater Noise in the Arctic: A State of Knowledge Report (draft 31 Aug 2018)

Background:

The issue of anthropogenic underwater noise in the Arctic context and the potential for it to affect Arctic marine ecosystems is one of emerging concern. Building off the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) recommendation from 2009 to ‘...*further assess the effects on marine mammals due to ship noise, disturbance and strikes...*’, the U.S. report to PAME I-2013 which provided inter alia, information on international bodies studying the effects of noise pollution on marine mammals, and the U.S. suggestion at PAME II-2013 to exchange information on the issue, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) revived the discussion with a submission to PAME II-2017. Based on positive support from the PAME members, Canada proposed to co-lead with the WWF and OSPAR a PAME project which will seek to bring together a baseline understanding of the current state of knowledge on the issue of anthropogenic underwater noise in the Arctic, and identification of knowledge gaps. The first draft of that State of Knowledge Report is enclosed for review by PAME. For further details on the terms of reference as approved by PAME refer to **PAME I 2018 –Agenda Item 6.7(a)**

Action Requested by PAME II-2018:

Please share the draft report with relevant experts within your governments and organisations for review. Co-leads are still seeking additional references or input from all sources to add to the draft report that may not have been provided or captured in the first call out for materials. All comments and any other input into the report will be welcomed by the co-leads prior to, or at, the PAME meeting Oct 1-4 in Vladivostok, or at the latest by October 26, 2018.