

SEG pre-meeting agenda 9

One-pager | project description:

Mapping on how the Nordic countries enhance their cooperation in reducing risks and increasing environmental security in Arctic shipping.

Introduction

The Nordic Council is the *parliamentary* body of the formal Nordic cooperation and was established in 1952. The Council consists of 87 members from all the Nordic parliaments (Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Åland Islands) which gathers twice a year. The Council has 7 standing committees. The Nordic Council approves of the budget of the Nordic Council of Ministers. It has a rotating chairmanship – in 2019 Sweden is chairing the Nordic Council.

The Nordic Council of Ministers is the intergovernmental body of the cooperation formal Nordic cooperation and was established in 1971. This is the cooperation between governments. There are 11 minister councils in the cooperation that all work with political strategy and implementation on a variety of policy areas. There's a rotating chairmanship – in 2019 Iceland is chairing the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Background

The Nordic Council's (NC) Committee for a Sustainable Nordic Region recommended the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) at their session in November 2017 to give a thorough assessment of how the Nordic countries enhance their cooperation in reducing risks and increasing environmental security in shipping in the Arctic.

In late 2018, the NCM identified the financial means to meet this end and will during the first half of 2019 be conveying a mapping of the question. The mapping will be undertaken by Isuma Consulting, notably by Ms. Nauja Bianco.

Objective

With reference to recommendation of the Nordic Council, the NCM has indicated a wish for a report containing the following elements:

- An identification of the riskiest activities in Arctic shipping in relation to human safety and the environment.
- A description of how the Nordic countries collaborate on maritime risks and environmental safety today.
- A description of general measures implemented in recent years with the aim of increasing safety and reducing the risk of environmental damage in Arctic shipping, incl. activities and plans for new initiatives in the area on a Nordic level.
- A description of search and rescue resources in the Arctic coastal areas, including needs and plans to strengthen rescue resources.
- A recommendation as to if and how the Nordic countries can cooperate more and/or deeper on the above-mentioned areas.

Methodology

The mapping will primarily be a desk-top report synthesizing newest relevant reports, initiatives and regulations on the subject matter supplemented by interviews with key stake holders.

Outcome

The NCM will present the mapping for the NC's Committee for a Sustainable Nordic Region for the NC's Annual Session in late October/early November 2019. The mapping will be used by the NCM as well as the NC to determine and assess if and how to promote increased cooperation on shipping in the Arctic region. The mapping is also expected to be used as a dialogue tool with organization and countries involved in the question, such as all the Nordic and Arctic countries, the Arctic Council, the IMO and other relevant and related bodies.