



To: Senior Arctic Officials

From: The PAME Working Group

Subject: Request for Review and Approval of PAME's Proposed Updates to the 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Report Recommendations

Action Requested:

Attached for review and approval during the 17-19 November 2020 meeting of the Senior Arctic Officials are proposed updates to the 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Report Recommendations.¹

Background:

Arctic Ministers approved the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Report and its 17 Recommendations at the 2009 Tromsø Ministerial Meeting.² The Recommendations – which continue to guide PAME's shipping-related work – are now more than ten years old and in need of updating to reflect progress, developments, and changes since first being released.³

At the first PAME meeting of 2017 in Copenhagen, member governments adopted a Record of Decision (RoD) approving a project co-led by the USA and Canada:

“to develop and adopt updated shipping priorities and recommendations under the three themes of the 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Report (Enhancing Arctic Marine Safety; Protecting Arctic People and the Environment; Building the Arctic Marine Infrastructure).”

Since then, the USA and Canada coordinated the development of draft updates to the AMSA Recommendations, and have solicited input from PAME members – governments, Permanent Participants, and Observers – as well as Arctic shipping experts from across academia and industry. A final opportunity for PAME members to review and provide comment occurred between the first (February) and second (September) PAME meetings of 2020, with member governments adopting a RoD at PAME II-2020:

“approv[ing] the final draft AMSA Recommendations matrix (PAME(II)/20/SEG Pre-Meeting/6.6/b) and invit[ing] the project co-leads (USA and Canada) to develop a paper to accompany the submission of the matrix to the SAOs. PAME also request[ed] that the project co-leads submit to PAME I-2021 a communications plan for rolling out the update if approved by SAOs.”

In fulfillment of this RoD, the final draft of the AMSA Recommendations matrix is attached to this cover note. All proposed edits, including additions and deletions, are highlighted via red text or strikethrough to clearly indicate changes to the text of the original 17 AMSA Recommendations and are accompanied by a short description noting the rationale for each change. Also included are notes on the status of each original recommendation (e.g.,

¹ The 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) Report is available online at <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/54>.

² The Tromsø Declaration is available online at <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/91>.

³ PAME issued status reports on the implementation of the AMSA Report Recommendations every two years between 2011 and 2017. Those status reports are available on the Arctic Council's website at <https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/53>.

ongoing or complete) and the assigned implementation lead (*e.g.*, member government, Arctic Council working group).

The final draft changes captured in the attached PAME-approved matrix run the gamut from editorial to substantive and are spread across all three themes outlined in the original 2009 AMSA Report. Certain trends and reoccurring comments in the final draft changes that merit highlighting are:

- making amendments to avoid the use of prescriptive language in favor of more nimble or inclusive terminology (*e.g.*, avoiding the use of lists);
- removal of dated or antiquated, and in some cases incorrect, language or references (*e.g.*, use of 'Polar Code' instead of 'Guidelines for Ships Operating in Arctic Ice-Covered Waters');
- where applicable, the complete removal (or significant reconfiguration) of recommendations that were either finite or have since come to fruition (*e.g.*, the signing of the Arctic Search and Rescue Agreement); and
- the augmentation of certain recommendations with additional language (*e.g.*, regarding marine mammal impacts, consideration of competent international and regional organizations in addition to the International Maritime Organization).

Action Requested of Senior Arctic Officials

PAME now requests that SAOs review and approve the attached matrix at the 17-19 November SAO meeting. If approved by the SAOs, the project co-leads will then prepare the document for submission to Arctic Ministers at the 2021 Ministerial Meeting for their approval.