

ARHC-PAME Cooperation: Brainstorming Topics of Mutual Interest

Submitted by:	USA
Executive Summary:	This paper seeks to begin discussion and explore and develop topics of potential interest to the ARHC and PAME for collaboration which could support leveraging expertise and resources to protect the marine environment in the Arctic region.
Related Documents:	ARHC Chart Adequacy Assessment ARHC-PAME MOU ARHC-9 Actions ARHC VTC-01 minutes
Related Projects:	PAME Arctic Shipping Status Reports PAME Arctic Ship Traffic Data System PAME Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum PAME Presentation ARHC Science Forum 2020 EPPR Presentation ARHC Science Forum 2020

Introduction/Background

The ARHC and the Arctic Council’s Working Group on the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) share common interests to protect the marine environment and enhance the safety of maritime transportation in the Arctic. Following initial collaboration in assessing the status of arctic hydrographic surveys and hydrographic information (see below), PAME and ARHC developed a proposed MOU to underscore the value of further cooperative efforts, exchange, and dialogue between the two bodies. This MOU promoting collaboration was signed in April 2020.

Analysis/Discussion

The USA invites the ARHC to consider potential topics that may be of mutual interest to ARHC and PAME and which may be candidate for future collaboration, based on resources accessible and available to each body and their members.

To encourage discussion and brainstorming, an Initial list of ideas could include the following:

- Collaborate on the generation of various “Assessment Reports.” For example, the ARHC arctic hydrographic adequacy assessments (2013, 2018¹ and the anticipated forthcoming update for 2023) can be tailored to a less technical audience along the lines of a new addition to current inventory of PAME Assessment Reports.²

¹ See https://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/ArHC/ARHC8/ARHC8-C1a_Arctic_Hydrographic_Adequacy_OTWG.pdf and <https://noaa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=2e0f077b8a0147149c8229c9204332d7>

² <https://www.pame.is/projects/arctic-marine-shipping/arctic-shiping-status-reports>

- Conduct shipping route analyses including spatial distribution, temporal patterns, annual trends, ship accidents and incidents, ship type, etc.
- Explore possible synergy among ARMSDIWG with PAME and its shipping projects, initiatives, and activities, such as Arctic Shipping Status Reports (ASSR)³, the Compendium of Shipping Accidents in the Arctic (CASA), the Arctic Ship Traffic Data System (ASTD)⁴, and the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum (ASBPIF).
- Provide a consolidated ARHC hydrographic office review of the IMO Polar Code⁵ since going into effect in January 2017. This could be provided to the PAME for consideration in course of its deliberations including in support of any related topics addressed at the Arctic Shipping Best Practices Information Forum.⁶ See for example the ASBPIF agenda of 2019 during which the Polar Code implementation was discussed and from which one might expect further deliberation in future ASBPIF meetings.
- Identify and research topics of joint interest on topics related to marine environmental protection such as related to fishing vessels (marine litter), marine protected areas, oil and gas activities, etc....
- Continue to expand best available information to understand underwater noise associated with hydrographic activities and impacts (if any) on various arctic marine mammals
- Collaboration and contributions to any updates of the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) (2009)⁷
- Hydrographic considerations to support search and rescue operations in the Arctic. While S&R is likely more of an EPPR focal area, PAME and EPPR may be interested in hydrographic safety issues related to emergency response in the Arctic.
- Generate planning calendar of meetings, milestones to support hydrographic input to Arctic Council (especially PAME) efforts and other engagements opportunities
- Public and stakeholder outreach
- Promote synergies among intergovernmental organizations concerned with Arctic maritime health and safety (IMO, IOC, IHO, IALA, UNGGIM etc...)
- Promote awareness, develop partners and contribute to the goals of the Seabed 2030 project, crowd sourced bathymetry, the Decade of Ocean Science (tentative), and other efforts to improve understanding of the Arctic marine environment
- Define technical input guidance recommended for ships operating in the Arctic using ECDIS S-100 hydrographic model
- Other to be identified

The PAME has the following schedule of meetings in 2020/2021:

- PAME II-2020: virtual meeting (September 15-25)

³ <https://www.pame.is/projects/arctic-marine-shipping/arctic-shipping-status-reports>

⁴ <https://pame.is/index.php/projects/arctic-marine-shipping/astd#:~:text=PAME's%20Arctic%20Ship%20Traffic%20Data,about%20access%20to%20data%20here.>

⁵ <http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/polar/Pages/default.aspx#:~:text=The%20Polar%20Code%20covers%20the,force%20on%201%20January%202017.>

⁶ <https://pame.is/index.php/projects/arctic-marine-shipping/the-arctic-shipping-best-practices-information-forum>

⁷ <https://pame.is/index.php/projects/arctic-marine-shipping/amsa>

- PAME I-2021: venue Copenhagen (TBC) (February 2021)
- PAME II-2021: venue Anchorage (TBC) (September 2021)

Recommendations

ARHC members and associate members are invited to discuss the above list of initial ideas at ARHC-10 and provide any additional comments to the USA by an appropriate time to be determined. If consensus on one or more subject for cooperation with PAME emerges, consolidate a message and communicate to PAME at an appropriate time optimally 30 days in advance of a PAME annual meeting.

Justification and Impacts

The ARHC is concerned with the scientific and operational considerations to promote safety of navigation in the Arctic. PAME is concerned with the policy considerations to protect the marine environment. The two fora have opportunities to share information to broaden awareness from which to develop actions to protect the marine environment through information exchange, policy and scientific assessments, and dialogue. Collaboration need not represent significant allocation of new resources. Improved awareness may lead to actions to improve environmental and societal health in the arctic marine and coastal environments.

Action Required of ARHC

The ARHC is invited to:

- a. Note the initial and illustrative list of topics of potential mutual interest to the ARHC and PAME;
- b. Consider and discuss preliminary impressions and level of interest in these topics during ARHC-10.
- c. As appropriate, develop a list of potential topics for transmission to PAME.
- d. Instruct the ARHC Chair on any guidance, including any communications to PAME