

Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC)
 St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada
 September 12-16, 2022

Update on the PAME-ARHC Memorandum of Understanding

Submitted by: USA

Executive Summary: This document provides a summary of ARHC-PAME contacts and developments since ARHC-11 which may support discussion of further collaboration between the two bodies in the spirit of the ARHC-PAME Memorandum of Understanding. The intent of this summary is to organize a communication to PAME before the end of the calendar year 2022.

Related Documents:

- ARHC 11 Minutes
- MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE ARCTIC REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION AND THE ARCTIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON THE PROTECTION OF THE ARCTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Background

The ARHC and PAME signed a non-binding MOU of cooperation in March 2020.¹

ARHC member governments nominated Jonathan Justi at ARHC-11 to serve as the ARHC point of contact for the MOU, and tasked him with coordinate with PAME to support the MOU and its implementation.

Discussion

This summary offers a limited review of activities since ARHC-11 in support of the MOU and its implementation:

- 1) The ongoing conflict in Ukraine complicated cooperation on Arctic hydrography. In a statement issued by the Chair (CA) of the ARHC on July 5, 2022, CA, DN, NO, and the US suspended their cooperation on ARHC-related activities with RU.
- 2) Separately, seven of the Arctic States (CA, DK, NO, US, SE, IS, FI) suspended their participation in the Arctic Council soon after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The announcement states: "In light of Russia's flagrant violation of these principles, our representatives will not travel to Russia for meetings of the Arctic Council. Additionally, our states are temporarily pausing participation in all meetings of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, pending consideration of the necessary modalities that can allow us to continue the Council's important work in view of the current circumstances." The Arctic Council has since authorized a very limited resumption of Arctic Council working group activities (generally speaking, those that do not involve RU). See "Joint Statement on Arctic Council Cooperation Following Russia's Invasion of Ukraine" and "Joint Statement on Limited Resumption of Arctic Council Cooperation."² Norway will assume the two-year Chair of the Arctic Council in 2023.

¹ https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/RHC/ARHC/MISC/2B_ARHC%20PAME%20MOU.pdf

² <https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-on-limited-resumption-of-arctic-council-cooperation/> and <https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-on-arctic-council-cooperation-following-russias-invasion-of-ukraine/>

- 3) In July 2022, Ms. Christy Fandel (NOAA Office of Coast Survey), submitted an application on behalf of NOAA to the PAME Secretariat for access to PAME's Arctic Shipping Traffic Data (ASTD) system. (See Attachment 1) The purpose of the request was to obtain AIS data that will be used to update the 2018 Arctic Hydrographic Adequacy Report.³ Progress on this currently ongoing update is scheduled to be shared at ARHC-12 with a target completion date in 2023. The update will reflect and consider new hydrographic data and information in the Arctic related to safety of navigation.

REQUEST: In July 2022, Ms. Fandel also sent a data call to members of the ARHC for updated survey quality data to be used in the updated assessment. Members are reminded of this request and asked to provide any updates to Christina.Fandel@noaa.gov and Steven.Loy@noaa.gov at earliest convenience.

- 4) In late 2021, NOAA and the PAME Secretariat explored an update to the Arctic Shipping Status Report (ASSR) #2 "Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) Use by ships in the Arctic 2019."⁴ An ASTD System Access Application and Data Sharing Agreement: Heavy Fuel Oil was submitted. (See Attachment 2) In January 2022, the decision was made to wait until ASTD updates on this topic were completed to ensure utilization of best available data.
- 5) PAME normally meets twice per year (Spring and Fall). However, neither PAME meeting has been convened in 2022, nor is it yet clear whether PAME will meet in February 2023.
- 6) A letter of introduction to PAME Executive Secretary Sofia G was drafted in early 2022 but ultimately not vetted with the ARHC hydrographic office members or transmitted to PAME. The draft could be updated for review and transmission shortly after the ARHC-12 meeting to broaden and open coordination more fully.
- 7) Going forward, outreach to PAME should be more broadly representative and inclusive of all ARHC hydrographic office members. This was the intent in 2022. The ARHC may wish to align the ARHC point of contact to PAME together with the country of the Chair, Vice Chair or other.

Actions required of the ARHC

- 1) Note this update;
- 2) Discuss any relevant points;
- 3) Members are invited to respond to Christina.Fandel@noaa.gov and Steven.Loy@noaa.gov (see paragraph 3 above); and
- 4) Provide guidance, if appropriate, for the upcoming period.

Attached

- Attachment 1 Arctic Ship Traffic Data (ASTD) System Access to Level I – ASTD System Access Application and Data Sharing Agreement: Chart Adequacy Assessment update (2023)
- Attachment 2 Arctic Ship Traffic Data (ASTD) System Access to Level I – ASTD System Access Application and Data Sharing Agreement: Heavy Fuel Oil

³ https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/RHC/ARHC/ARHC8/ARHC8-C1a_Arctic_Hydrographic_Adequacy_OTWG.pdf

⁴ <https://pame.is/document-library/pame-reports-new/pame-ministerial-deliverables/2021-12th-arctic-council-ministerial-meeting-reykjavik-iceland/794-assr-2-heavy-fuel-oil-hfo-use-by-ships-in-the-arctic-2019/file>