

EPPR Working Group
Meeting
Final report

Ottawa, Canada
June 16-17, 2014

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The EPPR Chair, Ole Kristian Bjerkemo called the meeting to order.

1 Welcome by Canadian Host

The EPPR semiannual meeting was hosted by Canada in Ottawa, on June 16-17, 2014. Susan Harper, Senior Arctic Official for Canada, welcomed delegates to Ottawa, noting the importance of coordination between working groups as a positive way to reduce overlap and duplication. The Arctic Council Tracking Tool remains a priority of the Canadian chairmanship. Minister Aglukkaq has noted over 90 projects in the Tracking Tool and has requested that working groups wrap up some up these projects to make way for future priorities.

2 EPPR Work Group Convenes

2.1 Approval of Agenda

The EPPR Chair requested that if Observers want to make presentations, they alert the Chair. EPPR approved the agenda.

The approved agenda is Annex 2 to this report.

2.2 Introductions

50 participants attended the meeting representing seven Arctic Council countries, two Permanent Participants, four working groups, six observer states and three observer organizations.

The Chair gave a short presentation outlining activities attended by the Chairmanship and other members of the working group. This included participation at the various Task Force meetings, working group meetings, and the Arctic Council Communications Group. Canada noted that EPPR representatives presented a poster at a recent AMAP conference. Outreach to businesses on areas of mutual interest has also been undertaken in a variety of venues. This is an area where observer countries could play a much larger role. Should members of EPPR attend meetings on behalf of the WG, they are asked to alert the Secretariat of their participation.

The Chair asked that EPPR take particular note of deadlines on the road to the

Ministerial meeting at the end of April 2015.

Conclusions:

EPPR took note of the update and commented with appreciation the broad scope of activities the Chair, and others, cover on behalf of EPPR.

3 SAO Meeting in Yellowknife – Information – Follow-up

Working Groups have been requested by SAOs to update their Operational Guidelines and contribute appropriately to both the Arctic Council Tracking Tool and the Arctic Council Project costing tool.

3.1 EPPR Operating Guidelines

Changing the name of EPPR's Operating Guidelines to Operating **Procedures** in order to avoid confusion with the Operational Guidelines to the *Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic*, was discussed at EPPR II (Tromsø 2013) and subsequently agreed through written procedures. The Chair presented this decision to SAOs in Yellowknife (March 2014). SAOs commended EPPR for completing the update to its guidelines, but want to consider all the rules of procedure/operating guidelines from each of the working groups at one time. The issue will be discussed at the SAO meeting in October 2014. Delegations agreed that changing the name to EPPR Operating Procedures is preferable but understand that SAOs are seeking a degree of standardization among the working groups.

Conclusions:

The new name will be proposed again to SAOs in Yellowknife (October 2014). EPPR follow the decisions taken by SAOs at that time.

3.2 Arctic Council Project Tracking Tool

Delegations noted changes to the Tracking Tool (TT) and agreed to make additional changes at the end of the meeting to take into consideration progress reports made during the meeting. When revising the EPPR section, like projects will be grouped together. It was agreed that the TT provides a good representation of the amount of work that is being done within the working groups and task forces. It was noted that the TT does not capture the full breadth of all the work that WGs undertake, for example a full list of the work

and issues that the Chair deals with. Clear guidance from SAOs on the level of detail to be included in the TT would ensure greater consistency within the document. Inclusion of traditional knowledge should also be indicated in the TT.

Conclusions:

Comments regarding the need for clearer guidelines will be reflected back to the ACS and SAOs. Updates made to the TT will be distributed among HoD before the next SAO meeting.

3.3 Arctic Council Project Costing Tool

The Chair introduced The Project Costing Tool, noting that it endeavors to capture the resources spent on Arctic Council activities. The Costing Tool calls for transparency when reporting expenditures, but is not meant to be a detailed costing exercise. Delegations noted that it is difficult to capture the same information across all projects, for example national contributions as well as in-kind contributions. As the Costing Tool moves out of trial phase, working groups can expect additional guidance from SAOs and the ACS.

Conclusions:

The Chair requested that information be provided to the ACS by August 1st. In the future, it would be beneficial to give cost estimates when updating projects in EPPR meeting. When possible, costing should be built into projects from the beginning so it is easier to track over the lifetime of the project.

4 EPPR Participation in Cross Cutting Activities and Task Forces

4.1 AMAP: Adapting to Arctic Change AACA-C

AMAP continues work on the assessment *Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic – Part C* (AACA-C) which seeks to provide information on major drivers of change in the Arctic Region. Part C is a science based assessment which will inform policy that could lead to mitigation actions. Pilot areas include the Barents, Davis Straits/Baffin Bay, and Bering/Beaufort/Chukchi regions. The AACA-C Integration Team is responsible for providing a consistent ideology to ensure that all stakeholder views are represented, including industry and Permanent Participants. PPs at the meeting noted participation and welcomed the opportunity to provide knowledge. An overview of oil and gas will be reflected in all three regions. EPPR can usefully contribute with experts on oil spill response, contribute authors to chapters on impact assessment and pull

together relevant information from existing reports.

Conclusions:

The Executive Secretary and the ACS will work together with EPPR delegations to identify experts and key reports that can contribute to the ACAA-C. The *IMO/EPPR Guide to Oil Spill Response in Snow and Ice Conditions* will be an important contribution, once finalized.

4.2 PAME: Information from PAME I Meeting 2014 and the Revised Arctic Marine Strategy

PAME continues work on the revised Arctic Marine Strategy, a 10 year, high level strategic plan. EPPR input on oil and gas prevention and response is welcome. PAME will be holding a meeting on the AMSP in Yellowknife on September 15.

Conclusions:

EPPR contributions will be coordinated through national delegations. It was agreed that the work of EPPR needs to be reflected in the revised AMSP. Participation by the Chair at the upcoming workshop will be discussed intersessionally.

4.3 Task Force on Oil Pollution Prevention

The Chair provided an update on the June 12-13 meeting of the TFOPP. A number of documents were discussed and a preliminary agreement to establish an Arctic Regulators Forum was taken. It is not clear what the link to EPPR could be, but it is possible that this Forum could report to SAOs through EPPR. Industry representatives at the meeting suggested a workshop on their role in oil spill prevention and response. EPPR might have a role to play in organizing the workshop. No consensus on a binding agreement or action plan was reached.

EPPR noted that the work of TF is to identify areas for action, develop a work plan, timelines and budgets. The role of EPPR in the follow-up work outlined by the TF is yet to be determined. It was agreed that whenever possible existing fora should be used.

Conclusions:

EPPR took note of this information and will follow up on future work of the TFOPP, specifically the role that EPPR may have in the work of the TF.

4.4 Arctic Council's Scientific Cooperation Task Force (TFSC)

The TFSC met in Reykjavik on May 27-28. The 2 page Chair's Summary to SAOs will be circulated once available.

4.1 SDWG: Promoting Traditional and Local Knowledge (TLK)

SDWG, in partnership with PPs and IPS (as lead) will be hosting a TK implementation workshop in Ottawa at the end of June. Building on the results of an earlier scoping workshop, held in Reykjavik in February 2014, the objectives are to develop consensus agreement on revised principles for improving the inclusion of TK in the work of the Arctic Council, a working definition of TK, implementation options and procedures for the use of TK in the Arctic Council, and a strategy regarding the Ministerial Declaration and deliverables. SDWG is exploring the cross-cutting implications of this initiative with other AC projects and WGs, therefore participation of States, PPs and Working Groups is important, at the Ottawa workshop as well as the follow-up process. SDWG signaled that it will reach out more deliberately to the WG's in the near future, presenting documents for consultation.

Conclusions:

EPPR noted that this is an important project for SDWG and for AC work in general. EPPR will discuss a new project on small communities that might have links to the TLK initiative. It was agreed that EPPR will follow developments and engage as required.

4.2 CAFF: Arctic Biodiversity Assessment, EPPR Relevant Follow-up

The Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) presents 9 key messages and 17 recommendations. Ongoing implementation of the recommendations within the working groups is now the focus. The most relevant recommendation to EPPR is **11b** which calls for support in prevention and clean up measures, and technologies responsive to oil spills in ice-filled waters. CAFF has requested EPPR to take a first cut on a broad analysis for this recommendation before the August 24th workshop.

Conclusions:

EPPR took note of this request and will fill in the template provided by CAFF. The *Recommended Practices for the Prevention of Oil Pollution in the Arctic* (RP3), recognized by Ministers in the Kiruna Declaration, will be useful in developing this input. It was agreed that draft text would be provided to HoD for input.

5 Circumpolar Marine Environmental Risk Assessment (CMERA) – Next Steps

EPPR discussed the project options developed from the Tromsø workshop in November 2013. It was agreed that a step-wise approach would be best and that a *Circumpolar Oil Spill Response Gap Analysis* would be a useful first step. This gap analysis would be used to evaluate the necessity of a full project and the scope of work a comprehensive CMERA would capture. The gap analysis will include a literature review of existing methodologies used in national risk assessments. US, Norway and possibly Denmark, will act as co-leads to develop and circulate a final proposal for the gap analysis before the EPPR II meeting in December.

Conclusions:

EPPR took note of the useful discussion and agreed on a path forward.

6 Short update on current projects

The Chair requested that lead countries provide one page updates on projects to the Executive Secretary in advance of EPPR working group meetings.

6.1 IMO/EPPR Guide on Oil Spill Response in Ice and Snow Conditions (Norway/Canada)

The first draft of the Guide was circulated in advance of the meeting and EPPR comments are now being collected. A second draft is expected at the end of October and will be discussed at EPPR II. Input from AMAP and ACAP on the effects of black carbon on melting of ice in the Arctic would be welcome. The Guide represent a significant achievement and should be presented to Ministers in 2015.

Conclusions:

It was agreed that written comments would be provided to Canada in template form on the first draft of the Guide by July 9, 2014. A letter will be drafted to AMAP and ACAP asking for specific comments on ice and black carbon. The Guide is a good result to bring forward to the Ministerial in April 2015. EPPR decided to develop an Arctic-only version of the guide which will be available on the EPPR website.

6.2 Arctic Environmental Hazards and National Programs (US)

Ann Heinrich (US) presented the final draft of the document *Arctic Environmental Hazards and National Programs*, which is a historical compendium of the work Arctic countries have done on risk assessments. Final comments are requested by June 30th.

Conclusions:

The document was welcomed by the working group. Pending final editorial changes, the document will be placed on the EPPR website.

6.3 Arctic ERMA (Environmental Response Management Application) (US)

Arctic ERMA (Environmental Response Management Application) is a GIS mapping platform designed to assist in oil spill response by providing a common operating picture of all response assets in theatre and threatened environmental resources. Dr. Amy Merten (US) provided EPPR with a comprehensive status report on Phase I of the project. This included a series of workshops that involved industry, states, PPs and other interested stakeholders. Phase II is now underway and is reflected in the AC Tracking Tool. The link to Arctic ERMA will be available on the EPPR website. <https://www.erma.unh.edu/arctic>

Conclusions:

EPPR welcomed the presentation on ERMA and noted links to existing work within EPPR and other working groups. It was agreed that a link to ERMA will be made available on the EPPR website and highlighted as a good product. It was agreed that ERMA would be reflected in the Tracking Tool as having completed Phase I, and the US will provide text to describe Phase II.

6.4 Development of Safety Systems in the Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural projects (Russia)

Mr. Igor Veselov gave an update on this project, noting the opening of the first Arctic Complex Search and Rescue Center in Naryan-Mar. The area off the oil platform Prirazlomnaya, Varandrey region will play host to a SAR and Oil Spill Response exercise on August 5-7, 2014.

Conclusions:

The working group took note of the presentation and welcomed activities highlighting best practices for prevention and mitigation of emergencies in the Arctic region.

6.5 Arctic Rescue Project (Russia)

Mr. Igor Veselov presented recommendations from the conference held in Naryan Mar, August 20-23, 2013. The conference was well attended by AC member states, local communities and interested stakeholders. EPPR will be invited to the next conference which will be held September 23-25, 2014 in Arkhangelsk, Russia.

Conclusions:

EPPR welcomed the update and invitation to the next conference. During the discussion it was agreed that the Russian-led projects would be reflected as umbrella projects in the AC Tracking Tool and will be updated yearly after EPPR working group meetings.

6.6 Radiation exercises

Ms. Ann Heinrich gave an update on these exercises which deal with radiological emergency response in the Arctic. The exercise *Arctic 2014* will be conducted June 23-24 in the Murmansk region, Russia. EPPR members are invited. The scenario is a radiation emergency that occurs on a nuclear icebreaker at the dock in Murmansk. The exercise will include response to a radiological release impacting the region.

Conclusions:

The working group took note of the information on *Arctic 2013* and *Arctic 2014* exercises. The handbook is available for delegates. The US will provide an update at the next meeting on progress and lessons learned from *Arctic 2014*.

6.7 Occupational Safety and Health in Arctic Oil Spill Response Workers (US)

The US HoD provided an update on behalf of the Project Lead, George Conway. The project focuses on processes that protect the health and wellbeing of oil spill response workers. Issues include working in cold/unpredictable conditions, respiratory issues, training and equipment. The project also examines how different countries approach worker safety. Data synthesis will result in an EPPR report and a supplement to the AC's Field

Guide for Oil Spill Response. The project supports work under the Agreement on OSR.

Conclusions:

EPPR welcomed the presentation. It was requested that the Project Lead provide an update to the Tracking Tool, regarding an end date, to the Secretariat.

7 Follow-up on the *Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic*

7.1 Report on the First International Exercise (Canada)

The first exercise under the auspices of the *Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic*, hereinafter Marine Oil Agreement (MOA) was hosted by Canada in May 2014. All AC states participated in the exercise. This exercise was based on a scenario of spilled marine diesel in Simpson Strait. Next steps include analysis of results and finalization of the exercise report, identification of proposed amendments (if any) to the Operational Guidelines and Appendices to the Agreement, and follow-up actions for approval by EPPR II.

Conclusions:

EPPR welcomed the success of this first validation of the MOPPR. It was agreed that a presentation at the next SAO meeting in Yellowknife would be appropriate. An update on lessons learned is welcome at EPPR II.

7.2 Updating the Operational Guidelines to the *Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic (MOA)*

As called for in the MOA, EPPR is to review the supporting Operational Guidelines once per year. To ensure proper momentum, updating the guidelines was discussed, even though the Agreement has not yet entered into force. The first exercise took place in May 2014 under the leadership of Canada. In light of this, any changes must be dealt with according to the Guidelines. Substantive updates must be reviewed by member states and eventually SAOs.

Conclusions:

Delegation were asked to take note of this information and to forward proposed changes to the Operational Guidelines, based on the first exercise in May 2014, to the Chair.

7.3 Project Proposal: Coordination and Practical Implementation of the SAR and MOA Agreements

EPPR discussed possible coordination and practical implementation of the two legally binding agreements of the Arctic Council on SAR and MOA, as requested by SAOs. Delegations agreed that true coordination of SAR and MOA exercises would, at this time, be difficult. However, it would be useful for lessons learned from exercises to be shared between the two agreements. Questions regarding the exact role of EPPR in coordination and information sharing under SAR and MOA was discussed at length.

Conclusions:

It was agreed that the Chair would draft a letter to SAOs outlining EPPR's position and seeking further guidance for next steps. The draft letter will be circulated to HoDs for input.

8 Possible Follow-up Actions from the Workshop Oil in Ice – To Disperse or Not to Disperse

On November 4-5, 2013, the Norwegian Polar Institute conducted a workshop in Tromsø titled Oil in Ice – To Disperse or Not to Disperse. Of the three proposed recommendations resulting from the workshop, one presents possible scope for EPPR projects: *Adapt a regional approach to the use of dispersants based on national policy.*

Conclusions:

EPPR took note and agreed to discuss at future meetings, specifically to understand national positions on dispersant (or spill treating agents) use. This is an agenda item for EPPR I (2015)

9 Country Updates

9.1 Canada

Canada reported no incidents.

9.2 Denmark

Due to changes at Defense Command, participation in EPPR may change. These changes will be communicated in due course. Analysis of the Ministry of Defense tasks in the Arctic, including response issue, are being evaluated. The consulting firm DNV is conducting a comprehensive gap analysis for the Kingdom of Denmark on this and related issues.

9.3 Finland

As chair of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Finland would like to see more synergy between the four councils with an Arctic presence. The Barents rescue exercise will be conducted in October 2015 (week 40). Invitations will be sent to observers. Finland is undertaking a study on the feasibility of establishing a Centre of Excellence on response, oil spills, winter transport, ice breaking vessels, and ice and snow tracking services. Different cities are currently being scoped for suitability, but it is likely to be a city in the high arctic where ice conditions exist. Finland informed EPPR that *The Nordic Flag Book: Protective Measures in Early and Intermediate Phases of a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency* was published in 2014 by all Nordic radiation protection and nuclear safety authorities. The Nordic Flag Book is available on www.stuk.fi

9.4 Norway

No incidents to report. Norway is undertaking a risk assessment of the high north, using same approach employed in southern Norway. Norway has active projects on broader maritime preparedness, including OSR and SAR implications. Cooperation in many fields with Russian Federation, including Barents cooperation, INTSOK and monitoring systems, is on-going.

9.5 Sweden

Reported assisting in a mustard gas spill in Lithuania. Established response procedures were employed and functioned well. Sweden also noted they have a new oil spill prevention document released on June 11, 2014.

9.6 Russia

No incidents to report. An inter-governmental program for the Arctic was released in April. Rescue centers were included in this mandate. Russia continues to develop off-shore resources in the arctic. While development is by government owned companies, some cooperation with US companies is taking

place.

9.7 U.S

The U.S informed EPPR that they are planning an exercise in 2015 at a nuclear facility. Delegations will be notified in due time. Mike Faulkner (U.S. EPA) provided a presentation on the work of U.S. National Response Team. EPPR noted the presentation with interest. A second presentation, by David Moore (BSEE Oil Spill Response Division), outlined a number of research projects focusing on oil spill response procedures in Arctic conditions. EPPR welcomed this information and look forward to receiving updates in the future.

10 Possible New Projects

10.1 Prevention, Preparedness and Response for Small Communities

The idea for this project stems from a presentation in Yellowknife by Dene leaders about environmental changes to local areas including flooding, lack of habitat and changes in wildlife patterns. The aim of this project is to provide guidance to small communities on best practices related to prevention, preparedness and response to natural incidents, oil spills and accidental releases of radionuclides that might threaten the living conditions for small communities in the Arctic.

Conclusions:

Norway agreed to facilitate organization of a scoping workshop. Based on results of the workshop, EPPR can move forward with a more specific proposal and then identify leadership for a potential project. Broad participation by PPs, Arctic Council Member States, Observer countries and organizations is important.

10.2 Discussion on Development of a Database of Arctic Response Assets

A discussion on the possible development of a database of Arctic response assets was led by the US as a step prior to bringing a project proposal to the WG. The concept is to develop a searchable oil spill response equipment database and populate it with detailed information on Arctic-specific equipment and other resources owned by, or regionally available, to all member states of the Arctic Council.

Conclusions:

Delegations were positive to the concept but had some concerns regarding format and functionality. The US lead will consider this feedback and return to the working group in the future with a formal project proposal.

10.3 Remotely Piloted Aircraft for Emergency Response

Norway presented this project proposal in response to the AMAP report on the use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in the Arctic. Search and rescue operations and oil spill response are two areas where the use of UAS could be of great value to the safety of the Arctic environment and the people that live and work in there. Delegations welcomed the proposal and offered examples of where UAS have been used successfully nationally and internationally in response settings.

Conclusions:

A workshop on the use of UAS for emergency response will be organized in conjunction with the next EPPR meeting to share information with key experts from AMAP, US and others. Results from the workshop will determine whether to move the project forward.

11 Arctic Oil Spill Joint Industry Project (JIP)

Jennifer Wyatt (Arctic JIP Executive Committee Chair) provided an update on the work of the JIP. Currently 10 companies are collaborating to conduct international research that builds upon decades of R&D in Arctic oil spill response. The project brings together experts across industry, academia and independent research centers. Research integrity is maintained through technical review and public dissemination of results. Six areas of research are being covered and include: dispersants, environmental effects, in situ burning (ISB), mechanical recovery, trajectory modelling and remote sensing. Nine reports have been released to date and can be found at www.arcticresponsetechnology.org

Conclusions:

Delegates welcomed the presentation. It was agreed that results from the JIP could be usefully shared in process of developing of the IMO/EPPR Oil in Ice Guide. EPPR welcomes an update from the Arctic Oil Spill JIP at EPPR I, spring 2015.

12 Update on the Polar Code

EPPR welcomed the information provided by the Chair on the process being undertaken by IMO on the Polar Code. Approvals are in process within the IMO and it is expected that the amendment could enter into force as soon as January 1, 2017.

13 Information from Observer States and Observer Organizations

The meeting was attended by six observer states: Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Poland and Korea. Three Observer Organizations were also in attendance: UNEP GRID-Arendal, WWF and the Circumpolar Conservation Union.

The Chair invited updates from Observers, requesting that at future meetings Observers inform the Chair in advance of the meeting if they wish to present information to EPPR.

The representative from Italy invited EPPR to attend a joint Canada-Italy Arctic Science and Technology Collaboration Workshop on October 22, 2014 in Ottawa.

The representative from India made an intervention noting the growing importance of the Arctic region and a willingness to participate in areas of interest.

14 Administration

14.1 EPPR Work Plan

EPPR reviewed the Work Plan and reflected these changes in the Arctic Council Tracking Tool. HoDs and project leads agreed to review the changes to the Tracking Tool and send any additional changes to Patti Bruns at the ACS.

14.2 Record of Decisions

EPPR reviewed and agreed on the record of Decisions which is attached as Annex 3.

14.3 Scheduling of next Meeting and closing of Meeting

Next EPPR meeting (EPPR II, 2014) will be in Seattle, U.S. most likely the

week of December 1, 2014.

15 Annex 1: List of Meeting Participants

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16 Annex 2: Timed agenda

Final draft agenda

EPPR Working Group Meeting June 16-17, 2014

Day one: 09:00 - 17:00

9:00-9:30

1. Host Country Welcome and Presentation of Activities
2. EPPR Work Group Convenes (EPPR Chair)

2.1. Approval of Agenda (EPPR Chair)

2.2. Introductions (EPPR WG Participants)

Background: *The Chair will update the WG on recent activities, including promotion of EPPR in different international fora.*

9:30-10:00

3. SAO meeting in Yellowknife – Information – Follow up

Background: *Working Groups have been requested by SAOs to update Operational Guidelines and contribute appropriately to both the Arctic Council Tracking Tool and the Arctic Council Project costing tool.*

- 3.1. ***EPPR Operational Guidelines***

Actions: *Discuss proposed name change from Operational Guidelines to Operational Procedures and note the decision by SAOs.*

Documents:

3.1 EPPR Operational Guidelines

- 3.2. Arctic Council Project Tracking Tool

Actions: *Review and make necessary changes to EPPR input to the Tracking Tool.*

Documents:

3.2 Arctic Council Project Tracking Tool

3.2 Tracking Tool of Arctic Council Deliverables and Ongoing

- 3.3. Arctic Council Project Costing Tool

Actions: EPPR is asked to consider the attached Project Costing tool. Lead countries for EPPR projects are asked to submit information to the ACS by August 1, 2014

Documents:

- 3.3 Arctic Council Project Costing Tool
- 3.3 Arctic Council Project Costing Tool Excel Sheet

10:00-12:15 (with Health Break)**4. EPPR participation in cross cutting activities and Task Forces**

Background: In an effort to find synergies across WGs and avoid duplication of work, an overview of recent activities of interest to EPPR will be presented for information purposes

4.1. AMAP: Adapting to Arctic Change AACA-C

Background: Russel Shearer, Vice-Chair of AMAP, will provide an update on recent developments and activities.

Documents:

- 4.1 AMAP: AACA-C
- 4.1 AACA Brochure

4.2. PAME: Information from PAME I Meeting 2014 and the revised Arctic Marine Strategy

Background: PAME representative Maya Gold, will provide an update on recent developments and activities.

Documents:

- 4.2 PAME AMSP 3rd Draft
- 4.2 AMSP Presentation to EPPR

10:30-11:00 Health Break

4.3. Task Force on Oil Pollution Prevention

Background: The TFOPP will meet in Ottawa, June 12-13, and was attended by representatives of EPPR. The Chair will provide a brief update on relevant outcomes.

4.4. Arctic Council's Scientific Cooperation Task Force

Background: The TFSC met in Reykjavik, May 27-28. The Chair will provide a brief update on relevant outcomes.

4.5. SDWG: Promoting Traditional and Local Knowledge

Background: *Jim Gamble (AIA) will provide an update on recent developments and activities.*

Documents:

4.5 Background TLK DRAFT DECLARATION

4.6. CAFF: Arctic Biodiversity Assessment, EPPR Relevant Follow-up

Background: *CAFF is currently conducting an analysis of the 17 ABA recommendations to determine how they might best be implemented or put into action. Recommendation 11.b is relevant to EPPR as it addresses oil spill pollutants in ice-filled waters. (CAFF rep TBC)*

Actions: *The WG is asked to take note and discuss potential actions by EPPR relevant to this recommendation.*

Documents:

4.6 Overview of the ABA Implementation Plan

12:15-13:15 – Lunch Break

13:15-13:35

5. Circumpolar Marine Environment Risk Assessment (CMERA) - next steps

Background: *The aim of this proposed project is to follow up on recommendations from the EPPR RP3 project. A risk assessment (CMERA) and/or a gap analysis would be useful when preparing for the exercises carried out under the mandate of the Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic.*

Actions: *Review and discuss the project proposal and next steps.*

Documents:

5.0 CMERA

5.0 CMERA DNV Proposal

13:35-15:20

6. Update on Current Projects**6.1 IMO/EPPR Guide on Oil Spill Response in Ice and Snow Conditions
NO/CAN**

Background: *Based on the draft ToC, finalized by written procedure, the co-chairs prepared an information document for the IMO OPRC HNS Technical group meeting (TG 16) held in January 2014. An external contractor was hired and the first draft will be circulated immediately after May 30, 2014.*

Actions: Provide initial feedback on the first draft of the guidelines. Written comments are to be submitted by July 9th.

Documents:

6.1 IMO EPPR First draft Guide on Oil Spill Response in Ice and Snow
6.1 IMO EPPR Oil in Ice and Snow FIRST DRAFT

6.2 Arctic Environmental Hazards and National Programs – US

Background: Ann Heinrich will provide an update.

Actions: The WG is asked to review, discuss and accept the final report.

Documents:

6.2 Arctic Environmental Hazards and National Programs

6.3. Arctic ERMA (Environmental Response Management Application) – US

Background: Dr. Amy Merten will provide an update.

6.4 Development of Safety Systems in the Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural projects – Russia

Background: Igor Veselov will provide an update.

6.5. Arctic Rescue Project – Russia

Background: Igor Veselov will provide an update.

6.6 Radiation exercises – US

Background: Ann Heinrich will provide an update.

Documents:

6.6 Background: Arctic 2014 Handbook

6.7 Occupational Safety and Health in Arctic oil Spill response workers – US

Background: Dr. George Conway (TBC) will provide an update.

15:20-15:50 Health Break

15:50-16:50

7. Follow up the Agreement on Cooperation on Arctic Marine Oil Spill Preparedness and Response Agreement**7.1 Report on the First International Exercise (Canada).**

Background: Larry Trigatti, Canadian Coast Guard, will provide a

preliminary report and lessons learned from the first international exercise aimed at testing selected components of the Operational Guidelines under the Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic.

7.2 Updating of the Operational Guidelines

Background: *As called for in the Agreement, EPPR is to review the Operational Guidelines once per year. To ensure proper momentum the agenda item will stand, even though the Agreement has not yet entered into force. The first exercise took place in May 2014 under the leadership of Canada. In light of this, there might be administrative changes to discuss.*

Actions: *The Chair will remind EPPR about the agreed procedures. Delegates are asked to take note of the information and to welcome possible proposed administrative changes to the Operational Guidelines based on experiences from the first exercise in May 2014.*

Documents:

7.2 Updating Operational Guidelines
7.2 Operational Guidelines

7.3 Project proposal: Coordination and practical implementation of the SAR and OSR Agreements

Background: Denmark presented a discussion document to the closed SAO-meeting in Yellowknife (March 2014), regarding the coordination and implementation of these two Agreements. Denmark suggests that future exercises within the framework of the two agreements are coordinated to ensure synergies and possibly to reduce cost. Lessons learnt from the exercises must be captured and followed up. SAO's were very positive to the Danish proposal and have requested EPPR to undertake follow up activities.

Actions: Review, discuss and approve the project proposal.

Documents:

7.3 Project Proposal Coordination and Implementation SAR and OSR
7.3 Background Danish non-paper SAR and OSR Practical

16:50-17:00 Wrap Up of Day One – Chair

End of Day One

Day Two: 08:30 – 16:30**8:30-8:50****8. Possible follow up actions from the workshop Oil in ICE - to disperse or not to disperse**

Background: On November 4-5, 2013, the Norwegian Polar Institute conducted a workshop in Tromsø titled *Oil in Ice – to disperse or not to disperse*. EPPR is asked to discuss and take decisions regarding potential projects based on the three proposed recommendations resulting from the workshop.

Actions: EPPR should discuss possible projects based on the three recommendations. The third recommendation: Adapt a regional approach to the use of dispersants based on national Policy, is a possible EPPR project. A lead country will need to be identified for any proposed project.

Documents:

8.0 Oil in Ice EPPR Follow-up

8.0 Background Brief on the Oil in Ice Workshop Tromsø 2013

8:50-11:15 (with Health Break)**9. Country Updates**

Background: HoDs, or national representatives, will update the WG on recent developments.

8:50-9:05 9.1 Canada

9:05-9:20 9.2 Denmark

9:20-9:35 9.3 Finland

9:35-9:50 9.4 Norway

9:50-10:05 9.5 Sweden

10:05-10:30 Health Break

10:30-10:45 9.6 Russia

10:45-11:00 9.7 US

11:00-12:30**10. Possible new project**

Background: documents and background information TBC.

10.1 Prevention, Preparedness and Response for small communities

Background: *The aim of this project is to give guidance to small communities on best practices related to Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural incidents, oil spills and accidental releases of radionuclides that might threaten the living conditions for small communities in the Arctic. The project will also be relevant for observer countries.*

Actions: *The WG is asked to review, discuss and approve the project proposal.*

Documents: 10.1 Project Proposal PPR for small communities

10.2 Development of a Database of Arctic Response Assets

Background: *David Moore will provide an overview of the project for consideration by the WG.*

10.3 Remotely Piloted Aircraft

Background: *Search and rescue operations, and oil spill response are two areas where the use of remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) could be of great value to the safety of the Arctic environment and the people that live and work in there. The project proposal includes two phases: the first, a pre-project that includes a table top exercise (ending March 2015) and then a full project that would result in a Ministerial deliverable in 2017.*

Actions: *The WG is asked to review, discuss and approve the project proposal.*

Documents: 10.3 Project Proposal Remotely Piloted Aircraft

12:30-13:30 Lunch Break

13:30-14:30

11. Arctic Oil Spill Joint Industry Project (JIP)

Background: *Jennifer Wyatt, Chair of the Arctic Oil Spill JIP, will inform EPPR about the status of the project and the way forward. The WG may also discuss possible research coordination or potential collaborative projects with industry partners.*

14:30-14:50**12. Update on the Polar Code**

Background: IMO Secretary-General Mr. Koji Sekimizu, gave a presentation at the Arctic Council SAO meeting in Yellowknife (March 2014). During his presentation, Mr. Sekimizu noted that a new IMO instrument for polar regions is under development. IMO's Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) will hold their 93rd meeting May 14 – 25, 2014. Norway will update EPPR on the outcome of the MSC and the status of the work on the Polar Code.

Actions: The WG is requested to take note of the information and to welcome an update from MSC.

Documents:

12 Update on the Polar Code

14:50-15:10 Heath Break**15:10-15:30****13. Information from Observer States and Observer Organization**

Background: Representatives from Arctic Council Observer States and Organizations will have an opportunity to provide updates to the WG. Names and supporting documents TBC.

15:30-16:30**14. Administration**

14.1. EPPR Work Plan

Actions: The WG should review and make any necessary changes to the EPPR Work Plan. Any changes should be linked to agenda item 3.2 Arctic Council Tracking Tool.

14.2. Record of Decisions and Follow up Actions (Chair and Secretariat)

Actions: The WG will review and agree to the Record of Decision, to be distributed at the end of the meeting.

14.3. Scheduling of the Next Meeting and closing of the Meeting (Chair)

17 Annex 3: Record of Decisions

EPPR I June 16-17, 2014 Ottawa, Canada

1. Host Country Welcome and Presentation of Activities

Canadian SAO Susan Harper welcomed delegates to the meeting.

2. EPPR Work Group Convenes (EPPR Chair)

2.1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2.2. Introductions (EPPR WG Participants)

The Chair reviewed recent activities by the EPPR in various meetings and fora. He asked that as Ministerial dates approach deadlines be respected. Delegates took note of this information.

3. SAO meeting in Yellowknife – Information – Follow up

3.1. EPPR Operational Guidelines

EPPR took note of the information and it was agreed that EPPR would propose to SAOs to change the name of the Operating Guidelines to Operating Procedures at the next SAO meeting in Yellowknife.

3.2. Arctic Council Project Tracking Tool

The Tracking Tool remains a priority of the Canadian Chairmanship as a snap shot of the work being done across the Arctic Council. The working group agreed that the Tracking Tool is useful and it would update the tracking tool during the meeting. The ACS will be approached about possible ways to capture the full breadth of the work (ie. exercises) undertaken by the working group.

3.3. Arctic Council Project Costing Tool

National delegations agreed to provide information, as called for by SAOs, to the ACS by August 1, 2014. To make the task easier in the future, the Chair asked that cost estimates be built into projects from the beginning.

4. EPPR participation in cross cutting activities and Task Forces

4.1. AMAP: Adapting to Arctic Change AACA-C

The working group took note of the information from AMAP on AACA-C and will follow-up through the Secretariat to organize contributions of relevant reports, experts and participation in workshops. The working group will be informed on progress.

4.2. PAME: Information from PAME I Meeting 2014 and the revised Arctic Marine Strategy

The presentation by PAME was welcomed, and national delegations agreed to contribute with experts and information to appropriately reflect EPPR in the AMSP. Participation by EPPR at future workshops will be decided by written procedures.

4.3. Task Force on Oil Pollution Prevention

The working group took note of the information, and will follow future work of the TFOPP. This includes the role that EPPR may have in the follow-up initiatives stemming from the work of the Task Force.

4.4. Arctic Council's Scientific Cooperation Task Force

The ACS will circulate the two-page document to SAOs once final.

4.5. SDWG: Promoting Traditional and Local Knowledge

This is an important project for SDWG and the AC. Links to the work of EPPR were noted, specifically the new proposed project on small communities. The working group took note of the presentation and will follow developments, including participation in future workshops when possible.

4.6. CAFF: Arctic Biodiversity Assessment, EPPR Relevant Follow-up

The working group took note of the presentation and agreed to fill in the template provided by CAFF. The work of RP3 will inform our main input. Input is due on August 9th. Draft text prepared by the Chair, will be circulated to HoDs and then sent to CAFF, once agreed.

5. Circumpolar Marine Environment Risk Assessment (CMERA) - next steps

After a comprehensive discussion, it was agreed that a step-wise approach would be best and that a Gap Analysis would be a first step. Discussions on how this is undertaken is open by written procedures. US, Norway and DEN (TBC), will act as co-leads to develop and circulate a final proposal before the EPPR II meeting in December.

6. Update on Current Projects

The Chair requested that in the future all Project Leads provide a one-page background document to the EPPR Secretariat in advance of the meeting. Umbrella projects (ex. ERMA, Arctic Rescue exercises), should be separated into Phases to have start and end dates to better reflect activities and progress.

6.1 IMO/EPPR Guide on Oil Spill Response in Ice and Snow Conditions - NO/CAN

It was agreed that written comments would be provided to the Consultant in template form on the first draft of the Guide by July 9, 2014. A letter will be drafted to AMAP and ACAP asking for specific comments on ice and black carbon. The Guide is a good result to bring forward to the Ministerial in April 2015. EPPR decided to develop an Arctic version of the guide which will be available on the EPPR

website.

6.2 Arctic Environmental Hazards and National Programs – US

The document was welcomed by the working group. Delegations are asked to contribute final editorial changes by June 30, 2014 to the Ann Heinrich. This living document will be placed on the EPPR website.

6.3. Arctic ERMA (Environmental Response Management Application) – US

EPPR welcomed the presentation on ERMA and noted links to existing work within EPPR and other working groups. It was agreed that a link to ERMA will be made available on the EPPR website and highlighted as a good news story. It was agreed that ERMA would be reflected in the Tracking Tool as having completed Phase I, and the US will provide text to describe Phase II.

6.4 Development of Safety Systems in the Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural projects, Exercises and Practical Activities – Russia

The working group took note of the presentation and welcomed activities highlighting best practices for prevention and mitigation of emergencies in the Arctic region.

6.5. Arctic Rescue Project – Russia

The working group took note of the presentation and thanked Russia for the work undertaken under this umbrella projects.

6.6 Radiation exercises – US

The working group took note of the information on the EPPR sponsored Arctic 2014 exercises to be held the following week. The handbook is available for delegates. The US will provide an update at the next meeting on lessons learned from the exercise.

6.7 Occupational Safety and Health in Arctic oil Spill response workers – US

The US HoD provided an update on behalf of the Project Lead, George Conway, and EPPR welcomed the presentation. It was requested that the Project Lead provide an update to the Tracking Tool, regarding an end date, to the Secretariat.

7. Follow up on the Agreement on Cooperation on Arctic Marine Oil Spill Preparedness and Response Agreement

7.1 Report on the First International Exercise (Canada).

EPPR welcomed the presentation and success of this first test of the Agreement. Next steps include validation of results and finalization of the exercise, and the creation of a list of proposed amendments to the Operational Guidelines and Appendices to the Agreement, and actions for approval by EPPR II. It was agreed that a presentation at the next SAO meeting in Yellowknife would be appropriate.

7.2 Updating of the Oil Spill Operational Guidelines

This is a standing item on the Agenda, to remind the working group of its responsibility to maintain the Operational Guidelines. Updates must be reviewed by countries and SAOs. No changes were noted at this time, but this may change as results from the first international exercise conducted under the Agreement are analysed. It was agreed that the SAR and OSR Agreements need to be placed in a more prominent place on both the EPPR and AC websites.

7.3 Project proposal: Coordination and practical implementation of the SAR and OSR Agreements

The working group discussed the project proposal and the Chair requested that a small group work to provide text as a basis for a letter to SAOs regarding coordination of practical implementation of the SAR and OSR agreements. A small group was formed and the working group agreed on text. A letter will be drafted by the Chair and circulated to HoDs for consensus before being sent to SAOs. The text is attached to the Record of Decision as Appendix I.

8. Possible follow up actions from the workshop Oil in ICE - to disperse or not to disperse

Delegates took note of the update by Norway. It was agreed that this agenda item will be discussed at the EPPR I (2015) meeting to get a better idea of national positions.

9. Country Updates

EPPR took note of country updates from Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States, welcoming information on national preparedness and response activities. Presentations are available on the EPPR website. It was agreed that country updates should continue to be discussed at EPPR meetings. Delegations welcomed a more structured approach to presentations. The Chair will circulate a draft request on the type of information national delegations provide on incidents and response activities.

10. Possible new project

The Chair noted that new project proposals should be informed by the work of other WGs and PP priorities. This is important for EPPR and the overall work of the Arctic Council.

10.1 Prevention, Preparedness and Response for small communities

EPPR took note of the project proposal. Delegations were positive to the proposal, but noted the need to clarify the scope of the project. It was agreed that Norway would facilitate organization of a scoping workshop. Based on results of the workshop, EPPR can move forward with a more specific proposal and then identify leadership for a potential project. It was agreed that broad participation by PPs, Arctic Council Member States, Observer countries and organizations is important.

10.2 Development of a Database of Arctic Response Assets

Delegates noted this pre-project proposal from the US. After discussion it was agreed that delegations were positive to the concept but had some concerns regarding format and functionality. EPPR asked that the US consider this feedback and return to the working group in the future with a formal project proposal, if they so choose.

10.3 Remotely Piloted Aircraft for Emergency Response

Delegates noted the need to clarify details of the project including exploring linkages to work undertaken in AMAP and others on the use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for scientific work. It was agreed that the next step was to have a workshop on the use of UAS for emergency response and to share information with key experts from AMAP, US and others. Results from the workshop will determine whether to move the project forward.

11. Arctic Oil Spill Joint Industry Project (JIP)

EPPR welcome the presentation by Ms. Jennifer Wyatt. It was agreed that a representative from the JIP would be invited to update EPPR as appropriate.

12. Update on the Polar Code

EPPR noted the presentation given by the Chair. Development of the Polar Code is ongoing at IMO and the final product is expected around January 1, 2017. It was agreed that an expert may be invited to update the working group at EPPR I (2015) if appropriate.

13. Information from Observer States and Observer Organization

The meeting welcomed an invitation from Italy to attend the Canada-Italy Arctic Science and Technology Collaboration Workshop in October 2014. The meeting took note of an update from India on relevant EPPR issue.

14. Administration**14.1. EPPR Work Plan**

The working group agreed to update the Tracking Tool through submissions to the Secretariat. These will be circulated for approval before final submission to the ACS.

14.2. Record of Decisions and Follow up Actions

The working group reviewed the Record of Decision. The draft will be circulated to all meeting participants immediately after the meeting for a 24 hour comment period. Silence procedures will be in place for 24 hours, at which point the document will be final and posted on the EPPR Website.

14.3. Scheduling of the Next Meeting and closing of the Meeting

The US has offered to host EPPR II in Seattle during the first week of December 2014, exact date TBC. Norway will host EPPR I in June 2015. Exact date and location TBC.