

EPPR Working Group Meeting

Final report

Copenhagen, Denmark
October 5-6, 2012

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

1 Welcome by Danish Hosts and Presentation of Activities

The EPPR semiannual meeting was hosted by Denmark in Copenhagen, October 5-6, 2012. Torben Holmgaard Iversen, Head of Delegation (HoD) for Denmark and Commander in the Defense Command of Denmark welcomed everyone to Copenhagen and Denmark.

2 EPPR Work Group Convenes

2.1 Introductions

The 25 participants represented seven Arctic Council (AC) countries, one Permanent Participant organization, one other working group and one observer country.

EPPR Chair gave some updates for recent meetings and conferences in which EPPR participated. He highlighted the two most important issues for the meeting which were the Arctic Council Recommended Practices Prevention Project (RP3) and the Operational Guidelines for the Task Force Agreement on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response.

2.2 Approval of Agenda

The EPPR Chair requested some amendments to the Agenda. The Chair proposed to add one new agenda item 5.4 regarding the IMO Guide on Oil-Spill response in Ice and Snow. The meeting accepted the proposal.

The agenda is Annex 2 to this report.

3 Presentation from AMAP UAS Expert group; “Presentation of work and ideas”

Mr. Anders la Cour-Harbo from the AMAP UAS Expert Group (EG) gave a presentation on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in the Arctic. The expert group was established under AMAP 2010. The group is addressing airspace access and airborne technology for safe and efficient environmental observations, to enable and coordinate the use of UAS in scientific campaigns across the Arctic. In connection with the recently signed Search and Rescue (SAR) agreement, the UAS EG was asked to look at UAS for SAR to determine if and how UAS are applicable in the context of SAR. The immediate response from the EG is that UAS may have relevance in SAR and similar activities. It is technologically possible today to meet some of the challenges in the Arctic. There are both political/regulatory challenges and technical challenges in the Arctic to include airspace, exclusive economic zones, difficult logistics, harsh climate and huge areas.

EPPR discussed potential linkages to EPPR work, especially the RP3.

Conclusions:

EPPR expects that cooperation with the AMAP UAS Expert group will be useful. In particular the issues related to surveillance and monitoring and the possibility of joint recommendations with this project and the RP3 project are potential areas for future cooperation. The AMAP Expert group will continue to lead the initiative.

4 From Nuuk Mandates: Development of Operational Guidelines in support of the Task Force Agreement on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response

The SAOs tasked EPPR to develop Operational Guidelines in support to the Task Force (TF) which is negotiating the Agreement on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response. Canada leads EPPR's work on

the development of guidelines.

The SAOs tasked EPPR to develop operational guidelines on notification and coordination and cooperation in response operations as a first priority. A draft document was requested from EPPR to the Task Force meeting held October 9-11 in Reykjavik, Iceland. The next steps for EPPR will be to prepare guidelines related to other important issues which are described in the draft agreement. (e.g. exercises).

A first draft of the guidelines was prepared by Canada and submitted to EPPR before the meeting. At the EPPR meeting, the draft guidelines were discussed, reviewed, and revised. Immediately after agreement, the revised guidelines were submitted to the TF heads of delegations (HODs) for consideration and discussion in the TF meeting.

The updated document is still a draft document. The guidelines can't be finalized until the agreement is finalized because there are certain sections of the Manual that must reflect the Agreement. Technical and nomenclature matters must be further refined by EPPR.

Conclusions:

EPPR reviewed and revised the draft Operational Guidelines: Appendix IV: Operational Manual for the Task Force Agreement "Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic." The draft was submitted to the Task Force and EPPR HODs upon completion on October 5. EPPR will continue to refine the document and will incorporate feedback from the Task Force. Next steps, including possible conference calls, will be determined.

5 Other projects and activities leading up to 2013 Ministerial meeting

5.1 Arctic Council Project "Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic" (EPPR Chair)

The Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACCA) project was

identified in the Nuuk Ministerial Declaration 2011. An important basis for the project was a scoping workshop in Oslo which resulted in a draft proposal submitted to the fall 2011 SAO meeting. Based on the decision in the SAO meeting, the project plan, output etc. has been further developed. The AACA was adopted by the Arctic Council Deputy Ministers meeting in May 2012.

The main objectives for the project are to compile reports and studies conducted over the last 10 years, highlighting key findings and recommendations. The project will evaluate work that has been done in order to define the focus for future Arctic Council activities that contribute to strengthening adaptation actions.

All AC Working Groups are asked to contribute to this project. EPPR Chair gave an update of EPPR's deliveries into the AACA project which is mainly the document EPPR wrote regarding relevant reports from EPPR.

Conclusions:

EPPR took note of the update from the Chair.

5.2 EPPR's Strategic Plan of Action

EPPR has a Strategic Plan (SP) of Actions which was finalized and approved in 2010. EPPR decided in the June 2012 meeting that the SP should be updated. US is the lead country for this activity.

Conclusions:

The US will present a draft Strategic Plan for the EPPR 2013 meeting.

5.3 EPPR Communication Plan

The Communication Strategy (CS) for the Arctic Council was approved by the Arctic Council Deputy Ministers at their meeting in Stockholm, Sweden in May 2012. The CS requires that Arctic Council Working Groups create specific Communication Plans for their particular areas of concentration. For several reasons, the draft Communication Plan has

been delayed.

Conclusions:

The secretariat will present a draft Communication Plan for the EPPR I, 2013 meeting.

5.4 IMO – Guide on Oil-Spill Response in Ice and Snow

The IMO Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation/Hazardous and Noxious Substances (OPRC HNS) Technical group has drafted a guide titled: “Oil-Spill Response in Ice and Snow”. Due to several circumstances, EPPR has been asked to finalize this guide. EPPR agreed to discuss this last minute request to contribute to finalize the IMO Guide.

In general, EPPR was positive to be involved in this activity, but there were questions which needed clarification before EPPR would accept this work in addition to the already full EPPR work plan.

Conclusions:

The Chairmanship will investigate the possible project, including potential workload for EPPR. Based the information the chairmanship will make a recommendation regarding EPPRs involvement in this activity.

6 Day one wrap up

EPPR Chair wrapped up the meeting day one.

7 The Nuuk Ministerial Mandates

7.1 Recommended Practices for Arctic Oil Spill Prevention Project (RP3)

In the 2011 Nuuk declaration, Arctic Council ministers called on EPPR and other relevant working groups to develop “recommendations and/or best practices in the prevention of marine oil pollution”.

The goal of the EPPR RP3 project is to identify practices proven or identified to be successful in preventing marine oil pollution and which can be applied in an Arctic setting

Through discussions at the two workshops EPPR conducted on this subject, possible accidental oil spills from increased activities in the Arctic related to shipping/maritime operations, oil & gas development and the land-based oil industry have been identified as the main concerns. Based on this, EPPR has initiated the Recommended Practices in the Prevention of Marine Oil Pollution project (RP3).

The 3rd draft report of this project was circulated in September to the Arctic Council for comments. A summary of comments from the AC review was submitted to participants before the meeting.

EPPR discussed the way forward including revising the main report and developing a short document with recommendations that will be EPPR’s delivery to the Ministers. The executive summary of the RP3 report contains eight bullet points that summarize the findings in the report. EPPR discussed how these bullet points should be developed further into recommendations.

The RP3 report will be revised based on the feedback from the AC review and EPPR comments. EPPR established a small drafting group which will prepare the short report for the 2013 Ministerial. The short report will include recommendations and possible observations to the Ministers. It was agreed that the recommendations/observations in the short report would be negotiated text. The short report should be no more than 10-12 pages.

Canada will take the leadership of the drafting group. The updated RP3 report will be submitted to the SAO meeting in Haparanda as

soon as the comments from the AC review have been incorporated.

Conclusions:

The RP3 report will be updated based on the feedback from the AC review.

EPPR will establish a small drafting group which will prepare the short report. The short report will include recommendations and possible observations to the Ministers.

Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and US will take part in the drafting group under the leadership of Canada.

A draft plan for finalizing the report will be submitted to HoDs within October 19. Canada will also prepare a summary of the discussions in the EPPR meeting and a draft framework for the short report.

8 Update on Current Projects (very short updates)

8.1 Arctic Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue Network (AAMverNet)

There were no new updates on this project.

8.2 Arctic Region Oil Spill Response Resource and Logistics Guide (Arctic ERMA)

The US and Canada are planning a workshop for 2013. EPPR will be informed and invited.

8.3 Arctic Rescue (Russian Federation)

Igor Veselov from the Russian Federation presented the results from an International Conference in Norilsk, August 23 -25, 2012. The conference was titled "Emergency preparedness and response in the Arctic: Role of the complex search and rescue centers". There were more than 90 participants from different institutions of the Arctic Council. The key topic of the Conference was establishing complex search and rescue centers in the Arctic region of the Russian Federation.

Mr Igor Veselov also invited all EPPR representatives to the International Conference on the Problems of Emergencies in the Arctic, including Oil Pollution Issues, Naryan-Mar city, August 20-23, 2013.

8.4 Development of Safety Systems in the Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural projects

Within the framework of the Conference that took place in Norilsk, demonstration drills were conducted. The drills focused on practicing the methods of emergency delivery of rescue forces and means to the emergency situation zone in Arctic region. The purposes of the drills were to exercise the components of the emergency management system, improve readiness of rescue teams for response, check the accuracy of the assumed time periods needed by rescue teams, test communications equipment and procedures, and improve coordination and communication among response elements.

Norway also referred to the workshop and exercise in Kirkenes in June (Barents 2012) which also was an activity related to the Russian project "Safety Systems in Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural Projects". The exercise was based on two agreements between Russia and Norway, one on SAR and another on Oil Spill Response.

Conclusions:

EPPR took note of the update from Russia. Norway will present a report from the Kirkenes Workshop in the next EPPR meeting.

8.5 Radiation Projects (US)

Ann Heinrich from US gave an update on the different radiation projects.

8.5.1 Emergency Exercise: Saida Bay 2012

The exercise at Saida Bay was successfully held 19-21 June 2012. The scenario for the emergency exercise was a simulated crash of an

aircraft into the temporary storage pad containing decommissioned submarine reactors. The simulated crash lead to loss of integrity of one reactor and a radiation release (Cs-137 and Co-60) into the environment.

The objectives of the exercise were: validating notification procedures; exercising fire extinguishing under radiation contamination conditions; validating radiological survey and radiation situation analysis capabilities; and conduct of accident analysis and decision making for protection of people and the environment. Notification of local, federal and international authorities was conducted.

Norway, Finland and US were present at the exercise. EPPR will conduct another exercise in this series in 2014.

8.5.2 Emergency Rescue Team Equipment: Nerpa Shipyard

The “Arctic 2010” exercise experience identified that some emergency response equipment at the Nerpa Shipyard was out of date and needed to be replaced and some systems modernized. This project is in its final stages and the current status is as follows:

- Modernization plan for equipment and software tools for the facility’s emergency rescue team is complete.
- Development of software for assessing parameters of ionizing radiation from sources of various geometries with and without shielding is complete.
- Equipment procurement, test and transfer to Nerpa Shipyard are in progress and expected to be completed in October 2012.
- Personnel training will be completed in March 2013.

8.5.3 Training: International Consequence Management training course

The training course was hosted by the Danish Emergency Management Agency and was conducted in Snekkersten, Denmark on October 2-5. There were 22 attendees from Denmark, Lithuania, Poland and France. Topics included were radiological incident response scenarios, responder health & safety, radiological instrumentation, radiological monitoring techniques, field and aerial surveys/measurements and radiation dose assessment.

Training, exercises and related activities in radiological emergency response will continue in EPPR. Specific projects including the 2014 exercise will be scheduled in spring 2013.

Conclusions:

EPPR took note of the updates.

8.6 Occupational safety and health of Arctic oil spill response workers

Walter Parker from US gave a presentation on the progress and planned outcome in this project.

The purpose of the project is to raise awareness and improve regional operational capabilities to protect Arctic oil spill response workers during an oil spill response.

The primary output is intended as a supplement to the Arctic Council's "Field Guide for Oil Spill Response in Arctic Waters". An important input will be a summary of data on occupational injuries for key recent events on oil spills and maritime disasters.

The results of the project would represent a significant contribution to the understanding and control of the unique hazards encountered by responders.

The key steps are data collection and analysis. The project will gather data from existing national databases for significant marine and coastal oil spills and major marine disasters in the Arctic environment since the Exxon Valdez (1989). EPPR HODs were asked to identify points of contact to facilitate primary data collection from their countries.

Recommendations will be developed based on the compiled data and the analysis of hazards.

Conclusions:

Each HoD was given a package with specific information for their country.

HoDs will nominate technical persons for data collection to the project. US will present initial product draft(s) to EPPR spring 2013.

9 Administration

9.1 Update on EPPR's Website

EPPR Chair showed the new website which can be located at:
<http://www.arctic-council.org/eppr>.

Both pre-meeting documents and post-meeting documents are uploaded at the password area of the website. All of the presentations from the EPPR meeting are also available at the site. The website is useful for EPPR members and contributes to EPPR's communication strategy.

Conclusions:

The website is a useful platform. EPPR members should contribute news, events and pictures to the website.

9.2 Record of Decisions and Follow up Actions

Please find the Record of Decisions in Annex 3.

9.3 Scheduling of the Next Meeting and closing of the Meeting

The next EPPR meeting will be in Finland in June 2013.

Finland will host the next meeting. The date and venue is not yet decided but Finland will inform EPPR as soon as possible. The meeting will be scheduled after the Ministerial meeting in May, most likely the first or second week of June 2013.

EPPR Chair thanked everybody for their contribution and wished all safe travels back home.

Annex 1: List of Meeting Participants

*: Head of Delegation (HoD)

EPPR:

Mr. Ole Bjerkemo (EPPR Chair)
Norwegian Coastal Administration
Ole.Bjerkemo@kystverket.no
+ 47 33 03 48 18

Ms. Synnøve Lunde (EPPR
Executive secretary)
Norwegian Coastal
Administration
Synnove.lunde@kystverket.no
+47 70 23 10 13

Other AC Working groups

AMAP UAS Expert Group:
Anders la Cour-Harbo
alc@es.aau.dk

Canada:

Ms. Tanya Bryant
Environmental Emergencies
Environment Canada
Tanya.bryant@ec.gc.ca

Mr. Michel Chenier*
Policy and Research, Northern Oil and
Gas Branch
Aboriginal and Northern Development
Canada
michel.chenier@aadnc-aadnc.gc.ca
+1 (819) 934-9181

Ms Michelle Campbell
Foreign Affairs and International
Trade Canada
Michelle.campbell@international.gc.ca

Permanent Participants

Parnuna Egede
Inuit Circumpolar Council –
Greenland
Parnuna@inuit.org

Ms. Chantal Guenette
Environmental Response
Capacity Definition Project
Canadian Coast Guard
chantal.guenette@dfm-mpo.gc.ca

Josée Lamoureux
Transport Canada
Josee.lamoureux@tc.gc.ca

Ms. Céline Sirois
Environment
National Energy Board
celine.sirois@neb-one.gc.ca

Mr. Norm Snow
Joint Secretariat
execdir@jointsec.nt.ca

Larry Trigatti
Canadian Coast Guard
Larry.Trigatti@dfm-mpo.gc.ca

Denmark/Greenland:

Mr. Torben Iversen*
Joint Defense Staff
Fko-opp205@mil.dk

Mr. Nils Westergaard
Greenland Command
nilsw@mil.dk

Finland:

Ms. Magnus Nyström
Ministry of the Environment
Magnus.nystrom@ymparisto.fi

Norway:

Mr. Rune Bergstrøm *
Norwegian Coastal Administration
Rune.bergstrom@kystverket.no
+ 47 33 03 48 28

Russia:

Mr. Andry Bryksin
SMPCSA of Russia
State Marine Pollution Control,
Salvage and Rescue Administration
briksinay@sm pcsa.ru

Mr. Igor Veselov *
EMERCOM of Russia
veselov@mchs.gov.ru
+ 7 495 626 35 93

Sweden:

Ms. Pia Övelius *
Swedish Ministry of Defence
pia.ovelius@defence.ministry.se
+46 8 405 3151

United States:

Ms. Ann Heinrich *
Department of Energy/National
Nuclear Security Administration
Ann.Heinrich@nnsa.doe.gov

Mr. Joseph Listopad
Department of Energy/National
Nuclear Security Administration
Joseph.Listopad@nnsa.doe.gov

Mr. Larry Dietrick
Alaska Department of Environmental
Conservation
Larry.dietrick@alaska.gov

Jim Lusher
Bureau of Safety &
Environmental Enforcement
James.lusher@bsee.gov

Mr. Mark Everett
Plans & Force Readiness Division
Seventeenth Coast Guard District
U.S. Coast Guard
Mark.Everett@uscg.mil

Mr. Walter Parker
Senior Fellow, Institute of the
North University of Alaska
wbparker@gci.net

Observers:

Wojciech Wasowski
Maritime Office in Gdynia,
Poland
[wojciech.wasowski @umgd.gov.pl](mailto:wojciech.wasowski@umgd.gov.pl)

Annex 2 Timed agenda

Friday 5 October 2012

0900 – 0915

1. Host Country Welcome and Presentation of Activities

0915 – 0930

2. EPPR Work Group Convenes (EPPR Chair)
 - 2.1. Introductions (EPPR WG Participants)
 - 2.2. Approval of Agenda (EPPR Chair)

0930 – 0950

3. Presentation from AMAP UAS Expert group; "Presentation of work and ideas" Anders la Cour-Harbo (from the Aalborg University)

0950 – 1010 Health Break

1010 - 1200

4. From Nuuk mandates: Development of Operational Guidelines in support of the Task Force Agreement on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response

1200 – 1300 Lunch

1300 – 1500

Continue: Development of Operational Guidelines in support of the Task Force Agreement on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response.

1500 -1520 Health Break

1520 – 1600

5. Other projects and activities leading up to 2013 Ministerial meeting
 - 5.1. Arctic Council Project “Adaption Actions for a Changing Arctic”
 - 5.2. EPPR Strategic Plan
 - 5.3. EPPR Communication Plan
 - 5.4. IMO – Guide on Oil-Spill Response in Ice and Snow

1630 - 1700

6. Day one wrap up, review of Decisions and adjournment of meeting (EPPR Chair)

1815 - Evening event and dinner hosted by Denmark

Saturday 6 October

0900 - 1030

7. From Nuuk mandates: Arctic Council Recommended Practices Prevention Project (RP3)

1030 – 1050 Health Break

1050 - 1200

Continue - Arctic Council Recommended Practices Prevention Project (RP3)

1200 –1300 Lunch

1300 - 1400

8. Update on Current Projects (very short updates)

- 8.1. Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue Network (AAMverNet)
- 8.2. Arctic Region Oil Spill Response Resource and Logistics Guide (Arctic ERMA)
- 8.3. Arctic Rescue
- 8.4. Development of Safety Systems in the Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural projects
- 8.5. Radiation Projects
 - 8.5.1. Emergency Exercise: Saida Bay 2012
 - 8.5.2. Emergency Rescue Team Equipment: Nerpa Shipyard
 - 8.5.3. Emergency Response Team Radiation Detection and Identification Equipment
 - 8.5.4. Training: International Consequence Management training course

1400 -1430

- 8.6. Occupational safety and health in Arctic oil spill response workers

1430 -1445 Health break

1445 - 1630

9. Administration

- 9.1. Report on Implementation of EPPR Work Plan Priority Considerations

- 9.2. Update on EPPR's Website
- 9.3. Record of Decisions and Follow up Actions (Chair and Secretariat)
- 9.4. Scheduling of the Next Meeting and closing of the Meeting (Chair)

Annex 3 Record of Decisions

Friday 5 October 2012

1. Host Country Welcome and Presentation of Activities
2. EPPR Work Group Convenes (EPPR Chair)
 - 2.1. Introductions (EPPR WG Participants)
 - 2.2. Approval of Agenda (EPPR Chair)

The meeting accepted to add an agenda item 5.4, which is related to IMO – Guide on Oil-spill – response.

3. Presentation from AMAP UAS Expert group; "Presentation of work and ideas"
Anders la Cour-Harbo (from the Aalborg University)

EPPR expects that cooperation with the AMAP UAS Expert group will be useful. In particular the issues related to surveillance and monitoring and the possibility of joint recommendations with this project and the RP3 project are potential areas for future cooperation. The AMAP Expert group will continue to lead the initiative.

4. From Nuuk mandates: Development of Operational Guidelines in support of the Task Force Agreement on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response

EPPR reviewed the draft Operational Guidelines: Appendix IV: Operational Manual for the Task Force Agreement "Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic." The draft was submitted to the Task Force and EPPR HODs upon completion on October 5. EPPR will continue to refine the document and will incorporate feedback from the Task Force. Next steps, including possible conference calls, will be determined.

5. Other projects and activities leading up to 2013 Ministerial meeting

5.1. Arctic Council Project “Adaption Actions for a Changing Arctic”

EPPR took note of the update from the Chair.

5.2. EPPR Strategic Plan

US will present a draft Strategic Plan for the EPPR 2013 meeting.

5.3. EPPR Communication Plan

The secretariat will present a draft Communication Plan for the EPPR 2013 meeting.

5.4. IMO - Guide on Oil-Spill Response in Ice and Snow

The Chair will investigate the possible project, including potential workload for EPPR. Based the information, the Chair will make a recommendation regarding EPPR’s involvement in this activity.

6. Day one wrap up, review of Decisions and adjournment of meeting (EPPR Chair)

Saturday 6 October

7. From Nuuk mandates: Arctic Council Recommended Practices Prevention Project (RP3)

DNV will be asked to update the RP3 report based on the feedback from the AC review.

EPPR will establish a small drafting group which will prepare the short report. The short report will include recommendations and possible observations to the Ministers.

Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and US will take part in the group under the leadership of Canada.

A draft plan for finalizing the report will be submitted to HoDs within October 19. Canada will also prepare a summary of the discussions in the EPPR meeting and a draft framework for the short report.

8. Update on Current Projects (very short updates)

- 8.1. Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue Network (AAMverNet)
- 8.2. Arctic Region Oil Spill Response Resource and Logistics Guide (Arctic ERMA)

A workshop is planned for 2013. EPPR will be informed and invited.

8.3. Arctic Rescue

EPPR took note of the presentation from the Norilsk Conference.

8.4. Development of Safety Systems in the Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural projects

Norway will present a report from the Kirkenes Work shop in the next EPPR meeting. EPPR took note of the update from Russia.

EPPR took note of the updates.

8.5. Radiation Projects

- 8.5.1. Emergency Exercise: Saida Bay 2012
- 8.5.2. Emergency Rescue Team Equipment: Nerpa Shipyard
- 8.5.3. Emergency Response Team Radiation Detection and Identification Equipment
- 8.5.4. Training: International Consequence Management training course

EPPR took note of the updates.

8.6. Occupational safety and health in Arctic oil spill response workers

Each HoD was given a package with specific information for their country. HoDs will nominate technical persons for data collection to the project. US will present initial product draft(s) to EPPR spring 2013.

9. Administration

9.1. Report on Implementation of EPPR Work Plan Priority Considerations

The Work Plan is in the report from the Keflavik meeting. The Work Plan and the timelines will be updated after this meeting.

9.2. Update on EPPR's Website

The website is a good platform. EPPR members should contribute news, events and pictures to the website.

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

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

The next EPPR meeting will be in Finland in June 2013.

Annex 4 EPPR Work plan 2011 – 2013 – (Revised October 2012)

- EPPR’s Strategic Plan Framework consists of four objectives and strategic priorities on which the Work Plan is based and in some instances represents a continuation of ongoing activities. The four objectives are listed below. The actions under the three thematic sections are related to one of the four objectives. The objective number is listed in the left column.
- Objective 1: Information sharing
- Objective 2: Improve prevention measures aimed at reducing accidents which could result in environmental emergencies in the Arctic
- Objective 3: Improve emergency preparedness programmes at local, national, regional and international levels to ensure they are commensurate with the level of risk that exists, including arrangements for mutual assistance.
- Objective 4: Improve response capabilities so that they are commensurate with existing threats

ACCIDENTAL OIL AND HNS POLLUTION

Strategic Plan Objective	Action	Activities	Lead(s)	Timeline
3	Provide technical support to the Arctic Council Oil Spill Emergency Preparedness and Response Task Force	Develop Operating Guidelines	Canada Norway Sweden USA	A final draft by early January 2013
3	Arctic Rescue	Establish Rescue centres in the northern Russia	Russia	Pilot Centre establ. Aug 2012
		Conference Norilsk	Russia	August 2012
2 and 3	Development of Safety Systems in Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural Projects	Exercise	Russia	Fall 2011
		Workshop and exercise	Russia Norway	June 2012
3 and 4	IMO Arctic Region Chapter; In situ Burn (ISB) of Oil Spills on water and Broken and Solid Ice Conditions	Develop text to IMO Guideline	Canada US Norway	Draft text June 2012 Final July 2013

1	Arctic Emergencies Report (Revised Update of Analysis of Agreements)	Prepare report	US and EPPR countries	Delivered Oct. 2011
3	Arctic Region Oil Spill Response Resource and Logistics Guide	Guide GIS tool	US	
1,2,3	Update the Arctic Guide for Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response	Revised Guide will include revised Environmental Risk Matrix	US	Draft text September, 2012
2	Develop recommendations and/or best practices in the prevention of marine oil pollution RP3 Report	Report(s)		A draft report for the SAOs in November 2012

**RADIOLOGICAL
EMERGENCIES**

Objective	Action	Activities	Lead(s)	Timeline
3	Technical Crisis Center support to the EMERCOM Crisis Situation Management Center, Phase II		US Russia	
3 and 4	Conduct of Radiation Emergency Exercises	Exercise	US Russia Norway Finland Sweden	
3 and 4	Conduct of Radiation Emergency Training	Training	US Russia	
3	Emergency Rescue Team Technical Support		US Russia	

1, 2,3,4	Community Radiation Information		US Russia	
3 and 4	Improve Technical Analysis Capabilities for Radiological Emergency Response		US Russia	
3 and 4	Technical Crisis Center support to the EMERCOM Crisis Situation Management Center, Phase II		US Russia	

**NATURAL DISASTERS
and OTHER HAZARDS**

Objective	Action	Activities	Lead(s)	Timeline
3	Arctic Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue Network (AAmverNet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAmverNet Fact Sheet – 2011 • Notice to Mariners – 2012 • Test and Evaluate AAmverNet 2013 	US Canada	See activities. Finalized 2013
1,2,3,4	Occupational Safety and Health of Arctic Oil Spill response Workers	Guide	US	A draft report 2013 Finalized 2014

**CO-OPERATION
WITH OTHERS**

Objective	Action	Activities	Leads	Timeline
1	Cooperation with Oil Industry	Meetings and information sharing	Norway	
1	Coordination with University of the Arctic	Information sharing	US	
1	Liaison with PAME working group	Project co-operation and information sharing	Chair	