

# Final Report: EPPR Working Group Meeting

Longyearbyen, Svalbard | May 2015

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Longyearbyen, Svalbard May 26-28, 2015**

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Annex 1 Final Participant List

Annex 2 Final Agenda

## 1. Host Country Welcome

New EPPR Chair, Amy Merten, called the semi-annual meeting of the EPPR Working Group to order. Delegates were welcomed to Longyearbyen, Svalbard by Norwegian host Johan Marius Ly, Norwegian Coastal Administration, who introduced Police Chief Inspectors Arild Lyssand and Sidsel Svarstad. Mr. Lyssand gave a presentation about search and rescue operations on Svalbard, noting that extreme weather, long distances, avalanches and polar bears often play a role in emergency situations.

## 2. EPPR Chair Convenes Meeting

### 2.1 Roundtable Introductions

The meeting had 41 participants representing the eight Arctic Council Countries, one Permanent Participant (AIA), two Observer states (Singapore and South Korea), and three Observer organizations (Circumpolar Conservation Union, World Wildlife Fund and UN Economic Commission for Europe). This list of participants is Annex 1 to this report.

### 2.2 Approval of Agenda

To accommodate the late arrival of a delegate, it was agreed to shift agenda items 3.1 to later in the agenda. Item 12 was moved up in the agenda. These changes were approved. The agenda is Annex 2 to this report.

## 3. Update on EPPR Activities since EPPR II

Intersessional activities focused on preparations for the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Iqaluit, April 24-26, 2015. The former Chair, Ole Kristian Bjerkemo participated in a number of preparatory calls with the SAO Chair (SAOC) and other Working Group Chairs (WGC) in advance of the Ministerial. Ole Kristian attended the Ministerial meeting, reporting that WG materials were not presented to Ministers and that WGC watched the proceeding from a listening room. A joint letter from the former WGC has been sent to the new SAOC, David Balton, with views on how to improve communication and participation by WGs at SAO and Ministerial meetings.

Other activities included EPPR representation at the U.S. Interagency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research (ICOPR) in Washington D.C. by incoming Chair Amy Merten. Former Chair Ole Kristian was interviewed for a film being produced by the ITOFF on oil spill response in ice and snow and the MOSPA. The film will be finalized in 2016.

EPPR delegates were encouraged to advise the EPPR Secretariat when they attend events and provide short bullet reports that could be turned into tweets for the new EPPR Twitter account, [@EPPR\\_Arctic](https://twitter.com/EPPR_Arctic).

### 3.1 Unmanned Aircraft System

U.S./Mark Everett reviewed a follow-up paper/matrix developed by the U.S. Coast Guard's Research and Development Center after the EPPR Unmanned Aircraft Systems workshop held in December 2014, noting that this is an emerging issue for EPPR and presents a number of potential future projects for EPPR and other working groups. Through increased use and feedback, UAS producers will improve designs, size, and sensors. The size of the spill, timeline of spill, recoverability of oil, telemetry (real time, packaged and downloaded), control and launch systems, ice and ice edge, weather (wind, fog rain, snow) all impact the type of platform required. It was noted that the AMAP report on UAS has been finalized.

During discussion, Canada and the U.S. reported they are using UAS for delivery of supplies and remote sensing. It was requested that information be shared with EPPR.

**Conclusion:**

It was agreed that regular updates on UAS would be included on EPPR WG meeting agendas and potentially another workshop could be planned as developments take place.

## 4. Follow-up from the Iqaluit Ministerial Meeting

Former EPPR Chair, Ole Kristian Bjerkemo attended the Iqaluit Ministerial Meeting, April 24-26, 2015. Details of the meeting were provided under Agenda point 3. The EPPR work plan (2015-2017) was approved by Ministers, including the addition of a more explicit mandate on SAR, including follow-up on the SAR Agreement. Within the Iqaluit Declaration, articles 31-34 are relevant to the work of EPPR. All documents are available on the AC website.

## 5. EPPR Participation in cross cutting activities and Task Forces under the US Chairmanship

Under the U.S Chairmanship three Task Forces will stand-up. The Task Force (TF) on Scientific Cooperation will continue, with the next meeting being held in August. Two new TFs are being established: the Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation (Co-Chairs Norway, U.S. and Iceland) and the Task Force on Telecommunications (Co-Chairs Kingdom of Denmark and Norway). It is expected that the two new Task Forces will likely deal with issues that intersect with EPPR's mandate.

**Conclusion:**

The EPPR Chair and Secretariat will follow-up with information as it becomes available to ensure that EPPR can engage in an appropriate manner with the newly established Task Forces.

## 6. Update on Current Projects

### 6.1 Safety Systems in the Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural Projects

The Russian Federation/Igor Veselov provided an update on this project which focusses on the improvement of industrial and environmental safety related to economic and infrastructure projects, primarily the development of hydrocarbons on the Arctic continental shelf and hydrocarbons transportation. In support of these projects, SAR and Oil Spill Response exercises are undertaken annually. In 2015, plans include opening another Arctic Complex Search and Rescue Center in Murmansk. In 2016-2017, plans include organizing training and exercises on emergency response in the Russian Arctic with international participation.

**Conclusion:**

EPPR took note of the update and await further information regarding training and exercises.

### 6.2 Arctic Rescue

The Russian Federation/Igor Veselov provided an update on this project which focusses on best practices, recommendations and key elements of emergency risk assessment systems and improving safety of potentially hazardous facilities. Implementation of the project includes conducting seminars and conferences and research on the subject. The next conference will be in Salekhard, August 18-20, 2015, with the title "Security issues in implementation of economic and infrastructural projects in the Arctic". Invitations to attend the conference will be sent to EPPR.

**Conclusion:**

EPPR took note of the update and welcomed the invitation to attend the conference in August 2015.

### 6.3 Occupational Safety and Health in Arctic Oil Response Workers

U.S./Ann Heinrich reported that this project continues to be on hold, and it was recommended that it be removed from the Amaroq (the Arctic Council Project Tracker). It is possible that a white paper on the work completed to date will be produced and brought forward to EPPR at a later date.

On a related topic, it was noted that in the 2015-2017 work plan the option exists to update the *Field Guide for Oil Spill Response in Arctic Waters*. This work could be a stand-alone project, or be undertaken as part of the Small Communities Project. There was general support to look into mechanisms and funding to update the Field Guide.

**Conclusion:**

The Occupational Safety and Health in Arctic Oil Response Workers project was removed from the Amarok. It was further agreed that states will consider updating the Field Guide and that a project proposal could be brought forward either intersessionally or at EPPR II.

## 6.4 Prevention, Preparedness and Response for Small Communities

Norway/Ole Kristian Bjerkemo provided an update on next steps within this project, including a scoping workshop planned for Anchorage, Alaska, October 7-9, 2015. Project co-leads are Canada, U.S., AIA and ICC. Funding has been secured for the workshop, including for Permanent Participant participation. A small group met on the margins of the meeting to narrow the scope of the project and it was agreed that the project would start with issues related to oil spill response, and then expand with experience. Ideally the workshop will include about 30 experts, including representatives from small and remote communities.

It was noted that PAME is also doing a project on meaningful engagement and that we need to inform them about our project to ensure that we are not duplicating efforts and perhaps develop a cross-cutting project. There will likely be overlap in Permanent Participants for both projects.

**Conclusion:**

Invitations are expected in early July and other information will be forthcoming. Member states and PPs are encouraged to nominate appropriate experts to attend the workshop.

## 6.5 Development of a Database of Arctic Response Assets

This project, which will create a stand-alone, searchable database of major response assets, is on track. Project partners have been identified and a contractor will be hired to collect data from relevant players. The timeline has been established and agreed. The United States Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is providing funding and management for the project and will deliver the final product to the EPPR in December 2016.

U.S./David Moore noted that the database will be compatible with Arctic ERMA and be GIS enabled. Linkages may exist with the follow-up work from the TFOPP and the Gap Analysis project. Member states are requested to provide data to the contractor so that the database can show where major assets are when an accident happens. Other information, such as capabilities and input to the design of the database are also welcome.

During discussion, Finland noted that it is important to ensure that the database is complementary, not duplicative, to HELCOM. Ideally, the database should be live and updated continually. This may be a next step for the project, and require discussion as to where the database is housed and maintained, which includes the need for financial support.

**Conclusion:**

EPPR welcomed the update and expressed continued support for the project. Member states are asked to provide information to the contractor to populate the database with relevant information. The next update on the project will be at EPPR II.

## 7. New Project Proposals for Consideration

### 7.1 Radiation

Three potential projects for EPPR approval, either intersessionally or at EPPR II were discussed:

- The U.S. is considering a project to revise a brochure on radioactive sources.
- The U.S. and Iceland will bring forward a proposal to hold an expert level workshop on radiation detection in 2016.
- Norway plans to present a project proposal on nuclear icebreaker traffic and transport of radioactive materials, based on outcomes from a table top exercise in June and a workshop in October.

**Conclusion:**

EPPR welcomed these ideas and encouraged lead countries to develop project proposals for approval either intersessionally or at EPPR II.

### 7.2 International Standards for Petroleum, Offshore Oil and Maritime Industries

Norway presented this project which aims to provide an introduction to how standards for the petroleum, offshore oil and maritime industries are developed, how they are maintained and executed. Products from the project include - a technical report with a description of the work with standards, a short executive summary of the technical report, and a presentation. These deliverables will be developed by a consultant. With additional funds, yet to be identified, a short movie about standards could be developed.

The goals of the project are to increase awareness of the overall standards process, and to establish a dialogue between the Arctic Council and industry regarding how standards are identified, developed, and maintained. A 1-2 day workshop will be organized to address various issues including: the need for standardization, identification, development, and issuance of standards in the Arctic.

Funding has been secured and industry will cover the costs of the workshop. The project end date is December 2016. Partners are welcome to join the project. PAME will be informed of the project to ensure that no duplication of work is taking place.

**Conclusion:**

EPPR approved the project. Norway noted that the project needs a co-lead; the U.S. agreed to look for an appropriate contact point. This will be a project EPPR implements on behalf of the TFOPP implementation framework (see Agenda item 12).

## 7.3 Natural Disasters

No project proposals were discussed. It was agreed that Natural Disasters should be on the EPPR II agenda. Delegations are asked to share information on natural disasters at this meeting.

## 8. Thematic Country Updates on SAR – Part 1

EPPR welcomed country updates. Presentations can be found on the EPPR website on the Svalbard meeting documents page.

### 8.1 Canada

Michael Susin provided a presentation on Canada's SAR operational structure. In Canada SAR is a shared responsibility between Federal and Provincial/Territorial authorities with support from the private/commercial sector and volunteers.

The Federal mandate includes:

- Aeronautical SAR, led by the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) with support from the Civil Air Search & Rescue Association (CASARA) North, and volunteers on request. Aeronautical SAR employs Arctic-based aircraft, operators, experience, leveraging their capabilities and local knowledge for SAR.
- Maritime SAR led by the Canadian Coast Guard with air support from CAF and volunteers on request.
- Ground SAR and inland waters within National Parks/Reserves led by Province/Territory/Municipality/RCMP with air support from CAF and volunteers on request.

Provincial/Territorial mandate includes:

- Ground SAR and inland water SAR within respective areas of responsibility.

### 8.2 Kingdom of Denmark

Nils Westergaard provided a presentation on SAR and environmental protection in Greenland and the Faroe Islands. The SAR area around Greenland is large and characterized

by extreme environmental conditions. The majority of SAR operations take place at sea. Regular SAR exercises are undertaken, with lessons learned and challenges being identified after each. Regarding environmental protection, the Kingdom of Denmark has both bilateral and multilateral agreements including CANDEN Agreement, Copenhagen Agreement and the AC MOSPA. The Kingdom of Denmark has undertaken a marine environmental risk assessment which will be supplemented by two analysis (identifying gaps and risk) in 2015.

The Kingdom of Denmark is planning a SAR and environmental exercise in May, 2016. It is expected that the exercise will have linkage to the SAR Agreement and the AC MOSPA.

### 8.3 Finland

Petteri Leppänen gave a presentation and showed a video on a color coded vessel triage system. Finland has a number of national and international maritime SAR projects. The presentation highlighted two:

- Vessel TRIAGE – a multinational project that developed a color coded categorization system for assessing and communicating the safety status of vessels in maritime accidents and distress situations. See the video:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckkv7o5G5L8>
- MIRG Project – an ongoing project with the aim to create joint standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the Maritime Incident Response Groups (MIRG) in the Baltic Sea region and document existing MIRG education programs to be utilized by all countries in the area. MIRG groups are an efficient way to handle ship fires.

### 8.4 Iceland

Ólafur A. Jónsson provided a presentation on SAR and environmental response activities in Iceland. The Icelandic Coast Guard (ICG) is responsible for the coordination of all SAR operations in Iceland. ICG operates a joint rescue coordination center which is the single contact point for all ICG activities. The ICG is supported by ICE-SAR, a volunteer-based organization that has 99 SAR units in Iceland comprised of ground, air and sea units.

The Environment Agency of Iceland (EAI) takes action against spills and other pollution threats, prepares strategic pollution prevention plans, and manages cleanup on site. In the event of an accident, the ICG, with the assistance of ICE-SAR, secures the scene and then hands over leadership to the EAI. EAI manages action to combat spills and other pollution with the assistance of ICG and other contractors. The EAI conducts annual training exercise with ICG.

## 9. Arctic Web

Mads Bentzen Billesø from the Danish Maritime Authority joined the meeting by teleconference to present ArcticWeb, an online portal to improve maritime safety in the

Arctic region. Since 2014, ArcticWeb has served as a single point of access to up-to date safety related information, provides streamlined reporting and allows for voluntary coordinated voyage through sharing of positions and planned routes. Additional work is being done on a module of the service focused on search and rescue. ArcticWeb has been used in two exercises, ACCSEAS and Baltic SAREX 2015.

ArcticWeb is a free, user based, open source platform that can be used for scheduling and reporting, making it easy to share information with other vessels (weather, location of other vessels, ice, maritime and safety warnings). In SAR situations, ArcticWeb can be used to estimate how far away/time for vessels to assist.

See: <https://arcticweb.e-navigation.net/>

**Conclusion:**

EPPR thanked the Kingdom of Denmark for the presentation, noting links to Arctic ERMA.

## 10. Circumpolar Oil Spill Response Gap Analysis Update

Co-leads Norway, Kingdom of Denmark and the U.S provided a brief update on this project. Funding has been approved by Norway. It is planned to conduct a scoping workshop in Copenhagen October 7-8, 2015. Invitations will be sent to EPPR HoD to be forwarded to appropriate experts. Primary consultants have been identified to participate in the project and produce the final report. The project has a possible linkage to the project "Developing a Database of Arctic Response Assets" (See Agenda item 6.5).

**Conclusion:**

Invitations and other information will be forwarded to HoD through the EPPR Secretariat.

## 11. Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response (MOSPA)

### 11.1 Arctic Exercise: After Action Report on the MOSPA

Canada/Larry Trigatti tabled the final After Action Report from the first functional exercise of the MOSPA. This report was approved by Ministers at the Iqaluit Ministerial meeting in April. One recommendation was brought forward, which was for subject matter experts to review the forms requesting assistance. It was also suggested that a mini-table top exercise be undertaken on mechanisms necessary for cross border transport of equipment, including import requirements.

**Conclusion:**

The report was welcomed and recommendations were noted. EPPR thanked Canada for hosting the first exercise and for completing the after action report.

## 11.2 Report from the alert exercise of MOSPA at the Oil in Ice event in Kemi, Finland (March 2015)

Finland provided a report, outlining alert and request for assistance procedures. Alerting was undertaken at four levels: nationally (via telephone), HELCOM POLREP /Baltic Sea States and EU, Copenhagen Agreement POLREP/Nordic countries (SE & DK), and under the MOSPA. The alert exercise was not announced in advance in order to realistically test delays in replying to alerts and offering assistance. Requests for assistance were issued to Arctic States for experts on *in-situ* burning and herding agents in ice conditions, Baltic Sea states for Swedish vessels and skimmers, and from the EU/EMSA for a recovery vessel and satellite monitoring.

Lessons learned included the need to streamline alerting mechanisms and procedures to reduce the delays in response times. Delays in acknowledging requests were substantial. It was recommended that phone communications be used to inform the States on the request.

During discussion, it was noted that there needs to be a prioritization of alerting procedures (phone, fax, email) at the national, bi-lateral, Arctic, and global levels. Awareness of the Operating Guidelines of the different agreements is important as these agreement invoke simultaneous, cascading notification. Regarding the timing of exercises, delegations agreed that coordinating exercises would be helpful so that countries gain a better overview of coming exercises.

**Conclusion:**

EPPR thanked Finland for the report.

## 11.3 Maintenance of the Operating Guidelines of the MOSPA

It was decided that a small group (Canada, US, Finland, Norway and the EPPR Chair) will communicate to finalize a process for making substantive changes to the Operating Guidelines. It was agreed that contact information updates (e.g. names of responsible organizations, telephone numbers) specific to MOSPA appendices I, II, III and the relevant subsection of the Operating Guidelines, be updated immediately on the EPPR website.

## 11.4 Update on Preparations for the US-led Exercise

The US/Mark Everett, provided an update on the planning process for workshop to prepare the US-led functional exercise of the MOSPA. EPPR agreed to the timelines for planning calls in July and August, and the workshop which is scheduled for September 15-17, 2015, in Washington, D.C. Delegations are asked to identify participants for the planning calls and the

workshop by the end of June. The workshop invitation will be circulated to Heads of Delegation through the EPPR Secretariat.

Regarding the scope of the exercise scenario, it was agreed that scenarios should be spill focused but that in the brain-storming phase delegations are free to bring forward more complex scenarios for consideration, provided they contain elements which would require invoking the AC MOSPA. While the MOSPA is specifically for oil spill response, and does not activate a SAR or radiation response, it is important to consider that “worst case” real-world scenarios may involve either or both of these additional challenges.

**Conclusions:**

Information/invitations for the planning workshop in Washington D.C. in September 2015, will be forthcoming. Delegations are asked to nominate participants to planning calls/workshop and forward possible scenarios for consideration to the U.S./Mark Everett.

## 12. Follow-up on Recommendations from the TFOPP

In the Iqaluit Declaration Ministers,

“**Welcome** the Framework Plan for Cooperation on Prevention of Oil Pollution from Petroleum and Maritime Activities in the Marine Areas of the Arctic, and **decide** through Working Groups, expert-level dialogues, and further actions to prevent marine oil pollution, including regular exchanges of knowledge and experience among Arctic offshore petroleum regulators,”

While no lead has been identified, past work led by Canada in the form of a matrix focusing on how EPPR might best engage in the follow-up of the Framework Plan is a useful platform to potentially coordinate future activities and/or projects. Outreach to other relevant working groups (PAME in particular) and other bodies (Arctic Regulators Forum) will be important to see which organizations undertake what projects and how we might work together to organize future work. Links to the newly approved EPPR project on Standards were also noted.

**Conclusion:**

It was decided that the EPPR Chair would report areas of relevance/interest within the Framework Plan for Cooperation on Prevention of Oil Pollution to SAOs at the Executive SAO meeting in June. Following this meeting, a small group will convene to draft a letter to other WG Chairs, the Chair of the Arctic Regulators Forum and other relevant organizations, reflecting areas of the EPPR interest within the Framework Plan, and request feedback and further cooperation.

## 13. Linkages to associated Arctic Council Bodies – Arctic Coast Guard Forum (ACGF), Arctic Regulators Forum (ARF)

This discussion was covered in Agenda points 5, 12 and 17.

## 14. Update of EPPR Strategic Plan

EPPR's Strategic Plan was last updated in 2013. EPPR has previously agreed that the Strategic Plan should be updated regularly to reflect the current priorities and work streams, including the addition of SAR to the EPPR mandate. Norway put forward a proposal for a way to complete this work.

### **Conclusion:**

EPPR agreed to undertake an update of the Strategic Plan. Norway, Sweden, the Kingdom of Denmark and the U.S. will lead the process, with a view to finalizing the update at EPPR II. The group will be mindful of potentially forthcoming instructions from SAOs regarding the harmonization of WG Operating Guidelines.

## 15. Information from Observer States and Observers Organizations

### 15.1 WWF Presentation on Oil Spill Response

WWF provided a presentation on their work in oil spill response including organization of training courses for volunteers, local communities and companies in Finland, Russian Federation, Estonia and Norway. These training courses have been very successful, training 7500 volunteers in shoreline clean-up, oiled wildlife response, first aid, and storage of response equipment. WWF also produces written material for training and guidance for actions to be taken during a response situation. WWF-led volunteer responders are recognized in national contingency planning, and past engagement has been well planned and coordinated with national authorities.

During discussion, national delegations noted concerns over insurance for volunteers, and in some cases the need for volunteers to be paid to meet labor laws in order to secure insurance. Linkages to the EPPR project on small communities was noted and WWF is interested in taking part in the project.

### **Conclusion:**

EPPR welcomed this presentation. The co-leads for the Small Communities project noted WWF's interest.

## 16. Thematic Country Updates on SAR – Part 2

EPPR welcomed country updates. Presentations can be found on the EPPR website on the Svalbard meeting documents page.

### 16.1 Norway

Ørjan Delbekk from Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) North-Norway provided a presentation, outlining the geographic area of responsibility and types of SAR activities (maritime, aeronautical, land and MCC). Increased activity in fisheries, transportation, oil and gas exploration, tourism and expeditions increase the risk for SAR activities and call for a coordinated approach to ensure timely response. Norwegian response capabilities include, helicopters, coast guard vessels, and UAS. Norway participates in a number of Arctic SAR exercises including Exercise Barents (NO/RF), Exercise Barents Rescue (FI/NO/RF/SW), Dynamic Mercy (DK/IC/NO), SAREX and Arctic Zephyr (Arctic Council).

### 16.2 Russian Federation

Igor Veselov provided an update on SAR activities, linked largely to the two projects they lead under EPPR and noted above in sections 6.1 and 6.2.

### 16.3 Sweden

Bernt Stedt provided a presentation on Sweden's SAR activities. Sweden has signed bilateral agreements for Maritime and Aeronautical SAR with nine adjacent countries. The Mission Co-ordination Centre is located in Göteborg and coordinates with the Swedish Maritime Administration, the Swedish Coast Guard and the Swedish Armed Forces. Swedish capabilities include helicopter response, Full Ice Protection System (FIPS) for winter missions and ice conditions, Maritime Incident Response Group (MIRG), and diving.

### 16.4 United States

Ben Strong provided an update on a SAR Table Top Exercise to be held in Anchorage, Alaska, October 19-22, 2015. Led by the USCG, Department of State and NORTHCOM, this whole-of-government exercise will support the U.S. Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and the National Strategy for the Arctic Region Implementation Plan, and it is designed to test elements of the 2011 Arctic SAR Agreement. Arctic Council member states are invited to participate in the SAREX, as well as State, local and indigenous representatives. The first day of the exercise will be an academic day, attended by several distinguished visitors and SAOs, who will also be in Anchorage for the SAO meeting (October 20-22). The scenario is planned to be a maritime mass rescue event and will move between circumpolar SAR zones.

## 17. EPPR Lessons Learned Approach to the Search and Rescue Agreement (SAR) and Report from Breakout Session

A Search and Rescue (SAR) Expert breakout session was held to discuss how EPPR should incorporate SAR into its work. This session focused on follow-up to the SAR Agreement. It was agreed that there are broader implications for the EPPR mandate vis-a-vis SAR would continue at a later date. The breakout group reported back to EPPR and the working group agreed the following:

- To create a SAR section on the EPPR website that includes reports and lessons learned.
- To use the ACS-EPPR Planning calendar to inform about relevant SAR exercises.
- To formalize the process by which SAR issues will be integrated into the EPPR working mandate. EPPR will identify short, medium, and long term issues for the SAR Agreement follow-up.

EPPR agreed to forward the following text from the breakout session to SAOs:

*Language reflecting EPPR mandate change to include support to SAR agreement and its follow up:*

Pursuant to the Arctic Council Iqaluit 2015 declaration, EPPR will support the SAR agreement and its follow up, especially article 9 and 10 of the agreement. EPPR would have no operational mandate, being cognizant that operational SAR responsibilities rests with the States.

It will not be for EPPR to implement all elements of the agreement but EPPR could offer recommendations and information to entities within and outside the Arctic Council, including but not limited to other AC WGs and other fora. The EPPR Chairmanship and Secretariat will reach out to the Arctic Offshore Regulators Forum and Arctic Coast Guard Forum for issues related to SAR and prevention, where appropriate.

EPPR will identify short, medium and long term issues for the SAR agreement follow up. SAR would be an integral part of EPPR-meetings, and be included in reports to SAOs on a regular basis.

### 17.1 Movie and Information about the SARiNOR project

Morten Mejlænder-Larsen from DNV-GL was invited to give a presentation on the SARiNOR project which is the result of a Maritime21-initiated process to gather all Norwegian expertise related to search and rescue in a joint national initiative. The project is now completed and EPPR reviewed the movie to highlight the work accomplished. SARiNOR phase II will soon be launched.

**Conclusion:**

EPPR welcomed the presentation and movie, noting relevance to the work that the Arctic Council is undertaking on SAR. The movie can be viewed on Vimeo by searching SARiNOR.

## 18. Administration

### 18.1 Amarok – The Arctic Council Tracker

EPPR reviewed the Amarok, updating changes where appropriate. The updated version will be posted in the password protected area of the EPPR website.

### 18.2 Social Media and Outreach – Website content and Twitter account

The EPPR website is in need of an update. As the Arctic Council website is also being updated, now is an opportune time to migrate the EPPR site to the same platform as the AC website. The migration will take place in the fall, once the AC website has been completed. Until then, key information on the EPPR website will be maintained and updated, but no major design work will be undertaken.

EPPR now has a Twitter account @eppr\_arctic. Delegates are asked to provide news of EPPR related work that they do so that we can highlight that work on the Twitter feed.

### 18.3 AOB

Singapore provided a short update on EPPR related activities including SAR and OSR exercises. EPPR welcomed the update.

### 18.4 Scheduling of the Next Meeting

The next EPPR meeting will be in early December 2015 in Reykjavik, Iceland.

### 18.5 Record of Decisions and Follow-up Actions

The Record of Decisions was reviewed, edited and approved during the meeting. The approved Record of Decisions was emailed to all participants.

### 18.6 Closing of the Meeting

EPPR Chair, Amy Merten thanked Norway for hosting the first meeting of EPPR under the U.S. Chairmanship. The meeting was adjourned.

## Annex 1 – Final Participant List

<b>Participant List - EPPR I Longyearbyen, Svalbard May 26-28, 2015</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Job title</b>
<b>EPPR</b>			
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## Annex 2 – Final Agenda

*Final Timed Agenda (May 19, 2015)*

### **EPPR Working Group Meeting May 26-28, 2015**

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*May 26, 2015*

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*Meeting begins at 09:00*

9:00 – 9:30

#### 1. Host Country Welcome

Welcome by the Host Country by Director of department Johan Marius Ly, Norwegian Coastal Administration

Welcome by Police Chief Inspectors Arild Lyssand and Ms Sidsel Svarstad, Governor of Svalbard

9:30 – 9:40

#### 2. EPPR Work Group Chair Convenes Meeting

2.1. Roundtable introductions

2.2. Approval of Agenda

***Break-out session of SAR Experts to take place concurrently with EPPR plenary. We will all have lunch together.***

9:40 – 9:50

#### 3. Update on EPPR Activities since EPPR II (December 2014)

##### **Background**

The Chair and former Chair will update the WG on recent activities, including promotion of EPPR in different international fora.

### **Actions**

For information. A request for “snapshot” articles to be used on the EPPR website as posts will be requested.

### **Documents**

- Presentation given at U.S Interagency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research (ICCOPR) meeting, March 30, 2015, Washington D.C.

9:50 – 10:05

## 3.1 Unmanned Aircraft Systems

### **Background**

A UAS workshop was held on December 4, 2014. Follow up matrix will be presented by Mark Everett on behalf of Kurt Hansen.

### **Actions**

For information. Possible follow-up activities will develop during the discussion.

### **Documents**

- EPPR\_UAS\_Workshop\_Meeting\_Report
- Use\_of\_Unmanned\_Aerial\_Vehicles\_in\_the\_Arctic

10:05 – 10:20

## 4. Follow-up from the Iqaluit Ministerial meeting

### **Background**

Arctic Council Ministers met in Iqaluit on April 24, 2015. All EPPR Deliverables are available on the AC Open Access Archive in the EPPR section. Ole Kristian Bjerkemo will provide a verbal report from the meeting.

### **Actions**

For information

### **Documents**

- Iqaluit Declaration 2015
- SAO Report to Ministers
- EPPR One Page Handout in English and Russian
- Links to EPPR Deliverables are available on the meeting documents webpage

10:20 – 10:35

## 5. EPPR participation in cross cutting activities and Task Forces under the US Chairmanship

### **Background**

In an effort to find synergies across WGs and avoid duplication of work, an overview of activities of interest to EPPR will be presented for information purposes. The Chair will also review the mandates of the three new Task Forces under the US Chairmanship – Task Force on Scientific Cooperation will continue, TF on Regional Seas Program and EG/TF on Telecommunications are being established.

### **Actions**

For discussion. Follow-up “snapshot” articles to be used on the EPPR website as posts will be requested.

10:35 – 10:50: Health Break

## 6. Update on Current Projects

10:50 – 11:10

### 6.1 Safety Systems in the Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural projects – Russia

#### **Background**

The goal of the project is the improvement of industrial and environmental safety related to economic and infrastructure projects, primarily the development of hydrocarbons on the Arctic continental shelf and hydrocarbons transportation. In support of these projects, SAR and Oil Spill Response exercises are undertaken annually. Regional Arctic Complex Search and Rescue Centers have been established to accumulate monitoring results and manage rapid reaction forces in the strategically important spheres, making it possible to conduct efficient activities in emergencies. In 2015, plans include opening another Arctic Complex Search and Rescue Center in Murmansk. In 2016-2017, plans include organizing training and exercises on emergency response in the Russian Arctic with the international participation or observation.

#### **Actions**

For information. Take note of invitation to AC member states to participate in the exercises as actors or observers.

#### **Documents**

- Safety\_Systems\_Project\_Update - Presentation

11:10 – 11:30

## 6.2 Arctic Rescue

### **Background**

The focus of this Russian-led project is to elaborate best practices, recommendations and key elements of the emergency risk assessment system and the system for improving safety of potentially hazardous facilities. This includes elaboration of recommendations on joint activities aimed at ensuring industrial and environmental safety along major North-European transportation corridors, natural hazards (floods, wild fires, permafrost degradation etc.) and the development of legal regulations and management tools based on international best-practice. The goal is the international promotion of advanced national experience and improvement of emergency preparedness through information exchange. Implementation of the project includes conducting seminars and conferences and researches on the subject.

In August 2015, a conference on the subject of safety provisions of Arctic project implementation is being planned in Salekhard. In 2016-2017, work will continue on knowledge sharing through conferences and workshops.

### **Actions**

For information. Take note of request for participation of AC member states in the August 2015 conference, including presentations showing best experience and existing practice in risk assessment and safety improvement of potentially hazardous facilities.

### **Documents**

- Arctic\_Rescue\_2014\_Update

11:30 – 11:40

## 6.3 Occupational Safety and Health in Arctic Oil Response Workers

### **Background**

At EPPR II, December 2014, it was reported that this project is on hold. The US HoD will provide an update on the status of the final report, which will bring this project to conclusion.

### **Actions**

For information

11:40 – 12:00

## 6.4 Prevention, Preparedness and Response for small communities (AIA/NO)

### **Background**

This project proposal was discussed at the EPPR meeting in Ottawa in June 2014 and EPPR decided at EPPR II, December 2014, to approve this proposal as an EPPR project. An update will be given, including news on approved funding.

### **Actions**

EPPR is asked to discuss and agree on the proposed plan for the scoping workshop and provide input for the agenda and breakout sessions.

### **Documents**

- Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response in small communities – Update

12:00 – 12:20

## 6.5 Development of a Database of Arctic Response Assets

### **Background**

The United States is leading a project to develop a searchable oil spill response database and populate it with detailed information on Arctic-specific equipment and resources (i.e., vessels, dispersant stockpiles, mechanical recovery devices) that are owned or regionally available to member states of the Arctic Council. The United States Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is providing funding and management for the project and will deliver the final product to the EPPR in December 2016.

### **Actions**

For Information. The project workgroup is currently soliciting membership from interested member countries, establishing a contract for technical support; and researching examples of current equipment databases.

12:20 – 13:20: Lunch Break (SAR Breakout Group will join for lunch)

## 7. New Project Proposals for Consideration

13:20 – 13:40

### 7.1 Radiation

#### **Background**

The observer handbook and report from “Arctic 2014” were approved as EPPR deliverables

at the 2015 Iqaluit Ministerial meeting. The US HoD will present plans for future work/exercises.

**Actions**

For information and discussion.

13:40 – 14:10

## 7.2 International Standards for Petroleum, Offshore-Oil and Maritime Industries

**Background**

The 2013 EPPR Recommended Practices for Arctic Oil Spill Prevention Report, and the recently approved Framework Plan (FP) from the Task Force on Oil Pollution Prevention (TFOPP), both recommend the development of standards and/or best practices relevant to the prevention of oil pollution in the Arctic. Through participation in several meetings within the Arctic Council, EPPR representatives have experienced a general lack of knowledge about standards. Through this project we expect that we can increase knowledge about standards and the importance of them to prevent accidents.

**Actions**

For discussion and approval by EPPR.

**Documents**

- Project Proposal: International standards for petroleum, offshore-oil and maritime industries

14:10 – 14:30

## 7.3 Natural Disasters

**Background**

Prevention, preparedness and response to natural disasters is part of the EPPR mandate. Potential project ideas within this area of work can be discussed.

**Actions**

For discussion and possible follow-up on project ideas.

14:30 – 14:45: Health Break

## 8. Thematic Country Updates on SAR – Part 1

14:45 – 15:00

### 8.1 Canada

15:00 – 15:15

### 8.2 Kingdom of Denmark

15:15 – 15:30

### 8.3 Finland

15:30 – 15:45

### 8.4 Iceland

15:45 – 16:00: End of day one. Time to prepare for 16:00 departure to the harbor.

***Voyage with MS Polarsyssel at 16:00***  
***Sandwiches, coffee and tea on-board***  
***Dress Code: Cozy***

*May 27, 2015*

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*Meeting begins at 09:00*

9:00 – 9:20

## 9. Arctic Web

### **Background**

ArcticWeb is an effort by the Danish Maritime Authority to improve maritime safety in the Arctic region. ArcticWeb serves as a single point of access to up-to date safety related information, provides streamlined reporting and allows for voluntary coordinated voyage through sharing of positions and planned routes. Additional work is being done on a module of the service focused on search and rescue.

### **Actions**

For information.

9:20 – 9:40

## 10. Circumpolar Oil Spill Response Gap Analysis Update

### **Background**

It was decided at EPPR I, June 2014, that a Circumpolar Oil Spill Response Gap Analysis would be undertaken to establish the necessity of a full project and the scope of work a comprehensive CMERA would capture. A scoping workshop will be held in fall of 2015.

### **Actions**

Review and discuss progress and next steps.

### **Documents**

- GAP\_Analysis\_update\_longyearbyen

## 11. Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response

9:40 – 10:00

### 11.1. Arctic Exercise: After Action Report on the Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic

#### **Background**

Canada will table the After Action Report from the first validation exercise of the MOSPA. This report was approved as an EPPR deliverable by Ministers in Iqaluit.

#### **Action**

For information. Any proposed changes to the Operational Guidelines will be noted for discussion in the next agenda point.

#### **Documents**

- [ACMMCA09\\_Iqaluit\\_2015\\_EPPR\\_Fisheries\\_and\\_Oceans-After\\_Actions\\_Report](#)

10:00 – 10:15

### 11.2. Report from the alert exercise of MOSPA at the Oil in Ice event in Kemi, Finland in March 2015

#### **Background**

Finland will give a short presentation on the alert exercise of MOSPA held in March in Kemi, Finland and table a report from the exercise.

#### **Actions**

For information. Any proposed changes to the Operational Guidelines will be noted for discussion in the next agenda point.

10:15 – 10:45

### 11.3. Maintenance of the Operating Guidelines of the Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response

#### **Background**

As called for in the Agreement, EPPR is to undertake a full review the Operating Guidelines bi-annually at EPPR I. The Chair will remind EPPR about the agreed procedures

### **Actions**

Delegations are asked to explain any proposed changes to the OGs. If changes are numerous a break out group may be called upon to update the OGs.

### **Documents**

- MOSPA\_OPERATIONAL\_GUIDELINES\_ENGLISH\_FINAL

10:45 – 11:00: Health Break

11:00 – 11:20

## 11.4. Update on Preparations for the US-Lead Exercise

### **Background**

During the US Chairmanship, the US will plan and lead an exercise. Mark Everett will provide an update on plans for the exercise.

### **Actions**

For information and discussion.

11:20 – 11:40

## 12. Follow-up on Recommendations from TFOPP

### **Background**

At the Iqaluit Declaration Ministers “**Welcome** the Framework Plan for Cooperation on Prevention of Oil Pollution from Petroleum and Maritime Activities in the Marine Areas of the Arctic, and **decide** through Working Groups, expert-level dialogues, and further actions to prevent marine oil pollution, including regular exchanges of knowledge and experience among Arctic offshore petroleum regulators,”

### **Actions**

For discussion, focusing on how EPPR might best engage in the follow-up of the Framework Plan.

11:40 – 12:00

## 13. Linkages to associated Arctic Council Bodies – Arctic Coast Guard Forum, Arctic Regulators Forum

### **Background**

These two external bodies are associated to the work of the AC and EPPR. Both are in various stages of becoming operational. Update by Jens-Peter Holst-Andersen and David Moore.

### **Actions**

For information.

12:00 – 13:00: Lunch Break

13:00 – 13:30

## 14. Update of EPPR Strategic Plan

### **Background**

EPPR's Strategic Plan was updated in 2013 and the updates were approved by the Senior Arctic Officials (SAO's) at their meeting in Whitehorse in October 2013. EPPR have previously agreed that the Strategic Plan (SP) should be updated regularly.

### **Actions**

Norway has come forward with a proposal for updating the SP in the fall 2015 and finalized at EPPR II, 2015. This proposal is for discussion and further guidance.

### **Documents**

- Strategic\_plan background document (Norway)
- EPPR Strategic Plan

## 15. Information from Observer States and Observer Organization

### **Background**

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

### **Action**

For information and potential follow-up.

13:30 – 13:45

### 15.1. WWF – Presentation

#### **Documents**

- WWF\_Oil\_response\_presentation

## 16. Thematic Country Updates on SAR – Part 2

13:45 – 14:00

### 16.1 Norway

14:00 – 14:15

### 16.2 Russian Federation

14:15 – 14:30

### 16.3 Sweden

14:30 – 14:45

### 16.4 United States

14:45 – 15:00: End of day one. Time to prepare for 15:00 departure to the harbor.

*15:00-17:00 Visit polar ground station Svalsat in Longyearbyen*

*19:00 Official dinner hosted by Norway at Gruvelageret. Dress code*

*Casual*

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*May 28, 2015*

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*Meeting begins at 09:00 and ends at 12:00*

9:00 – 10:00

## 17. EPPR Lessons Learned Approach to the Search and Rescue Agreement and Report from Breakout Session

### **Background**

SAR Experts had a Breakout Session on May 26<sup>th</sup>. A report from that session will be given.

### **Actions**

For discussion and potential follow-up activities will be identified.

10:00 – 10:30

### 17.1. Movie and information about the SARiNOR project (TBD)

#### **Background**

SARiNOR project is the result of a Maritim21-initiated process to gather all Norwegian expertise related to search and rescue in a joint national initiative. The project is now completed and a video has been made to highlight the work accomplished. A representative from SARiNOR will brief EPPR on the highlights of the project.

#### **Actions**

For information and discussion.

#### Documents

- Norway\_SARiNOR – Presentation given at EPPR I, 2013

10:30 – 10:45: Health Break

## 18. Administration

10:45 – 11:00

### 18.1 Arctic Council Project Tracking Tool, now titled the Amarok

#### **Background**

Updates are to be provided to the ACS at the conclusion of each Working Group Meeting.

#### **Actions**

Live editing of the EPPR section of the Amarook.

#### **Documents**

- Amarook: Tracking Tool of Arctic Council Deliverables and Ongoing Work

11:00 – 11:10

### 17. 2 Social Media and Outreach – Website content and Twitter

11:10 – 11:20

### 17.3 AOB

11:20 – 11:30

### 17.4 Scheduling of the Next Meeting

11:30 – 11:55

### 17.5 Record of Decisions and Follow up Actions

#### **Actions**

The WG will review and agree to the Record of Decision, to be distributed (by email) at the end of the meeting.

11:55 – 12:00

### 17.6 Closing of the Meeting

12:00 – End of Meeting. Have a safe trip home!