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Circular letter No.4934
24 October 2024

To: IMO Member States and Associate Members
United Nations and specialized agencies
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status
Arctic Indigenous Peoples' organizations
Academic institutions and other organizations with an interest in polar shipping

Subject: **Polar Maritime Seminar** (23 and 24 January 2025)

1 The Secretary-General has the honour to invite representation at the Polar Maritime Seminar, co-sponsored by IMO and Norway's Chairship of the Arctic Council, in cooperation with the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group of the Arctic Council (PAME), scheduled to be held in-person only from 23 and 24 January 2025 at IMO Headquarters, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR.

2 The purpose of the Seminar is to provide an update on polar shipping developments, including vessel activity trends, voyage planning, POLARIS, search and rescue, training, underwater radiated noise, pollution prevention measures and fishing vessel safety. The provisional agenda is set out in the annex.

3 Participation in the Polar Maritime Seminar is open to all IMO Member States and Associate Members, United Nations and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status and, by invitation, to the representatives of Arctic Indigenous People's organizations*, academic institutions and other organizations with an interest in polar shipping.

4 Seminar participants will be subject to the *Code of Conduct for Delegates, Observers and Other Participants at IMO Meetings, Events and Activities to Prevent Harassment including Sexual Harassment*, set out in the annex to [Circular Letter No.4908](#) of 20 August 2024.

5 The Seminar will be conducted in English only without interpretation. To participate, registration is required **by 10 January 2025** using the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/jwWFaf2s6g>. In case of any further queries, please contact the organizers at: polarseminar@imo.org.

* The Inuit Circumpolar Council has consultative status with IMO.

ANNEX



◀ NORWAY'S CHAIRSHIP
ARCTIC COUNCIL
2023-2025

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Co-sponsored by IMO and Norway's Chairship of the Arctic Council, in cooperation with the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group of the Arctic Council (PAME)

POLAR MARITIME SEMINAR

23 and 24 January 2025
IMO Headquarters, London
*In-person seminar
by invitation only*



DAY 1

Master of ceremonies: IMO (tbc)

ALL TIMINGS ARE TENTATIVE

09.00 - 09.30: Registration

09.30 – 10.00: Opening and Welcome

10.00 – 11.00 SESSION 1: Trends in Arctic and Antarctic vessel activity <i>Moderator: Mr. Drummond Fraser, Marine Safety Policy Advisor, Transport Canada</i>	
10.00 – 10.15	Trends in Arctic shipping <i>Speaker tbc</i>
10.15 – 10.30	Trends in Antarctic shipping <i>Speaker tbc</i>
10.30 – 10.45	Arctic Ship Traffic Data (ASTD) <i>Mr. Hjalti Hreinsson, Project Manager, PAME Secretariat</i>
10.45 – 11.00	Discussion
11.00 – 11.20	Coffee Break
11.30 – 12.15 SESSION 2: Voyage planning <i>Moderator: TBC</i>	
11.20 – 11.35	Antarctic shipping perspective <i>Speaker tbc</i>
11.35 – 11.50	Case study: Planning for Arctic voyages <i>Capt. Taigh MacManus</i>
11.50 – 12.05	Antarctic voyage planning <i>Speaker tbc</i>
12.05 – 12.20	Discussion
12.20 - 13.00 SESSION 3: Polar Operational Limit Assessment Risk Indexing System (POLARIS) review <i>Moderator: Mr. Michael Kingston, IMO Consultant</i>	
12.20 – 13.00	Panel participants: <i>Ms Ivana Kubat, Director of Research and Development, National Research Council Canada</i> <i>Mr. Rob Hindley, Head of Machinery & Structures, Aker Arctic</i> <i>Mr. Drummond Fraser, Senior Policy Advisor, Transport Canada</i> <i>Mr. James Bond, Director, Polar Research and Ice Class Ships, American Bureau of Shipping (ABS)</i> <i>Mr. Morten Mejlænder-Larsen, Director - Arctic Operation and Technology, DNV</i>
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch

14.00 – 15.20 SESSION 4: Search and rescue <i>Moderator: TBC</i>	
14.00 – 14.15	Search and rescue in the Antarctic <i>Speaker tbc</i>
14.15 – 14.30	Arctic Coast Guard Forum <i>Speaker tbc</i>
14.30 – 14.45	Case study <i>Speaker tbc</i>
14.45 – 15.00	Lessons learned from the <i>Northguider</i> grounding <i>Mr. Andreas Brachel, Vice President, Head of Claims Sustainability, GARD</i>
15.00 – 15.05	PAME Project: Potential places of refuge in the Arctic for ships in need of assistance <i>Mr. Peter Oppenheimer, Chief, International Section, NOAA Office of General Counsel</i>
15.05 – 15.20	Discussion
15.20 – 15.45	Coffee Break
15.45-17.00 SESSION 5: Polar waters training <i>Moderator: TBC</i>	
15.45 – 16.00	Developing the Polar Code for training/IMO Training Program <i>Mr. Milton Baron-Perico, Technical Officer, Maritime Safety Division, IMO</i>
16.00 – 16.15	Norwegian initiatives <i>Speaker tbc</i>
16.15 – 16.30	Training for Antarctic navigation <i>Speaker tbc</i>
16.30 - 16.45	Training for Arctic navigation <i>Speaker tbc</i>
16.45 – 17.00	Discussion
17.00	Closing comments <i>Master of Ceremonies</i>
END OF DAY 1	

DAY 2

09.30 – 10.45

SESSION 6: Underwater radiated noise

Moderator: TBC

09.30 – 09.45	IMO Guidelines & regulatory developments <i>Mr. Ricardo Batista, Technical Officer, Maritime Safety Division, IMO</i>
09.45 – 10.00	GloNoise Partnership Project <i>Speaker tbc</i>
10.00 – 10.15	Work of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) <i>Speaker tbc</i>
10.15 – 10.30	PAME project: Underwater noise in the Arctic <i>Speaker tbc</i>
10.30 – 10.45	Discussion

10.45 – 13.00

SESSION 7: Pollution prevention measures

Moderator: TBC

10.45 – 11.00	Low-sulphur fuels in the polar regions <i>Mr. Jon Arve Royset, Senior Advisor, Norwegian Coastal Administration</i>
11.00 – 11.15	MARPOL Emission Control Areas/Black Carbon <i>Speaker tbc</i>
11.15 – 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 – 11.45	Reducing the impact of shipping's atmospheric emissions on the Arctic: Progress and future opportunities <i>Dr. Sian Prior, Lead Adviser to the Clean Arctic Alliance</i>
11.45 – 12.00	Plastics in the polar regions <i>Speaker tbc</i>
12.00 – 12.15	Regional arrangements for Port Reception Facilities within Arctic waters <i>Speaker tbc</i>
12.15 – 12.30	PAME Project: Invasive species in the Arctic <i>Speaker tbc</i>
12.30 – 13.00	Discussion

13.00 – 13.45 Session 8: Fishing vessel safety / Cape Town Agreement <i>Moderator: Mr. Michael Kingston, IMO Consultant</i>	
13.00 – 13.45	Spain <i>Speaker tbc</i> Icelandic Transport Authority <i>Speaker tbc</i> IMO <i>Speaker tbc</i> United Kingdom <i>Speaker tbc</i>
13.45	Closing remarks END OF THE SEMINAR