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Circular Letter No.4934/Rev.1<sup>1</sup>  
24 December 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 chairmanship 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, on 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<sup>2</sup>, 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](mailto:polarseminar@imo.org).

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<sup>1</sup> Circular Letter No.4934 has been revised to include the updated provisional agenda.

<sup>2</sup> 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 meeting  
by invitation only*



**PAME**  
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment

# DAY 1

**Master of ceremonies:** Mr. Michael Kingston, IMO Consultant

**09.00 – 09.45:** Registration

**09.45 – 10.00:** Opening and Welcome

- **IMO Representative:** Ms. Heike Deggim, Director of Marine Environment Division
- **Arctic Council/Norway Chairship Representative:** Ms. Siv Christin Gaalaas (Norway)

<b>10.00 – 11.00</b>	
<b>SESSION 1: Trends in Arctic and Antarctic vessel activity</b> <i>Moderator: Mr. Drummond Fraser, Marine Safety Policy Advisor, Transport Canada</i>	
10.00 – 10.15	<b>Trends in Arctic shipping</b> <i>Prof. Jackie Dawson, University of Ottawa</i>
10.15 – 10.30	<b>Trends in Antarctic shipping</b> <i>Speaker tbc</i>
10.30 – 10.45	<b>Arctic Ship Traffic Data (ASTD)</b> <i>Mr. Hjalti Hreinsson, Project Manager, PAME Secretariat</i> <i>Mr. Jon Arve Røyset, Senior Advisor, Norwegian Coastal Administration</i>
10.45 – 11.00	<b>Discussion</b>
11.00 – 11.20	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>11.20 – 12.20</b>	
<b>SESSION 2: Voyage planning</b> <i>Moderator: Mr. Peter Oppenheimer, Chief, International Section, NOAA Office of General Counsel</i>	
11.20 – 11.35	<b>Cruise Line industry perspective</b> <i>Ms. Lisa Kelley, Interim Executive Director; Director of Operations &amp; Government Affairs, International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO)</i>
11.35 – 11.50	<b>Case study: planning for Arctic voyages</b> <i>Capt. Taigh MacManus, Polar Expedition Vessel MY Legend.</i>
11.50 – 12.05	<b>The role of satellites in voyage planning: current and future information products to support polar shipping</b> <i>Ms. Zaynab Guerraou, European Space Agency</i>
12.05 – 12.20	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>12.20 – 13.00</b>	
<b>SESSION 3: Polar Operational Limit Assessment Risk Indexing System (POLARIS) review</b> <i>Moderator: Mr. Michael Kingston, IMO Consultant</i>	
12.20 – 13.00	<b>Panel participants:</b> <i>Ms. Ivana Kubat, Director, Research and Development for National Research Council Canada</i> <i>Mr. Rob Hindley, Head of Consultancy &amp; Technology Development, 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 Mejl�ander-Larsen, Director - Arctic Operation and Technology, DNV</i>
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
<b>14.00 – 15.20</b> <b>SESSION 4: Search and rescue</b> <i>Moderator: Ms. Hanne Bragstad, Director, Norwegian Joint Rescue Centre, Norway</i>	
14.00 – 14.15	<b>Search and rescue in the Antarctic</b> <i>Commander Pablo Carrasco, MRCC of Chilean Navy</i>
14.15 – 14.30	<b>Arctic Coast Guard Forum</b> <i>Ms. Holly Haverstick, Director of International Affairs and Foreign Policy Advisor to the Commandant, United States Coast Guard</i>
14.30 – 14.45	<b>Lessons learned from Arctic search and rescue exercises</b> <i>Mr. Benjamin Strong, Director, Amver Maritime Relations, United States Coast Guard</i>
14.45 – 15.00	<b>Lessons learned from the Northguider grounding</b> <i>Mr. Andreas Brachel, Vice President, Head of Claims Sustainability, GARD</i>
15.00 – 15.05	<b>PAME Project: Potential places of refuge in the Arctic for ships in need of assistance</b> <i>Mr. Peter Oppenheimer, Chief, International Section, NOAA Office of General Counsel, USA</i>
15.05 – 15.20	Discussion
15.20 – 15.45	Coffee Break
<b>15.45 – 17.00</b> <b>SESSION 5: Polar waters training</b> <i>Moderator: Mr. Haakon Storhaug (Norway), Chair of the IMO Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping</i>	
15.45 – 16.00	<b>Developing the Polar Code for training/IMO Training Programme</b> <i>Mr. Milton Baron-Perico, Technical Officer, Maritime Safety Division, IMO</i>
16.00 – 16.15	<b>Norwegian initiatives</b> <i>Ms. Irene Mortveit Ellingsen, Senior Engineer, Norwegian Maritime Authority</i>
16.15 – 16.30	<b>Training for Antarctic navigation</b> <i>Capt. David Marionneau, Director, Marine Operations Ponant, Asia/Pacific</i>
16.30 – 16.45	<b>Training for Arctic navigation</b> <i>Capt. Anthony Patterson, Managing Director, Virtual Marine</i>
16.45 – 17.00	<b>Discussion</b>
17.00	<b>Closing comments</b> <i>Master of Ceremonies</i>
<b>END OF DAY 1</b>	
<b>Evening Reception</b> <i>Courtesy of Norway</i>	

## DAY 2

<b>09.30 – 10.45</b> <b>SESSION 6: Underwater radiated noise</b> <i>Moderator: Ms. Michelle Sanders, Alternate Permanent Representative of Canada to IMO</i>	
09.30 – 09.45	<b>IMO guidelines &amp; regulatory developments</b> <i>Mr. Ricardo Batista, Maritime Safety Division, IMO</i>
09.45 – 10.00	<b>GloNoise Partnership Project</b> <i>Ms. Sevtap Özdoğan, Project Manager of the GloNoise Partnership Project, IMO</i>
10.00 – 10.15	<b>Work of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)</b> <i>Ms. Lisa Koperqualuk, President, ICC Canada</i>
10.15 – 10.30	<b>PAME project: Underwater noise in the Arctic</b> <i>Ms. Melanie Lancaster, Senior Specialist, WWF Arctic Programme</i>
10.30 – 10.45	Discussion
<b>10.45 – 13.00</b> <b>SESSION 7: Pollution prevention measures</b> <i>Moderator: Mr. Loukas Kontogiannis, Marine Environment Division, IMO</i>	
10.45 – 11.00	<b>Low-sulphur fuels in the Polar Regions</b> <i>Mr. Jon-Arve Røyset, Senior Advisor, Norwegian Coastal Administration</i>
11.00 – 11.15	<b>Canada's Arctic Emission Control Area and Black Carbon emissions</b> <i>Dr. Hui Peng, Senior Program Engineer, Environment and Climate Change Canada</i>
11.15 – 11.30	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11.30 – 11.45	<b>Reducing the impact of shipping's atmospheric emissions on the Arctic: progress and future opportunities</b> <i>Dr. Sian Prior, Lead Adviser to the Clean Arctic Alliance</i>
11.45 – 12.00	<b>Fishing gear as a source of beach litter in the Arctic: causes and solutions</b> <i>Mr. Wouter-Jan Strietman, Wageningen Economic Research</i>
12.00 – 12.15	<b>Regional arrangements for port reception facilities within Arctic waters</b> <i>Speaker tbc</i>
12:15 – 12:20	<b>PAME Project: Invasive species in the Arctic</b> <i>Speaker tbc</i>
12.20 – 12.35	<b>Marine accidents in the Arctic</b> <i>Dr. Olivier Faury, Associate Professor in Supply Chain Management and Logistics, EM Normandie, Métis Lab</i>
12.35– 13:00	<b>Discussion</b>

<b>13.00 – 13.45</b> <b>Session 8: Fishing vessel safety / Cape Town Agreement</b> <i>Moderator: Mr. Michael Kingston, IMO Consultant</i>	
13.00 – 13.45	<b>Panel participants:</b> <i>Mr. Jose Casado, Technical Advisor on Maritime Safety and Environment, Directorate General for the Merchant Marine, Spain</i> <i>Ms. Heike Deggim, Director, Marine Environment Division, IMO</i> <i>Mr. Cagri Kucukyildiz, Maritime Safety Division, IMO</i>
13.45	<b>Closing remarks</b> <b>END OF THE SEMINAR</b>