



SEP 14 2016

Renée Sauvé  
Chair, PAME Working Group

Dear Renée:

Thank you for your letter of May 11, 2016. As you approach final preparations to your PAME-II (2016) meeting, I wish to provide a brief update of the activities of the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC) for your consideration. And, as the first luxury cruise ship, *Crystal Serenity*, completes the first such voyage through the Northwest Passage this month, the importance of our dialogue on the state of navigation in the Arctic is again underscored.

An Extraordinary Session of the ARHC was convened on May 31, 2016 in conjunction with the Inter Regional Coordination Committee of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). The meeting was attended by representatives of hydrographic offices of Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russian Federation and the United States. During the meeting, your letter was discussed. The session report is available on the IHO ARHC meeting site.<sup>1</sup> I wish to highlight several points both from the session and subsequent communications among ARHC members.

Of note,

- The session produced two notable actions related to the update of the Chart Adequacy Risk Assessment referenced in your letter.
  - ACTION 6 - US via the Operations and Technical Working Group (OTWG) will:
    - contact the Russian Federation to identify data missing and needed to complete the Risk Assessment Tool.
    - use the existing “public” Russian Data to get results for the entire Arctic until all data is available. The OTWG will share results with the Russian Federation first and will present at the ARHC-6.
    - At Denmark request, remove constraints in the Tool to allow all data provided along all Greenland coast and included in the Risk Tool result to be presented at ARHC-6.
  - ACTION 7 – Russian Federation will provide the ARHC members an update on how and when the whole Russian Federation Data will be shared for inclusion in the Risk Assessment tool.
- US LCDR Gonsalves, Chair of the OTWG, initiated follow-up with the OTWG membership to solicit input on updates.
- The representative of Norway to the ARHC OTWG (Mr. Arne Ofstad, [Arne.Ofstad@kartverket.no](mailto:Arne.Ofstad@kartverket.no)) uploaded new shape files and surveys relevant to the Assessment.
- Canada and the U.S. confirmed there have been no significant updates for waters off Canada and Alaska for updating profiles developed in 2015.

<sup>1</sup> [http://iho.int/mtg\\_docs/rhc/ArHC/ArHC\\_Extraordinary\\_IRCC8/2016-05-31%20ARHC%20Extraordinary%20meeting%20minutes%20-final.pdf](http://iho.int/mtg_docs/rhc/ArHC/ArHC_Extraordinary_IRCC8/2016-05-31%20ARHC%20Extraordinary%20meeting%20minutes%20-final.pdf)

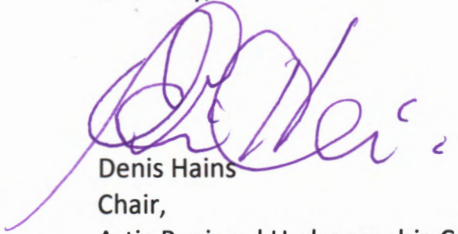
PAME also solicited feedback on the Arctic Voyage Planning Guides (AVPGs). The AVPGs are intended to provide mariners and public information relevant to planning and scoping arctic voyages. Canada, Norway, Denmark, Russian Federation, and the U.S. have each posted sites to the internet. The status of the AVPGs effort and next steps will be discussed collectively at the ARHC-6.

It is important to note, the AVPG topic has been subsumed within a broader discussion on Arctic Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) efforts being explored collectively by the ARHC. The report of the ARHC MSDI team will be presented and discussed at the ARHC-6.

I regret that timing of the ARHC-6 meeting follows your PAME-II (2016) meeting by approximately two weeks which precludes our submission of a full status report for your consideration. In the meantime, I hope the above does offer helpful and relevant information for the PAME-II meeting.

At the conclusion of ARHC-6, Denmark will assume ARHC Chair. I will offer my full support to the incoming Chair in preparation of an ARHC-6 a report to you of the salient outcomes of our meeting for the PAME Secretariat's full and timely consideration as we look to 2017.

Sincerely,



Denis Hains  
Chair,  
Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission  
and Hydrographer General of Canada