Invitation to EPPR Side Event at the Arctic Biodiversity Congress

Guideline and tools for Arctic Marine Risk Assessment

This page provides a project update for the Guideline and tools for Arctic Marine Risk Assessment project initiated by the Arctic Council EPPR Working Group.

The EPPR Working Group has identified the need for a common approach to marine risk assessments in the Arctic region. In all waters, good risk assessments are fundamental for the scoping, planning and administration of risk reducing maritime safety and response measures. The quality of a risk assessment however, depends entirely on the quality and relevance of the input data. This can be a challenge particularly in the Arctic, where conditions differ from most other waters and there are extra challenges related to, for example, harsh and cold climate - which in turn makes good risk assessments all the more important. This project also links to the Arctic Council Framework Plan on Oil Pollution Prevention (FPOPP).

In a scoping workshop carried out on October 31 – November 1, 2017 in Ålesund, EPPR convened technical experts to discuss the matter and give advice on the way forward. The workshop proposed a stepwise approach, where the next steps should include the development of a guideline for marine risk assessments in the Arctic, and a toolbox including best practices and information about relevant data sources. The Workshop was summarized in the report “Summary report from EPPR scoping workshop on risk assessment methods and metadata, Ålesund 31 October – 1 November 2017.” (EPPR/DNV GL 18.12.2017).

EPPR side event at the Arctic Biodiversity Congress - Rovaniemi, October 8, 2018

Following the scoping workshop, project facilitators DNV GL and UIT The Arctic University of Norway, started the project with a screening of existing risk assessment methods and data sources, and search for a common approach to Marine Risk Assessments in the Arctic Region. To elicit input and feedback from international subject matter experts and other stakeholders, two webinars were planned. The next webinar will take place on September 25, 2018. If you are interested in participating, please contact the EPPR Secretariat to register.

The purpose of the side event in Rovaniemi is to capture input relevant to the project from Arctic Council Working Groups, Permanent Participants, and other international subject matter experts. Participants should come to the workshop ready to provide information and expertise in the field of risk assessment methods. The side meeting aims to inform participants about the preliminary results, and present and discuss how the Guideline for Marine Risk Assessments in the Arctic region could be developed. A key objective is to ensure good coordination with other previous and ongoing projects that are relevant for Arctic Marine Risk Assessments, such as environmental datasets.

The meeting will take place at the Rovaniemi Town Hall, Hallituskatu 7, in the room called Murmansk on the 1st floor, 13:00 - 17:00. Registration and coffee will start at 12:30.

All participants must register as seating is limited for this event. Please click here to register. Registered participants will receive more information closer to the event.
For information regarding hotel accommodation, and the full program for the Arctic Biodiversity Congress, please visit: https://www.arcticbiodiversity.is/congress.