



Sustainable Development
Working Group

24 January 2018

SDWG Project Proposal

SDWG PROJECT PROPOSAL

<p>Project Title:</p> <p>Assessing the Use of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) in Indigenous Communities</p>	<p>Lead Country/Project leader(s):</p> <p>United States (<i>Peter Oppenheimer, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Reid Creedon, U.S. Department of State</i>)</p> <p>AIA (<i>Liza Mack, Executive Director</i>)</p> <p>CCU (<i>Whit Sheard, President</i>)</p>
<p>Summary of Required Project Inputs:</p> <p>In-kind contribution of expertise from U.S. and AIA. CCU will provide funding for survey implementation.</p>	<p>Relationship to other AC Working Groups:</p> <p>PAME (<i>Peter Oppenheimer, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Liza Mack, AIA</i>)</p>
<p>Summary of project objectives and main outcomes:</p> <p>A project in partnership with the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group (PAME) to collect, report and/or review information about on-shore use by indigenous peoples and local communities of HFO as well as the extent to which such peoples and communities rely on ships that burn HFO to deliver supplies and provisions.</p>	

Project objective

This project will provide a greater understanding of the importance of HFO to Arctic communities. As nations and the IMO consider phasing out the use of HFO as a fuel by ships in the Arctic in order to protect the marine environment, it is important to understand whether such actions might have unintended impacts on Arctic residents. By surveying Arctic communities and asking how they generate electricity, heat their homes, and move goods in and out of their communities, this project will help Arctic States make better-informed decisions regarding the regulation of HFO.

This project fits into SDWG's Strategic Framework by promoting a better understanding of existing infrastructure, energy use, and transportation in Arctic communities. In order to promote future sustainable development, it is useful to understand the degree to which communities currently rely on the use of HFO in their daily lives. Further, this project will contribute to initiatives aimed at three of the SDWG's priorities: addressing climate change, protecting the Arctic marine environment, and protecting Arctic flora and fauna. HFO is among the most environmentally detrimental fuel types. It emits potent climate change-accelerating air pollutants, and spills or leaks of HFO could devastate flora, fauna, and the indigenous communities relying on these resources due to the length of time it takes HFO to break down in cold water. In order to curb or ban the use of HFO it is first necessary to ensure such action wouldn't leave Arctic residents with no means of powering their communities or transporting crucial goods or supplies in and out of town.

In particular, this project will:

- Contribute to building an integrated knowledge-base by establishing the importance of HFO to indigenous Arctic communities, which will help inform future decisions regarding HFO regulation.
- Foster a better understanding of the human dimensions of HFO regulation in the Arctic.
- Assist with PAME's efforts at mitigating the potential effects of HFO use by ships on the Arctic marine environment by expanding the knowledge-base regarding current uses of HFO.
- Help achieve UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 (conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources). The project will contribute to Goal 14 by analyzing reliance on HFO—a fuel that is near impossible to clean up in the marine environment if spilled—in order to inform efforts to curb or eliminate HFO use.

Activities and Outputs

- Conduct a survey of indigenous Arctic communities to assess their use of and reliance on HFO.
- The survey will provide a reliable set of data regarding the extent of HFO use in Arctic communities, adding to the existing knowledge-base.
- This project will help inform future policy recommendations by making clear the impacts on Arctic communities of banning HFO.

Partnership

- The key stakeholders include all Permanent Participants, Member States, and Observers, as this survey will provide information relevant to any entity with a presence in the Arctic. The U.S., AIA, and the Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU) have taken the lead on this project out of mutual interest in protecting the Arctic marine environment from HFO pollution while avoiding unintended impacts on indigenous Arctic communities that might result from regulation or banning of HFO as a fuel.
- The U.S. and AIA jointly developed a series of survey questions. AIA is taking the lead on the logistics of survey implementation, with support from the U.S. and CCU. AIA plans to enlist the help of the other Permanent Participants and the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat to distribute the survey to the communities they represent. CCU assisted in the development of the survey and is offering a key source of funding for survey implementation.

Timetable and Project Completion

- The project leads have already drafted the survey and intend to commence implementation in spring 2018.
- AIA will distribute the survey questions to other Permanent Participants, collecting responses on a rolling basis.
- Timeline:
 - **February 2018:** Make contact with experts, indigenous organizations, and community leaders. Begin distributing the survey to respondents, requesting responses by June 1.
 - **February–September 2018:** Gather, compile, and synthesize information and begin drafting a report.
 - **September 2018:** Submit draft report to PAME and SDWG, inviting review and comment by November 15, 2018.
 - **November 2018–February 2019:** Revise draft report in light of comments received.
 - **February–March 2019:** Final review by PAME and SDWG
 - **March 2019:** Present any revisions to SAOs.
 - **March–May 2019:** Finalize report for Ministerial.

Costs

- \$5000 in participant incentives

Integration of Traditional and Local Knowledge

- This project will rely almost entirely on local knowledge by surveying indigenous communities to collect information about their use of and reliance on HFO.

Communications

- The target audience for this survey is the Member States and Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council, by providing them with information needed to make informed decisions regarding the regulation of HFO use by ships in the Arctic and prepare for any future regulatory initiatives.
- **Outcome:** An authoritative report that provides comprehensive and up-to-date information regarding the extent to which HFO is used to fuel the vessels that deliver goods and supplies to indigenous and local communities, to heat residential or commercial buildings, and to power on-shore equipment such as generators that produce electricity. The final Report will be shared with stakeholders and Arctic State IMO delegations to help inform decisionmaking in that body with respect to HFO use in the Arctic.
- The results of the project will be summarized in an assessment posted to the PAME and SDWG websites, as well as communicated to Arctic State policy makers to any inform decisions at the IMO that may involve mitigating the risks of HFO use by ships in the Arctic.

In accordance with the SDWG Communications Strategy, the use of SDWG logo on print and digital outreach materials is required. The SDWG Secretariat shall be provided with timely communications-ready material relevant to the project, including photos and key messages.