

Progress Report: Proposed Arctic Regional Alliance Task Team

Craig Lee (APL-UW), Jari Hapala (FMI), Joseph Nolan (EUROGOOS) and the Arctic GRA planning team
Michael Karcher (AWI), Molly MacCammon (AOOS), David Allen (NOAA), Hannah-Marie Garcia (Aleut Community of St. Paul Island)

Request consideration of our previous request for recognition as a GOOS task team with the following objectives:

1. Lead the process to co-develop a proposal for a future pan-Arctic ocean observing alliance – objectives, functions, structure, GRA governance...
2. Ensure wide engagement of relevant rights holders and stakeholders in this process, including representatives of Arctic Indigenous and Local communities and organizations.
3. Prepare for the implementation of the proposed pan-Arctic ocean observing alliance that includes equitable partnerships with Arctic Indigenous Peoples.

Initial period of activity will be April 2024 - October 2025, with possible extension if required.

Developments

Response to GOOS SC Recommendations

Indigenous Engagement

- Challenges – Communities capacity-limited, over-subscribed. Refine articulation of opportunities afforded by Arctic Regional Alliance. Delay initial planning discussions until right voices at table.
- Hannah-Marie Garcia (Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Indigenous Sentinels Network) and Haliehana M. Stepetin (Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies). Pursuing leads for representatives from additional communities.

Broaden National (Canadian) and Disciplinary Representation

- Brad DeYoung (physical oceanography, CIOOS) and Maribeth Murray (social sciences, U Alberta), Eun Jin Yang (biological oceanography, KOPRI). Recruitment continues.

Establishment of Arctic Regional Alliance identified as a priority action by the G7 Future of Seas and Oceans Initiative (FSOI)

- Geopolitical challenges recognized and alternative paths to GRA-like entity identified.

Planning group officially designated as a SAON Task Team

- SAON also potential temporary host for Arctic Regional Alliance if GRA path unavailable.

Community discussion session at Arctic Observing Summit 2024

AOS 2024 Session Overview

- **Overview of Regional Alliance development**
 - History, framing within global observing framework, guiding concepts and SAON Task Team objectives and timeline.
- **Panel 1: Arctic ocean observing: global context and large-scale regional initiatives**
 - Overviews of GOOS, SOOS, C-IOOS, Arctic ROOS, AOOS, PAG, DBOs, and SAS
 - Envisioned Arctic regional alliance is compatible with existing regional systems (e.g. EUROGOOS-ArcticROOS, US IOOS-AOOS, CIOOS) - complementary functions, pan-Arctic coordination and support, united Arctic voice in international forums.
- **Panel 2: Ocean observing: The rights, needs, and contributions of Arctic communities**
 - Panel discussion led by members of Alaskan coastal communities.
 - Wide-ranging, open discussion of community concerns, challenges and needs.
 - Thoughts and observations on alignment/misalignment of research and research processes.
- Well-attended. Three panelists from Alaskan coastal communities and some others from community organizations, but participants predominantly associated with research and policy.
- Open, frank discussion on challenging topics. Exchange of lived experience and ideas that will inform leadership of the Arctic Regional Alliance.



Terms of Reference Summary

- Design an inclusive process for development of a pan-Arctic observing alliance.
- Consult with established GRAs for advice and guidance, especially concerning involvement of indigenous and local communities.
- Explore opportunities for funding to support the task team's activity, especially engagement of indigenous colleagues.
- Seek resources for staff support for task team and eventual GRA operations.
- Host a briefing/information session from other GRAs with prominent involvement of Arctic Indigenous and Local communities.
- Inventory sustained Arctic sea ice and ocean observing activities, building on previous work.
- Report progress on these actions and development of GRA plans to SAON and the GOOS SC.

Initial period of activity will be April 2024 - October 2025, with possible extension if required.

Panel 1: Arctic ocean observing: global context and large-scale regional initiatives

Emma Heslop (GOOS), Sian Henley (SOOS), Brad DeYoung (C-IOOS), Anna Nikolopoulos (Arctic ROOS), Molly McCammon (AOOS), Jackie Grebmeier (PAG, DBOs, SAS)

- Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) - Climate, Forecast and Warning, Ocean Health (global to local). Sits under Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. Includes Global Networks, Regional Alliances, Projects. Arctic is only region missing.
- GOOS Regional Alliances (GRAs) connect coastal to global, provide useful products to coastal communities.
- Diversity of GRAs, functionality tailored to needs of constituents, several address Indigenous needs.
- Elements of existing GRAs serve segments of Arctic region, but there remains a need for pan-Arctic coordination and support, and for a united Arctic voice in international forums.
- Envisioned Arctic regional alliance compatible with existing regional systems (e.g. EUROGOOS-ArcticROOS, US IOOS-AOOS, CIOOS) - complementary functions, mechanism for connecting with HABs and OA global forums.

Panel 2: Ocean observing: The rights, needs, and contributions of Arctic communities

Hannah-Marie Garcia (Aleut Community of St. Paul Island), Harmony Wayner (University of Alaska), Dr. Haliehana M. Stepetin (Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies), Molly McCammon (AOOS)

- Need to communicate local impact of large scale Arctic and global environmental and ecosystem change - raise awareness of connectivity. Efforts should be explicitly resourced when planning and budgeting projects.
- Relationship building is critical. Slow down, allow time to build mutual understanding and trust. Invest in communities we work with. Need to resource community relationship building opportunities and involvement.
- Shifts in food availability have impacts throughout social fabric of communities - culturally important activities, traditions threatened or lost. Regional Alliance will need skill base beyond the marine sciences.
- Need mechanism for resourcing community-led, community-driven research activity.
- Will need diverse data policies to accommodate needs of indigenous and coastal communities. The open data policies that underpin many large-scale observing activities may not be compatible with local sensitivities.
- Proposed Actions
 - Convene workshop on local/indigenous observing. Advertise broadly, center on indigenous and community observers, resource their participation.
 - Develop concept of Centers of Excellence for Indigenous Research, as mechanism to foster and grow community-led, community-driven observing.

Arctic GRA Planning Group (proto task team)

Co-Chairs: Jari Haapala (FMI, Finland), Craig Lee (University of Washington, United States)

Members: Nicoletta Ademollo (CNR-ISP, Italy), Maurizio Azzaro (CNR-ISP, Italy), Manuel Bensi (OGS, Italy), Agnieszka Besczynska-Moeller (IO PAN, Poland), Maria Teresa Bezem (UiB, Norway), Melissa Chierci (IMR, Norway), Cathy Coon (Department of Interior, United States), Brad deYoung (CIOOS, Canada), Hannah-Marie Garcia (Tribal Government of St Paul Island), Maria Hood (MOi, France), Michael Karcher (AWI, Germany), Takashi Kikuchi (JAMSTEC, Japan), Vidar Lien (IMR, Norway), Inga Lips (EuroGOOS, Belgium), Molly McCammon (AOOS, United States), Maribeth Murray (AINA, Canada), Anna Nikolopoulos (NPI, Norway), Joseph Nolan (EuroGOOS, Belgium), Steffen Olsen (DMI, Denmark), Nicholas Roden (NIVA, Norway), Hanne Sagen (NERSC, Norway), Stein Sandven (NERSC, Norway), Haliehana M. Stepetin (Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies), Toste Tanhua (GEOMAR, Germany), Jeremy Wilkinson (BAS, United Kingdom), Eun Jin Yang (KOPRI, Republic of Korea)

Seeking additional members...