



**Notes from the SSC Meeting at the State of the Arctic
Monday, 15 March 2010
Miami, Florida**

Agenda Item 1: Understanding Arctic Change Task Force

Background (Josh Schimel)

- The idea of rearranging ARCSS has grown over several years. The Arctic is changing fast and the scientific needs have to be identified.
- The scientific focus of ARCSS and SEARCH overlap.
- ARCSS Committee is to be dismantled.
- A task force was put together to deal with the big questions, challenges, and how to move the science forward.
- The task force wanted to have their first meeting this winter or spring but it was not possible to have a meeting before the State of the Arctic conference. The first meeting of the task force took place at the State of the Arctic conference.

The understanding task force from the Understanding Change Panel (UCP) perspective (John Walsh)

- UCP was asked to prepare a white paper on understanding last year and what is lacking from observations.
- Understanding is challenging and not covered by observing.
- The key issue is to cast a broader and more comprehensive net.
- The key objective: frame understanding the future of arctic.
- Operational issues: address and identify key questions and challenges, methodologies to tackle needs and understanding.

Mike Steele raised a question: Where are we now? When envisioning the big picture, questions, and key issues should we be more focused? What about modeling and technical understanding?

Josh Schimel responded that critical questions are what do we need to do research on and what we cannot model. Crosstalk among groups should happen.

- Observations should be linked.
- Higher status in observations should be in certain fields, not in others. Marine biology is an example of not enough observation happening because of a structural issue. However, NOAA has done a lot (Sue Moore leading).
- Martin Jeffries noted that proposals should be submitted and then AON can fund them. NSF is proposal driven; if you want NSF funding you need to send proposals. Therefore, marine ecosystem observing should send proposals. What Sue Moore is doing is good and hopefully it will be seen as SEARCH activity.

Mike Steele was wondering if AON/ADI is going into details. Would it be possible to have a more focused task force that actually talks about details? An increased level of details?

Josh Schimel responded that we need to remember balance. It is not useful to go beyond a certain level of detail. John Walsh agreed and added that big ticket issues should be identified and a 'road map' to understanding those issues. Mike Steele commented that this is still broad and a little bit disappointing.

Caspar Ammann suggested identifying critical points and going down this path. Make questions very specific and then reach out further.

Peter Schlosser was wondering how much specificity should be called out? That should be something that the task force decides.

Martin Jeffries said that what NSF wants is 'beyond fluffy': more substance, a road map to real progress and understanding.

Agenda Item 2: AON and ADI Task Force

AON PI meeting/ADI workshop in December 2009 (Hajo Eicken)

- Materials in your background documents
- First ADI workshop in Boulder, CO in December 2009.
- The workshop went well.
- Will add an interagency section to the ADI final summary.
- Draft AON PI meeting report is available. Hajo Eicken and Craig Lee will put together the final report.

Interagency meeting (Martin Jeffries)

- In Washington, DC on 4 March 2010, 35-40 participants from NOAA, NASA, DOI, NSF, Navy, among others).
- To move AON and SEARCH forward.
- The meeting was a success; just to have so many different people from many agencies in the same room and increase awareness.
- AON, SEARCH, and interagency approach to improve the situation.
- Outcomes: 1) It is a good time to enlarge the NSF AON PI meeting to an AON summit (this may be to take place in 2011?). Invite a large number of people from different agencies. 2) Formation of four interagency working groups addressing different themes/topics. 3) Overall an encouraging meeting.
- The four working groups will: 1) Inventory what agencies doing towards AON activities. 2) Identify gaps. 3) Identify deficiencies and things that need improving.
- The working groups do overlap. They will work together but are also able to 'stand alone'.

Hajo Eicken noted that there is a lot happening within different agencies regarding arctic. The question is how do we want to engage with agencies? Should we wait and see how those working groups do?

Agenda Item 3: Sea Ice Outlook

There was an SIO meeting earlier today. The SIO is a valuable exercise because it is an integrating activity: observations and bigger science community. A question was asked by Steve Vavrus whether the SIO would be extended to winter. Hajo Eicken answered and said it isn't planned for this year but could be considered for next year, with more support for an expanded Outlook.

Agenda Item 4: Responding to Change Workshop

Maribeth Murray gave a brief update on what is going on with the Responding to Change workshop:

- Responding to Change in SEARCH slow to be implemented.
- Responding to Change workshop was planned to be this spring but because of other things it was not possible.
- There will be a half-day workshop at the Oslo meeting this June and a white paper will be circulated.
- The white paper will be out by May.
- A workshop early 2011 (40-60 people) with ArcticNet and SEARCH. There are different places to go to for financial support, both in Europe and Asia.

Agenda Item: Where is SEARCH going?

Key issues:

- Responding to change.
- International networking:
 - o DAMOCLES winding down, will have its last general assembly two weeks before the Oslo meeting.
 - o Other entity in Europe?
 - o ArcticNet and SEARCH MOU maybe later this year?
 - o Any areas/entities/efforts in Asia or in other areas we should be aware of?
 - o Reach out to Russia. There is constant work going on but it is hard.
 - o Japan, Korea, Russia are usually inclined to go through international programs.
- Communication:
 - o Within and outside SEARCH: know how to engage, and who to talk to. Using radio? Meeting minutes? Website? Meeting reports?

- Awareness of SEARCH and its activities outside SEARCH community. Do people have an interest in SEARCH?
- Identifying committee members as points of contact for outreach.
- Feedback/hearing back from community. Twitter? Facebook? But what is there to tweet about?
- Do not 'overreach'. People can remember three bullet points so it should be kept simple. For example, Steve Vavrus said he tells three things about SEARCH to people who ask about it: change, three panels, interagency.
- Visibility:
 - State of the Arctic a great opportunity. Press involved.
 - SIO a good example. Made it to the New York Times.

Action item: Members to email Hajo Eicken and Helen Wiggins if they have recommendations on communication.