

# U.S. Arctic Observing Coordination Workshop Breakout Group Guidelines

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## WORKSHOP OVERVIEW & GOAL

The goal of this workshop is to make concrete and specific recommendations for a successful arctic observing network.

We need to go beyond existing recommendations of “better coordination and collaboration” or “share data across disciplines” and develop specific, concrete ways forward for an observing network that produces useful products and services.

We are going to start discussions by defining what success will look like for an observing network (i.e., what kinds of outcomes we want from an observing network), then discuss the specific activities needed to get there.

## BREAKOUT SESSION 1: A VISION OF A SUCCESSFUL ARCTIC OBSERVING NETWORK

To get everyone on the same page and define ideal outcomes for an observing network, all groups in breakout session 1 (Tuesday afternoon) will address the following:

1. Which audiences would an ideal AON serve?
2. Given these audiences, in an ideal world what would an AON look like in 5 years? What would the ‘value added’ be, beyond the current way of business?
3. What products & Services would be created?

Breakout groups will be split into two thematic areas: ice-diminished Arctic Ocean and warming permafrost/land surface linkages, with 2 groups for each theme (4 groups total). Breakout group assignments will be sent to participants before the meeting.

## BREAKOUT SESSION 2: HOW TO ACHIEVE THE VISION

Breakout session 2 (Wednesday morning) will start with the ideal outcomes defined in breakout session 1 (e.g., products, services, information) and discuss what specific steps, projects, or activities need to be done to get there. More specific instructions will be provided at the workshop.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS 3 & 4

For breakout sessions 3 (Wednesday afternoon) and 4 (Thursday morning), we will be adaptive and organize groups as needed to accomplish the workshop goals – including agreement on possible short-term ‘showcase projects’ to demonstrate successful ways to improve the observing network. For Breakout session 3, we will add a group to specifically discuss data issues. More specific instructions will be provided at the workshop.

## **BREAKOUT LEAD RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each breakout group will be assigned a lead/moderator – most likely a member of the workshop Organizing Committee. The roles of the breakout group leads are to:

- Assign a note-taker and rapporteur (can be the same person), and make sure the rapporteur is ready to report back to plenary on time.
- Ensure the discussion stays on track so that the breakout group assignments are completed in the time allowed.
- Ensure that all group members are participating – this can be done with a round-robin discussion at key points, or calling on group members you have not heard from. ARCUS staff can help with facilitation.
- Make sure the group gets specific. We need more than recommendations such as “we need to share data” or “we need to link across disciplines”.
- Encourage group members to brainstorm for exciting ideas that go beyond business-as-usual.
- After the workshop, ensure that the key conclusions from breakout groups discussions are included in the workshop report.

Each breakout room will have a flip chart/markers, a screen and LCD (laptops will not be provided, with the assumption that a group member can provide one if needed).

Each breakout will also have an ARCUS staff member assigned to the group, who can help facilitate the discussion and take care of any logistical or organizational needs. ARCUS staff will not be note-takers.