

Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks SAON

SAO meeting, Portland
6 October 2016

SAON Vice-Chair, Larry Hinzman



The White House Arctic Science Ministerial

“In this context, we see a critical role for the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) initiative—a joint responsibility of the Arctic Council and the International Arctic Science Committee—and encourage continued cooperation in other international science organizations that contribute to Arctic observing and data-sharing, and building a network of community-based observation.”

SAON Vision

Well-defined *observing networks* that enable users to have access to *free, open and high quality data* that will realize pan-Arctic and global value-added *services* and provide *societal benefits*.

Attaining this vision, requires an enhancement of Arctic-wide observing activities through *coordination, integration, sharing and synthesis* of *data* and related information.





SAON Framework

- Strategic activities that allow bottom-up and top-down implementation and achievement of key strategic goals
- Strategic activities conducted through SAON Committees
- Focus on leveraging existing efforts and networks; not on building redundant ones



Purpose and goals of Committees

- Arctic Data Committee (ADC)
 - Led by Peter Pulsifer, US National Snow and Ice Data Center
- Committee on Observations and Networks (CON)
 - Led by Lisa Loseto, Fisheries and Oceans, Canada

The Committees address issues that transcend individual Arctic observing and data platforms and all scales of organizational capabilities





SAON External Review Committee

Helen Joseph (Chair): HCJ Consulting, retired Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Yuji Kodama: Executive Director, Office of Japan Consortium for Arctic Environmental Research, National Institute of Polar Research

Molly McCammon: Executive Director, Alaska Ocean Observing System, U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System

Mikhail Tretiakov, Head of Hydrology and Water Resources Department, Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (Russia)

Gunn-Britt Retter: Head of Arctic and Environmental Unit, Saami Council

Jan Rene Larsen: SAON Secretariat Support

Justiina Dahl: External Data Analyst, Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS)

Special thanks to:

- **Nadezhda Kharlampieva**: Associate Professor of Saint-Petersburg State University, Senior Researcher of Hydrology and Water Resources Department, Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (Russia)
- **Kseniia Iartceva**, Arctic Council Secretariat

Purpose and Objectives of the Review

SAON established in 2011; its Terms of Reference specified that an external body would review SAON periodically; this is the first review

The SAON Board provided the External Review Committee with a Mandate and Review Plan for the review, that focused on:

- The organizational structure of SAON
- The extent to which current SAON activities are fulfilling its original mission
- The SAON outreach and communication activities
- Suggestions for additional and future activities for SAON
- The question of funding and sustainability of SAON

A: FULFILMENT OF SAON'S MISSION, VISION AND GOALS

Finding #1:

SAON's Mission, Vision and Goals as articulated in a variety of SAON documents over time are not always clear, consistent, or easily discoverable

A: FULFILMENT OF SAON'S MISSION, VISION AND GOALS

Finding #2:

SAON's goals need more specificity in order to develop action-oriented work plans, performance metrics and outcomes, and demonstrations of progress

A: FULFILMENT OF SAON'S MISSION, VISION AND GOALS

Finding #3:

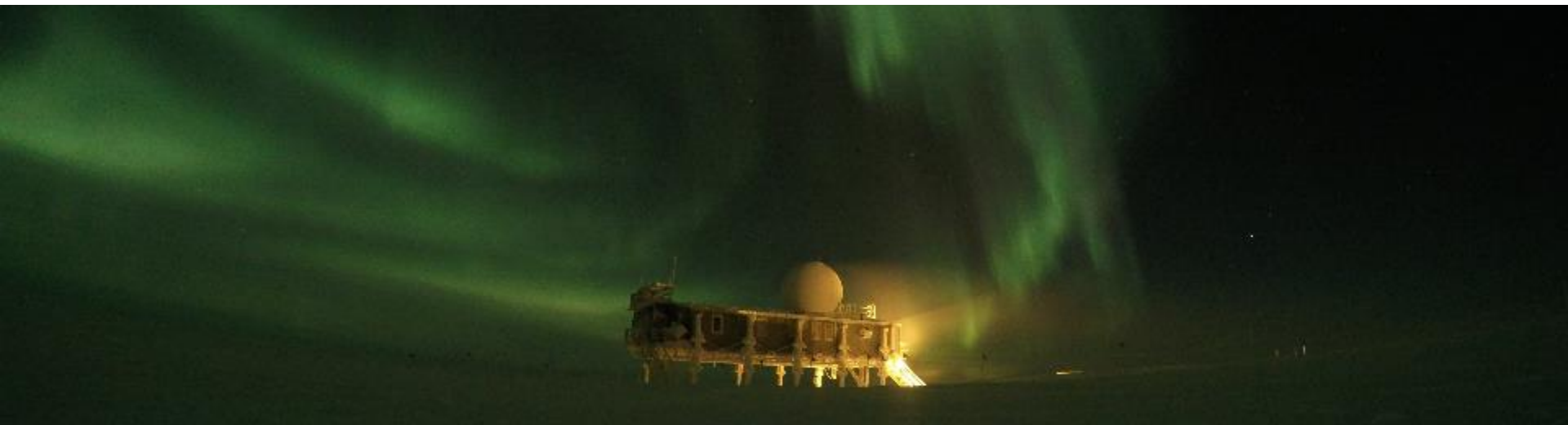
SAON's role and interactions with its networks and programs are not well-defined



B. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF SAON

Finding #5:

The National SAON Coordination Committees are viewed as a key component of the SAON organizational structure, but in general, are not functioning well.



B. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF SAON

Finding #7:

The SAON Board is not perceived to be functioning effectively nor adequately engaging with other components of the SAON organizational structure



B. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF SAON

Finding #8:

The SAON Committees are seen as a successful addition to the SAON organizational structure





C. FUNDING AND SUSTAINABILITY

Finding #9:

The current funding structure of SAON is not sufficient to support its further development and achieve its Mission, Vision and Goals





Conclusion: SAON is valued by the Arctic observing community, but has yet to reach its full potential

The SAON Board will develop a strategic plan in order to address the recommendations:

- Refine its Vision, Mission and Goals
- Improve its Organizational Structure
- Focus on funding and sustainability
- Increase outreach and communication efforts

