

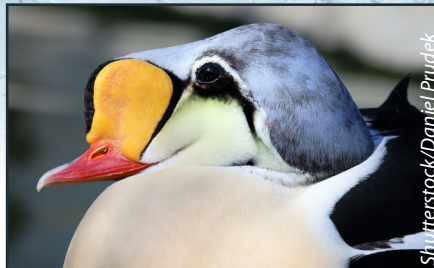
Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan 2012 Implementation Update: The First Year

Approved by the Arctic Council in 2011, the *Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan* will integrate existing circumpolar monitoring datasets and models to improve the detection and understanding of changes in Arctic marine biodiversity, and inform policy and management responses to these changes.

The CBMP established a Marine Steering Group, led by Canada, and five new Expert Networks, composed of scientists from participating countries (**Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Norway, Russia and the U.S.A.**), the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme and the Inuit Circumpolar Council.



The **Sea Ice Biota Expert Network** is accumulating historical data from the literature and unpublished sources, and verifying the taxonomy of ice algae species. Norway has funded a post-doctoral student to assist the network and work is underway to determine sea ice algae diversity and abundance, list macrofauna species and abundance, and meiofauna diversity. The network will use six indicators identified for the Russian-Norwegian Barents Sea region within the Atlantic Arctic Marine Area. Effort is underway to identify who is working with Arctic sea ice biota, and where. Publications are in progress. **Contact: Malin Daase** malin.daase@npolar.no



The **Seabird Expert Network** is the existing CAFF **Circumpolar Seabird Expert Group** (CBird). The Circumpolar Seabird Monitoring Plan is nearly finalized, and focuses on murre, eiders and black-legged kittiwakes. **Contact: Grant Gilchrist** grant.gilchrist@ec.gc.ca



The **Plankton Expert Network** is summarizing the spatial extent of past sampling, and producing maps showing movement of copepod species from the Pacific into the Arctic. **Contact: Russ Hopcroft** rhopcroft@alaska.edu



The **Fish Expert Network** is producing a pan-Arctic species field guide and atlas. They have started collecting species composition and distribution data to calculate baselines. **Contact: Kevin Hedges** kevin.hedges@dfm-mpo.gc.ca and **Kitty Mecklenburg** ptstephens@alaska.com



The **Benthos Expert Network** produced the Benthos chapter of the 2012 NOAA Arctic Report Card. They developed a data sharing agreement and shared it with the other expert networks as a model. They have also been looking into comparing different methods/gear. **Contact: Philippe Archambault** philippe_archambault@uqar.qc.ca and **Lis Lindal Jørgensen** lis.lindal.jorgensen@imr.no



The **Marine Mammal Expert Network** is building on the work done for the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment. Work on species richness, estimates of abundance, and the links between marine mammal trends and sea ice has been done. A network specific to **ringed seals** was established and has developed suitable indicators. The **polar bear** component of this network has completed their monitoring framework. **Contact: Fernando Ugarte** feug@natur.gi



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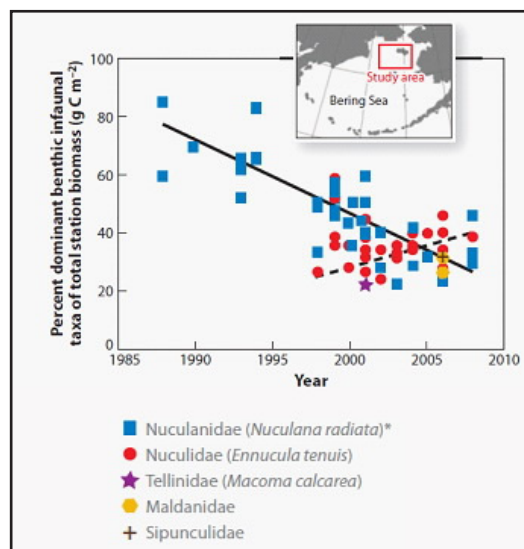
Many of the participating countries have made **progress at the national level** that will feed into the circumpolar effort. These efforts vary from country to country and include: refining and testing indicators and parameters; continuing ongoing monitoring efforts in specific marine areas; making data more available and rescuing legacy data; and developing baselines of some key indicators.

With respect to **Data Management**, development continued on the Arctic Council's **Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS)** to provide access to datasets needed to implement the Marine Plan. Progress was made on interoperability, access, aggregation and display of datasets hosted by circumpolar countries or the ABDS. Various levels of access are available so only those with appropriate permissions can use the datasets.

For **Communications**, a poster, brochure and video were produced, and presentations were made at national and international meetings including the final International Polar Year Conference, and the Group on Earth Observations-Biodiversity Observing Network (GEO-BON), among numerous others.

Next Steps for 2013

- A number of **products** from the CBMP-Marine Plan will be ready for the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in May 2013.
- Work will be continuing on **identifying, providing access to and aggregating datasets**, including legacy data. **Baselines** of some indicators will be available. Work will continue to refine locations, spatial and temporal resolution, key indicators and parameters, and methodologies.
- **Data management** will continue, including making data available across countries and groups, and providing a data platform for using and displaying results.
- A **fundraising strategy** will be finalized and implemented as limited capacity is a barrier for several expert networks and countries, particularly the Inuit Circumpolar Council and other Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council that wish to become involved.
- Exploration will continue into how to incorporate **traditional knowledge** into the implementation of the Marine Plan.
- Effort will be made for CBMP-Marine Plan products to continue contributing to other initiatives such as the NOAA Arctic Report Cards, the Convention on Biological Diversity, GEO-BON, the World Ocean Assessment and national priorities.
- One-pagers will be produced on the activities and relevance of each country's work to be used to communicate and demonstrate the relevance of this work nationally.



Benthic Expert Network contribution to NOAA's Arctic Report Cards. Example of change in infaunal benthos on Arctic shelves. For more please visit: www.arctic.noaa.gov/arcticreportcard

For more information

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