



Memorandum to Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs) 11/3/2012

Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP www.cbmp.is)

To update SAOs on status and progress of the CBMP.

STATUS:

- The CBMP is in year 4 of its 5 year implementation plan. The CBMP-Marine Plan has been approved and is being implemented. The Freshwater and Terrestrial plans are scheduled for completion in September 2012 and January 2013.

ARCTIC BIODIVERSITY DATA SERVICE

- Data generated through the CBMP is being managed through the Arctic Biodiversity Data Service (ABDS).
- The ABDS is a coordinated web-based data management system that accesses, integrates, displays and analyzes biodiversity data according to various user needs.
- The ABDS will provide a focal point for current and credible Arctic biodiversity data thereby facilitating more timely and effective decisions while also facilitating data access for scientists, policy makers, Arctic communities and the public.

ARCTIC SPECIES TREND INDEX (ASTI – www.asti.is)

- The CBMP is aggregating existing and historical data to establish a more effective baseline understanding of the Arctic environment. The Arctic Species Trend Index (ASTI) reports are the latest analytical results from the CBMP.
- Three new reports from the ASTI are being presented at the SAO meeting (1) [an analysis of status and trends for marine species](#); (2) a [spatial and temporal analysis](#) of data in the ASTI and (3) [an overview of the key findings](#) from these two technical reports.
- These reports focus on recent changes and trends in the Arctic marine environment and explore potential key drivers that are causing environmental change. The analysis of trends found in the ASTI reports allows for answers to questions not previously attained on a circumpolar scale and will lead to a broader understanding of the Arctic environment and the effects of various stressors on these environments.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- To welcome the CBMP's Arctic Biodiversity Data Service.
- To welcome the two new ASTI technical reports on the Arctic marine environment and the spatial analysis of Arctic marine data
- To approve the key findings report that was generated from the two ASTI technical reports.