

Memorandum 2/11/2018

EBM1: The CBMP Coastal Monitoring Plan: monitoring and reporting important changes in the biodiversity of Arctic coastal ecosystems – plan development and evaluation

This memo provides a summary of reports submitted on the session EBM1 organized at the Arctic Biodiversity Session in Rovaniemi, Finland, October 9-12 organized by the Polar Knowledge Canada: Canadian High Arctic Research Station and the US National Parks Service on behalf of the CBMP Coastal group.

Attendance: 40

Arctic Biodiversity Assessment recommendation themes most prominently addressed in the session:

- Climate change
- Ecosystem-based Management
- Addressing stressors

Key points raised in the session that were important to note:

- Process to develop the Coastal biodiversity Monitoring plan is still ongoing – and the organisers are looking for input and volunteers to review the Plan.
- Input to the plan has been provided both by science and TK experts - 3 workshops and report review were organised.
- The approach is social-ecological recognizing the roles of coastal peoples in coastal ecosystems.
- This process introduced the idea of Coastscapes, e.g., fjords, estuaries, that are unique segments of the Arctic coasts supporting characteristic biota and human communities - supports a systems approach where the targeted coastal FECs are related to stressors, threats and uses.
- The coastal Plan is already being implemented in a new coastal monitoring program in Svalbard.
- The Russian Federation has a lot of historical work but not much going on at this time.
- Upon completion of the Coastal Plan CAFF CBMP will look at potential gaps not covered by the plan.

Recommendations/actions identified for how to deal with the issues raised in the session:

- Suggestion that CAFF should request national reporting from member nations; the idea of required/mandated national reporting was strongly supported.
- Marine and coastal teams need to work very closely together to reduce any redundancies and optimize resources and investments in monitoring.
- Agreed that Icecoast and Coastscope concepts should be included in the plan.

Take home message from the session:

- The idea of required/mandated national reporting was strongly supported with the idea that it would result in national investments in Coastal and CBMP monitoring programs.