

Memorandum 2/11/2018

KNO13: Technologies and techniques to advance biodiversity monitoring

This memo provides a summary of reports submitted on the session KNO13 organized at the Arctic Biodiversity Session in Rovaniemi, Finland, October 9-12 organized by BOEM.

Attendance: 30

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

- Mainstreaming biodiversity
- Improving knowledge and public awareness

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

- Modern technologies can in many cases augment on existing monitoring studies.
- Drones are a tool, data still needs to be processed and put into an ecological context.
- Palsas are sensitive to even small climatic changes.
- Long term monitoring in the coastal zone is very complicated.
- Broad scale data analysis can lead to some very general trends and summaries. Declines in seabird populations may be correlated to increases in commercial fisheries from a world perspective.
- Complex Arctic Ecosystem Modelling is on the cusp is being possible.
- Sometimes animals are the best indicators of where habitat (used by animals) is located.

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

- Rapid information exchange based on new technologies tends to occur in areas with economic drivers and/or spatial conflicts.

Take home message from the session:

- Modern technologies such as UAS, RTK can augment existing monitoring but are not yet a replacement.
- There is great interest in sharing information on new technologies to make them cost efficient.
- Modern ecosystem modelling will likely see improvements in the coming data, and scientists are open to sharing their 'code'.