

The SAON ROADS process

Sandy Starkweather¹ and Jan Rene Larsen²

¹SAON Chair; Executive Director – US Arctic Observing Network (US AON)

²SAON Secretary

Arctic observing and data systems have been identified as critical infrastructures to support scientific understanding and decision-making from local to regional and global scales. Yet there are many challenges to developing, integrating, and sustaining the needed systems. These challenges arise from the complexity of coordination across many organizational centers of action, sparse deployment and telecommunications infrastructure, and physical conditions of the Arctic region. Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) is an initiative of the Arctic Council and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and has been given the mandate to act as a facilitator in this process.

SAON has developed a Roadmap for Arctic Observing and Data Systems (ROADS). It will address the three goals of SAON 1) Create a roadmap to a well-integrated Arctic Observing System; 2) Promote free and ethically open access to all Arctic observational data; and 3) Ensure the sustainability of Arctic observing.