



Meeting of Committee on Observations and Networks (CON)

2nd September 2025 16-17 CEDT / 10-11 am EDT / 14-15 UTC

Telephone Conference

- 1. Welcome and Review of Agenda** – Alice Bradley, Co-Chair of the Committee on Observations and Networks (CON) opened the meeting. Appendix 1 provides a list of participants on this call; Appendix 2 provides today's agenda; and the [Minutes from teleconference 1st July 2025](#) are available for review.
- 2. Use Case Discussion** – Alice reviewed the CON's use case approach to compiling information on how observation networks are used. In the development of a draft White Paper on inventory specifications, five categories of specifications in Arctic observing have been identified (e.g. geographic coverage, participation, topical scope, completeness and time). She reported that seventeen use cases have provided input, which gives sufficient data to work with. Members were asked to consider if important use cases may not yet be captured. Consideration now needs to be given on what should be included within the proposed White Paper, and how this information should be conveyed beyond the CON. Alice tabled an outline of this possible White Paper on inventory requirements and use cases (see [Outline document](#)) Proposed sections in the White Paper could include: brief overview; examples of compiled inventories; common challenges faced by inventories; and define observational capacity. This could be followed by the five categories of specifications as noted above. Alice also presented some proposed sketches on inventory use case visualization techniques that might be useful in presenting information (see [data visualization](#)). It was agreed that these types of sketches are valuable in portraying information in a visual manner, in addition to the narrative of the White Paper. There are upcoming meetings where the CON's use case approach could be presented and discussed. These include the SAON Board, the Polar to Global meeting, and the Polar Data Forum. The proposed timeline for the White Paper would see it completed in January for submission to the 2026 Arctic Observing Summit.

Action: *Members are asked to each find one more use case to be added to the database; thereby expanding the database beyond the current seventeen. Jan Rene Larsen and Alice Bradley will prepare material for the upcoming meetings and the discussion on the CON use case approach.*

- 3. Contact Information for Networks** – Bill Manley provided a short update on the [list of already identified networks](#) that would be added to the RoPON (Registry of Polar Observing Networks). There are currently 22 networks with more being added. However, some network information is missing in the registry.

Action: *Members are asked to assist with the identification of names for network representatives (and emails) for those networks included in the RoPON registry. Any additional networks are also welcomed.*

4. **Other Business** - Jan Rene spoke on the Survey on key Polar data sets at risk: <https://data.arcticobserving.org/form/datasets-at-risk>. It is an initiative led by small group of Arctic polar data managers to identify data sets that could be at risk due to various reasons. A report will be produced in the future on what steps have to (and will be taken) to protect these databases.

The next CON meeting has been scheduled for **4th November 2025**. CON will continue to meet the first Tuesday of every second month.

Appendix 1

Participants - Committee on Observations and Network (CON) Meeting

2nd September 2025 Teleconference

Members

Alice Bradley, Williams College, USA, CON Co-chair and AOS Co-chair

Warren Cairns, CNR, Italy

Heikki Lihavainen, Svalbard Integrated Observing System, SIOS, CON Co-chair

Bartek Luks, Polish Academy of Sciences

William Manley, U of Colorado, USA, Chair Polar Observing Assets WG

Kjetil Tørseth, Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU), Norway

Advisory Panel Ex-Officio members

SAON Secretariat – Jan Rene Larsen

More information about Committee members and their affiliation is found at
<https://www.arcticobserving.org/committees/con/members>

Appendix 2 - Agenda -

2nd September 2025 16-17 CEDT / 10-11 am EDT / 14-15 UTC

Telephone conference (Teams - link below)

Draft agenda

1. Welcome to the call. Introductions. [Minutes from teleconference 1st July2025](#).
2. Use case discussion (Alice)
 - Results from the homework (what are the requirements for use cases?). [Poll](#)
 - Discussion of 1-3 particular cases
 - What do we need for a white paper on inventory requirements and use cases? [Outline document, data visualization](#)
3. Contact information for networks - [list of already identified networks](#). (Bill)
4. Next steps
5. AOB
 - Survey on key Polar data sets at risk:
<https://data.arcticobserving.org/form/datasets-at-risk>

CON will meet the first Tuesday of every second month. The next meeting is planned for 4th November.

Background:

SAON Goal 1) Conduct an inventory of national observational capacities.

Before we can make progress on an inventory of national observational capacities, it is clear that we need a better understanding of what said inventory/inventories would be used for.

Teams link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YTFhZjEwMWQtNDQwMy00NGU1LTg2ZWYtMTQ3ZGZiYjIxNjEx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e85164ec-9598-49a2-98a1-709a3f29cfc6%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2201df34a-7bdc-4596-b7a2-09094429e16e%22%7d