SAON-ROADS Phase I Proposal Evaluation

9 responses

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Summarize your understanding of the work being proposed under this Expert Panel Theme

9 responses

The EP will develop observing and data systems that support societal well-being. Focus include the development of a Salmon Data Portal, workforce development to strengthen local capacity and integration of social and cultural knowledge into research. The Bristol Bay watershed is the main focus due to connections with local communities and its status as one of the last areas in Alaska with abundant sockeye salmon runs

The Salmon Expert Panel aims to develop robust and equitable observing and data systems that support societal well-being, particularly within Indigenous communities in Southwestern Alaska, or the Bristol Bay watershed. The expert panel emphasizes community well-being and seeks to address the complex challenges of salmon observations, from methodologies to governance.

Through equitable representation on the Salmon EP and community engagement in the Bristol Bay area, this EP plans on developing community-driven research priorities to the regional, national, and international scale. The key focus areas: "to strengthen local capacity, integration of social and cultural knowledge into research, and actionable strategies based on a Two-Eyed Seeing approach"

The document is thorough in setting the framework and practical aspects of running a SAV process with 4 phases. The topic however is shy on explaining the concrete challenges to be addressed. If salmon is abundant, information seems to be available and fisheries is doing fine, I wonder what the SAV needs for monitoring are in this region. Is there a fear of a collapse, as in other Alaskan regions? Is the situation viewed so differently for different actor? I still think the work is set for entering phase 2 as I do know from our Teno river in Finland in general for the Arctic salmon monitoring is not sufficient and actions are needed.

EP focused on salmon through a well-being lens.

he Salmon Expert Panel (EP), under the Research Networking Activities for Sustained Coordinated Observations of Arctic Change (RNA CoObs) and the Sustained Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) initiative, focuses on developing robust and equitable systems for salmon observation and data management. Emphasizing societal well-being, particularly for Indigenous communities in Southwestern Alaska (Bristol Bay), the panel addresses challenges in salmon observations, governance, and collaboration across sectors. Deliverables include actionable recommendations, a Salmon Data Portal, and strategies integrating Indigenous knowledge with scientific approaches.

The EP plans to go forward to next phase

Build more robust data and observing systems around salmon in SW Alaska in order to support

salmon monotoring with a focus on community well being and ecosystem health.

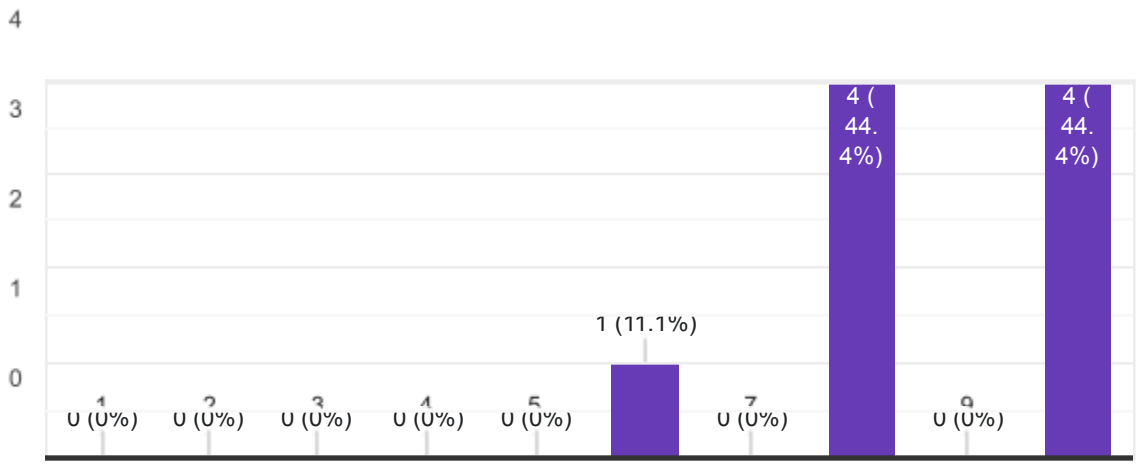
The group is propsing to assess the observational and data system related to salmon fisheries in the Bristol Bay region of southwestern Alaska. Their work is driven by a need to better understand and support salmon fisheries management from a perspective driven by well- being, with an emphasis on Indigenous worldview. This work should better develop observing and data sharing systems in support of salmon abundance rather than traditional salmon
fishery management metrics like total sustainable yield.

Readiness to follow the Guiding Principles of the ROADS Process

Guiding Principle 1: This proposed work has addressed the equitable engagement of Indigenous peoples and has sufficient mechanisms in place to fund their participation in Phase II of work for this Expert Panel.

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9 responses



Describe how you see Guiding Principle 1 being followed in this effort. Please provide the Expert Panel group with any additional guidance needed to better follow this principle.

8 responses

The Expert panel has good connections to relevant Indigenous peoples group and seems to address questions pertinent to Indigenous interests

There is a strong committement to ensure equitable inclusion and recognition of Indigenous Knowledge, Indigenous Peoples, and local community concerns in the development of effective observing systems. Indigenous scholars, early career researchers, and state and federal employees are involved as part of this work.

There is equitable representation of Indigenous peoples on the EP and with two Indigenous facilitators, as well as doing Indigenous engagement in the region.

I guess the only issue might be if the available funds are enough for 4 phases, but I am convinced that it is enough for 2 and 3.

Representation of Indigenous perspectives is good, funding for Indigenous participation is strong, and the EP leadership has a commitment to facilitating ease of participation for Indigenous partners. I think the group did an excellent job considering and implementing GP1.

"Develop and share clear guidelines for engaging Indigenous communities and incorporating Indigenous knowledge in ways that ensure ethical use. In consultation processes, ensure that Indigenous community members are empowered to structure the process and define the terms of their meaningful engagement."

Outlined concerns and propose frameworks that should allow the EP to follow Principle 1 if adhered to. Funding is in place.

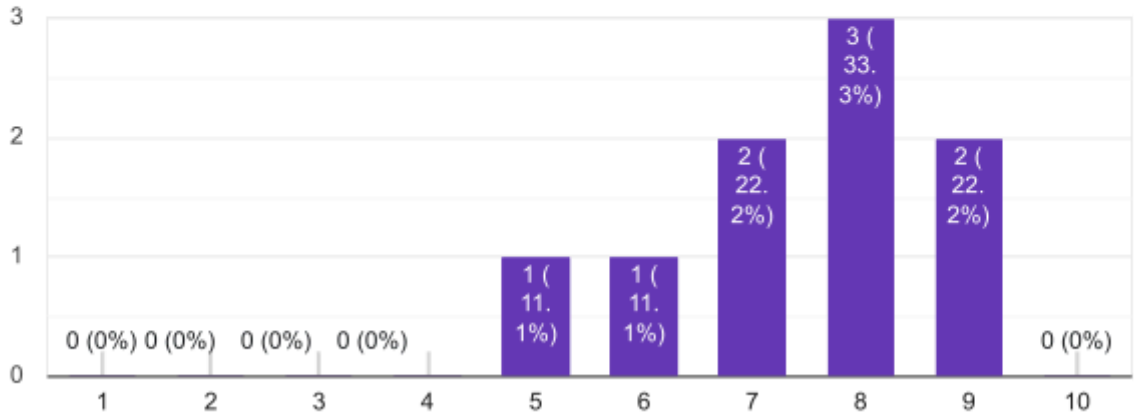
The co-facilitiator of the group is herself Indigenous and crtically engaged in both commerical and subsistence salmon fishing. Her past work with communities through the State of Alaska Salmon and People work further exposed her to a broader range of Indigenous perspectives. The group includes

several other relevant Indigenous subject matter experts and funds their engagement, where funds are needed to participate.

Guiding Principle 2: This proposed work will result in broadly shared benefits across a meaningful range of SAON's partners. The Expert Panel has strong plans in place to assess this benefit in Phase II of the ROADS process.

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9 responses



Describe how you see Guiding Principle 2 being followed in this effort. Please provide the Expert Panel group with any additional guidance needed to better follow this principle.

9 responses

The Expert Panel makes good and relevant reference to relevant IAOAF societal benefit areas

There is a concern for greater engagement with community perspectives and improved coordination between federal research at sea and state-managed rivers. Given the high value and quality of the salmon run for the commercial fishing industry, most research efforts are focused on resource management during the fishing season. Its not clear how the SAON/ ROADS partners will benefit.

While the focus is regional to develop deeper connections, salmon is a relevant topic across the Arctic that could learn from this regional example.

The benefit analysis work is well understood. My only concern is that with this regional approach a pan-arctic salmon monitoring effort might need something this effort can't capture. I am not aware of how far the salmon from Bristol bay travel in their life, but the salmon from Finnish rivers go as far as the Caribbean sea and the monitoring on the vast oceans is the challenge, which leave unanswered why our stocks have collapsed or why invasive species are taking over.

The range of perspectives reflected in the EPs is strong. I don't know of any notable gaps. It would help to discuss the wellbeing framework just a little bit so we have a sense of how it is going to be applied.

Article 7.1 (ILO Convention 169) states “The peoples concerned shall have the right to decide their own priorities for the process of development as it affects their lives, beliefs, institutions and spiritual well being and the lands they occupy or otherwise use, and to exercise control, to the extent possible, over their own economic, social and cultural development.” Article 23 states that whenever appropriate, fishing should also be recognised as an important factor in maintaining indigenous cultures, their economic self-reliance and development, and that these activities should be strengthened and promoted, with the participation of these people. Article 7 of the Nagoya Protocol emphasizes the importance of protecting Traditional Knowledge (TK) associated with genetic resources. Its primary goal is to ensure that Indigenous and local communities have control over how their knowledge is accessed and used, particularly in contexts like scientific research, conservation, or commercialization.

The document would have benefitted what is actually meant of observing salmon, as a person not an expert in field it is not clear what is actually being observed.

Highlighted the need to explore benefits and create networks and relationships that extend beyond the commercial fishing industry. Named the IAOAF as the framework that will be used.

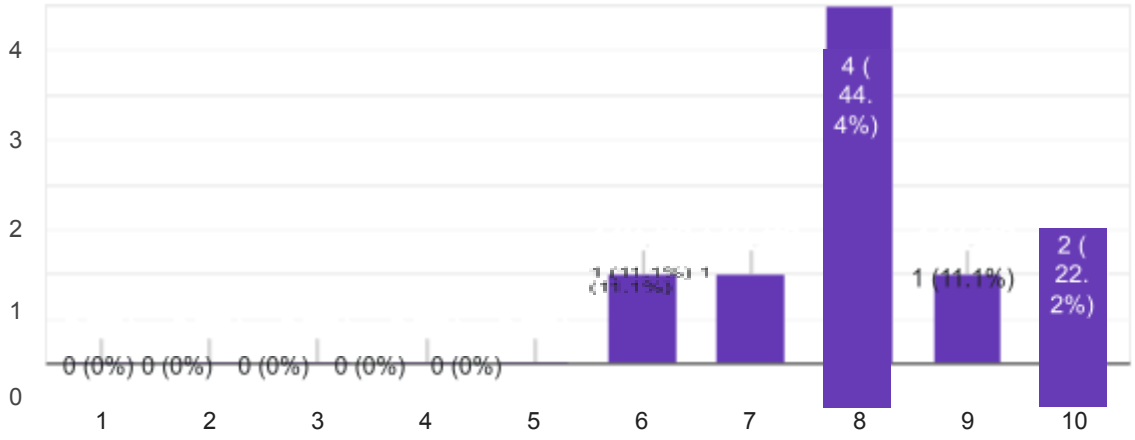
Worth thinking critically ane creatively about how this framework will be applied.

The current geographic scope will the limited the broadly shared benefit across a meaningful range of SAON's partners, but the intention to expand the work throughout the Pacific salmon range will be a meaningful step in this direction. The groups emphasis on salmon does cross a meaningful number of societal benefit areas even within a focal area of southwestern AK.

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Guiding Principle 3: This proposed work has plans in place to complement and integrate with existing efforts and yield improved governance and partnership development of observations and data systems across these efforts.

9 responses



Describe how you see Guiding Principle 3 being followed in this effort. Please provide the Expert Panel group with any additional guidance needed to better follow this principle.

8 responses

The Expert Panel has managed to establish good local connections and is well aware of the work of other Expert Panels. It is a bit uncertain if the Expert Panel is similarly aware of pan- Arctic and global work/initiatives with a similar agenda

The proposal highly reflects and highlights the integration of the existent structures, efforts and how to improve observations, efforts and governance.

It has key partners in the EP already doing work in the region, such as AK Dept of Fish and Game, Northern Latitude Partnership, Igiugig, 4 salmon researchers, and Sea Grant.

As I eluded in principle 2 already, the path to expand to a pan-arctic SAV is not addressed, but I accept fully that this can be done later on. All good for the regional effort, which I think has well captured all stakeholders related to this SAV.

Having a good range of representatives/perspectives in the EP means that it is built well for leveraging existing work.

This effort aligns well with Guiding Principle 3 by building on existing research, partnerships, and observation systems while fostering cross-regional and international collaboration. As a potential expansion of the partnership's scope, consider incorporating the practice of knowledge co-production demonstrated during the CAFF assessment (2017–2019) for the following river systems:

- Yukon/Kuskokwim River System: Flowing through the U.S. and Canada, this system traverses the territories traditionally used by Athabaskan, Gwich'in, and Inuit (Yup'ik and Cup'ik) communities.
- Kamchatka River System: Flowing through the Siberian region of the Russian Federation, it spans territories utilized by Indigenous peoples of Russia.
- Deatnu/Teno River System: Flowing through the Lapland region of Finland and Finnmark County of Norway, this river crosses territories traditionally used by the Saami people."

Well thought out and explained at all levels of governance. Further, they explain how they will expand on on these partnerships to extend the geographical scope of future work.

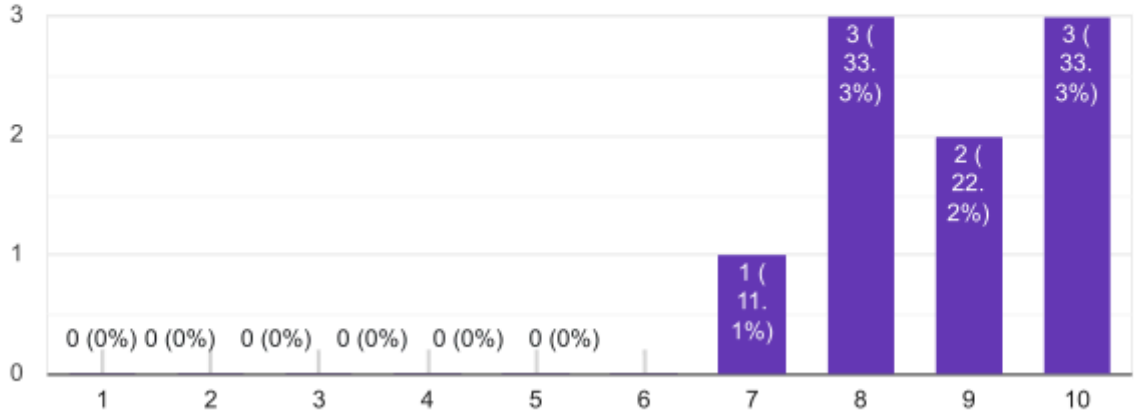
The work is drawing on expertise and findings from the SASAP effort and the recently released national salmon task force report. It's ties back to federal and state agencies and the Tamamta program all illustrate

effective leveraging.

This Expert Panel Theme reflects sufficient overall readiness to make impactful progress under SAON ROADS and should move to Phase II of the process.

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9 responses



Please provide additional comments on overall readiness for this Expert Panel to move to Phase II of the ROADS process:

7 responses

The importance of the subjects and the concern about how to expand this panel to other regions should be highlighted,

The team has good representation in Indigenous and scientific members. Phase II could benefit with reviewing the benefit assessment with community engagement for feedback prior to submitting it to the AP and moving onto Phase III.

The topic is clearly relevant, the team is broad with a good variety of expertise. Go ahead. I'm looking

forward to phase II!

A couple notes for the AP for the documentation:

- would be good to ask that the EP include what observations are made related to the theme (and broadly where there are gaps) for non-experts
- a brief description of alternate societal benefit frameworks would be useful

The Salmon Expert Panel demonstrates strong readiness to transition to Phase II of the SAON ROADS process. Key indicators of preparedness include: established collaborative framework, clearly defined goals and deliverables, alignment with regional and international initiatives, focus on key priorities (The emphasis on sustainable management, community-driven observing priorities and integration of a "Two-Eyed Seeing Approach" underscores the panel's commitment to addressing both ecological and socio-cultural dimensions of salmon management);

proven progress (Regular meetings, stakeholder engagements and participation in international forums (e.g., Arctic Circle Assembly, American Fisheries Society) demonstrate that the panel is actively building momentum and capacity for Phase II activities.

Suggestions for Enhanced Readiness in Phase II:

Ensure clear communication channels between stakeholders and leadership to maintain alignment and transparency.

Enhanced Resource Planning: Confirm the availability of sufficient resources, including funding and personnel, to support anticipated workloads in Phase II.

Streamlined Data Sharing: Begin preliminary work on the Salmon Data Portal to establish a foundation for gravel-to-gravel research approaches.

The EP has a strong understanding of their theme, have outlined their goals under the 4 Principles of the

ROADS Framework, have built a strong panel and leveraged their existing network. Given the "pilot" nature of the ROADS process, this panel is well situated to continue to Phase II and will undoubtedly be able to navigate both the SBA and development of SAVs in their own unique way. I look forward to following their progress. Good luck!

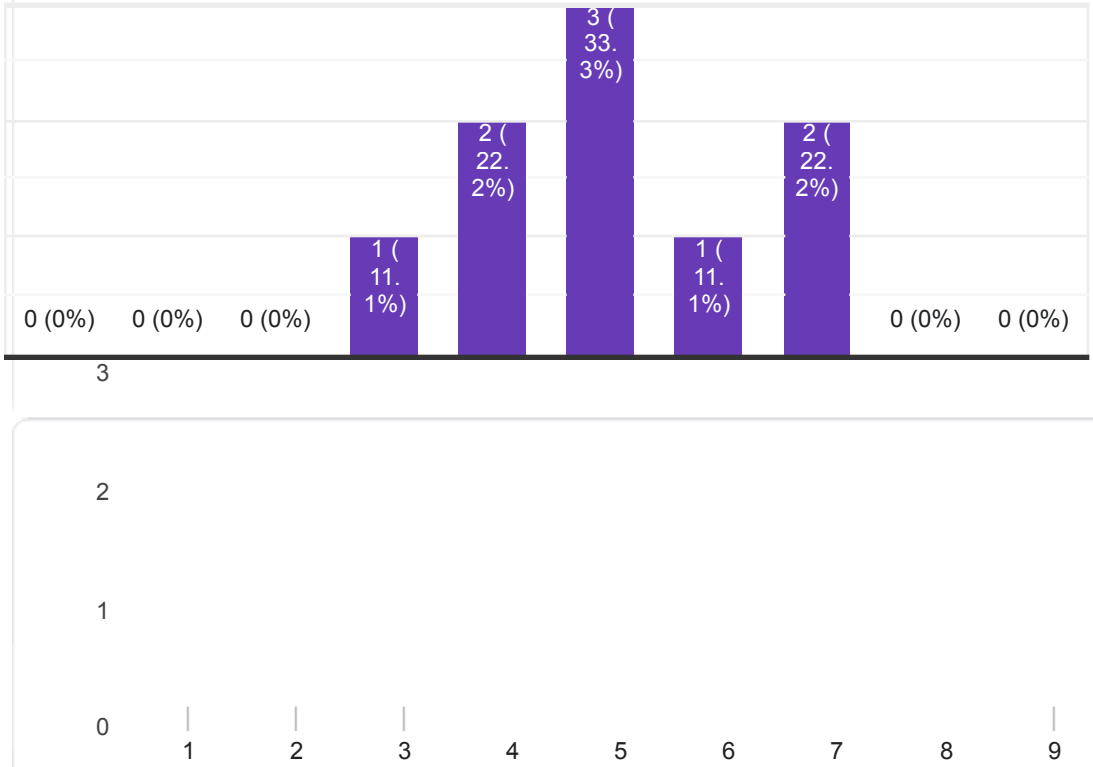
Great work so far.

2. Scope, purpose and societal relevance of proposed Expert Panel Theme

The Expert Panel's thematic scope is of a reasonable breadth (ratings 4-6 = reasonable breadth) to make progress under the ROADS process.

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9 responses



If you found the thematic scope too broad or too narrow, what refinements would you recommend?

5 responses

The scope may be seen as a bit too narrow, but well-defined and well-argued by the Expert Panel

Thematic is clear and while it seems narrow as in a fish species monitoring, it is broad as these fish get around a lot during their lifetime.

Possibly a little narrow, but seems practical.

None - thematic and georgraphic scope are concise and lend themselves to successful outcomes

Again, expanding the geographic range would increase the impact of this work. I strongly encourage the group to consider this when they feel their work is ready for that.

How does this thematic scope complement and integrate with existing efforts? Are these other efforts sufficiently engaged to assure good partnership development and cohesive governance of observing and data systems under this effort?

8 responses

There seems to be good engagement at the local level. It is a bit uncertain if there are plans to engage with relevant pan-Arctic or global initiatives

There is a good police of integrating existing efforts. The explanation in the document is quite clear.

The integration is through adequate representation of existing efforts within the EP.

Well integrated and probably yes for the governance. I would be even more confident, if the disputes and challenges between different stakeholders would have been mentioned in the document.

This is a politically/economically contentious space, so this seems like the best chance of developing good partnerships but it does need to be cautious and may not succeed. But I think that is ok.

While the panel addresses critical regional issues in Bristol Bay, expanding engagement to include additional salmon systems in Alaska or the broader Pacific region could make the scope more inclusive and representative. The mention of collaborations with Pacific Ocean stakeholders and leveraging connections with Asian research entities adds an international and cross-sectoral dimension, increasing the potential impact of the panel.

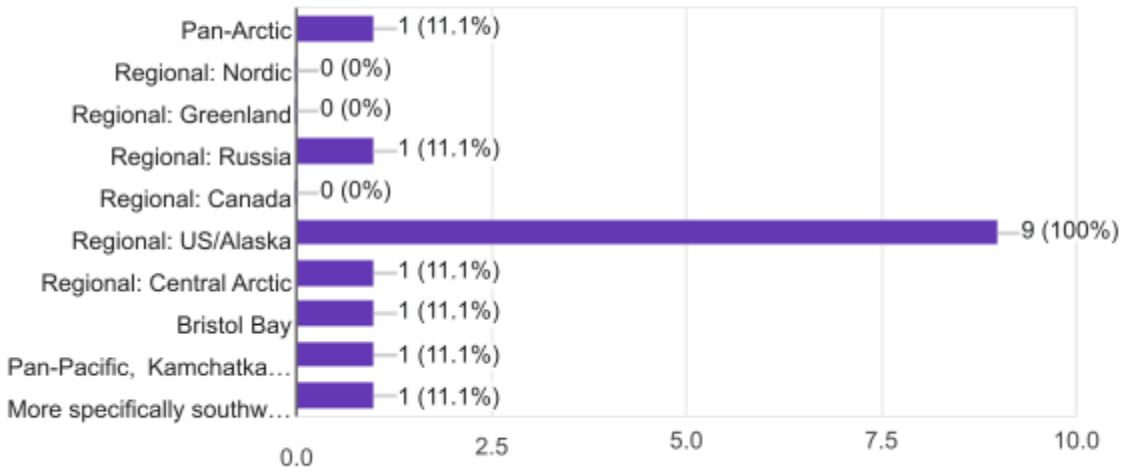
All of the EPs will provide unique contributions and their complementary capacity will only be known as the project progress.

Similar to my past answer. There is good engagement with state, feds, academic and past work.

What is the geographic scope of the work being proposed? (Choose as many as apply)

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9 responses



Can you recommend any organizations or efforts in other regions that might be interested in engaging in this EP? If you know of any existing capabilities that they have to support this work, please indicate that.

5 responses

At this regional scale I believe that the already organisations are well chosen.

The Sami parliament is well engaged in Nordic country salmon monitoring, so there might be interest for exchanging experiences.

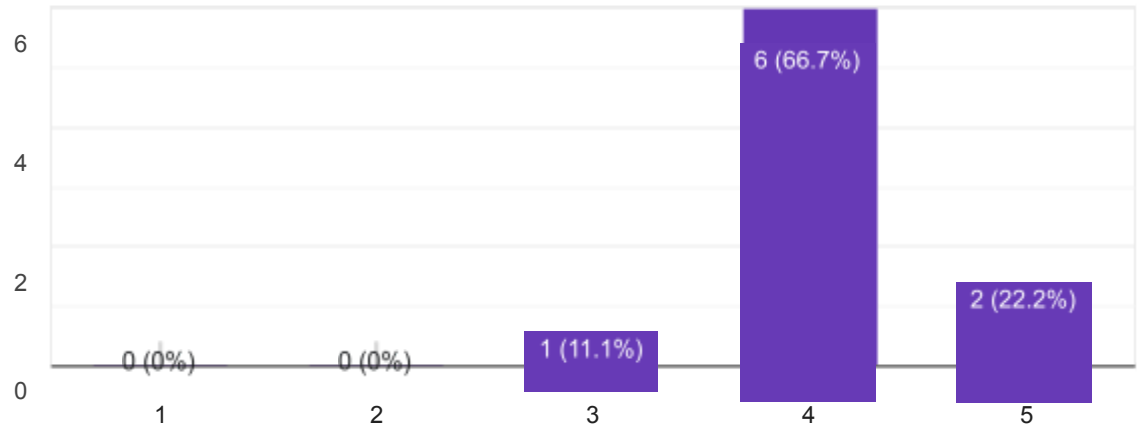
Saami Council, Association of Indigenous Minorities of the Kamchatka Krai, Russian Federation

not expert in this field so no N/A

The purpose of proposing this Expert Panel Theme under SAON-ROADS is compelling and well-established in this section:

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9 responses



If you disagreed with the above, what is missing from this description in terms of the purpose of this Expert Panel?

4 responses

Challenges should have been better articulated, but this can well be done in phase 2. what

observing in this space looks like

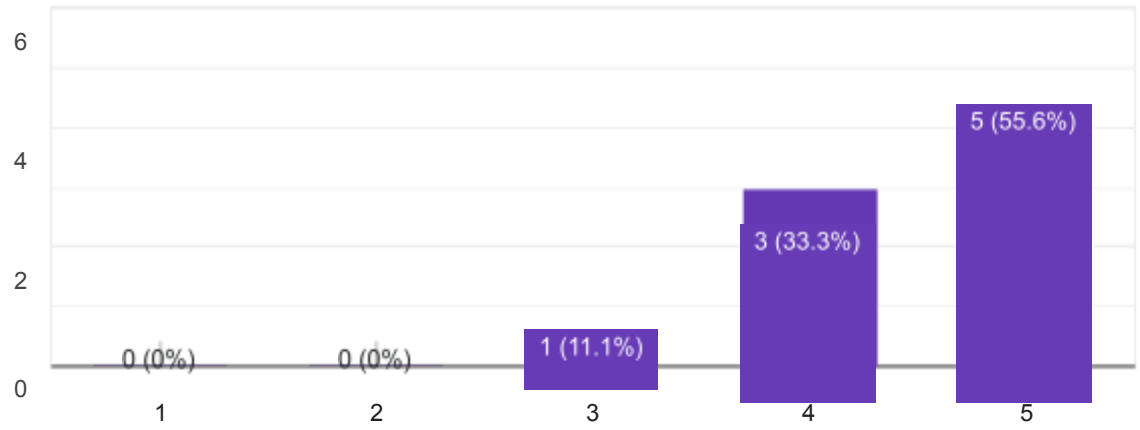
Would like to have a clearer idea of what actions the EP anticipates taking to complete the tasks in upcoming Phases. That said, these steps may be unknown and/or unclear at such an early stage.

One comment is that the current description doesn't provide a very strong understanding of the current issues with the observing system. It would be useful to get a more thorough understanding of how fish and relevant parameters are monitoredd now, how that data is lacking for needed decision making, etc. In short, why is this issue an obserational one that the ROADS process could support?

The societal relevance of this topic is compelling and well-established in this section

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9 responses



If you disagreed with the above, what is missing from this description in terms of societal relevance?

2 responses

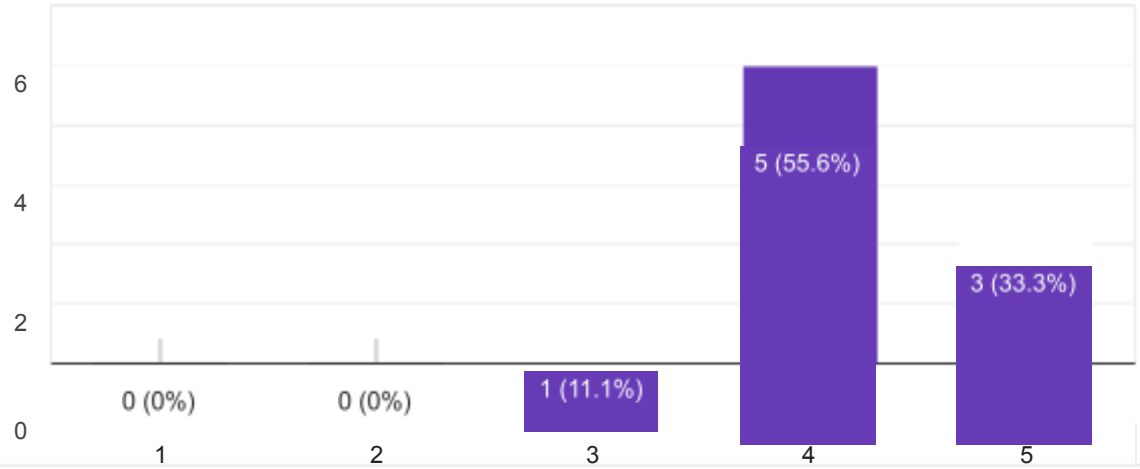
In addition, emphasizing co-leadership roles for Indigenous representatives in shaping observing and data systems would deepen the societal relevance and align with equitable governance principles.

Could be more specific; would like to see simple, clear explanation of the societal relevance.

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This Expert Panel has clear plans in place for assessing societal benefit under their theme in Phase II:

9 responses



If the processes for establishing societal relevance are not well established, what would you recommend this group consider in Phase II of their work?

2 responses

I do not see methods besides monthly meetings in the Phase II section.

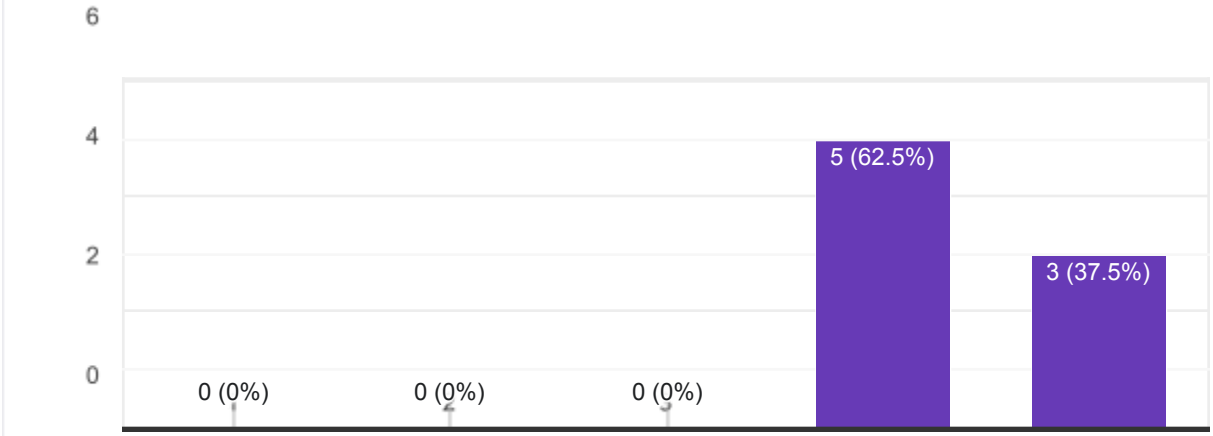
The work is regional, it would be highly beneficial if it could be utilized later in broader context

3. Contributors to the development of proposed Expert Panel Theme

In addition to appropriate Indigenous engagement, an appropriate range of other experts have been engaged for Phase II of the ROADS process within this theme:

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8 responses



Please provide comments on further expertise that should be engaged under this effort.

4 responses

The proposal should prtolbaly engage on+ther expertises particular in what related with potential environmental drivers that could impact this issue, like wildlife vets, hydrologists, etc.

The composition is good to go for phase 2, but salmon is very important also in other parts of the Arctic, so at some point in 3 or 4 should expand to at least an exchange with experts in the other parts of Arctic.

Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC), Gwich'in Council International should be involved

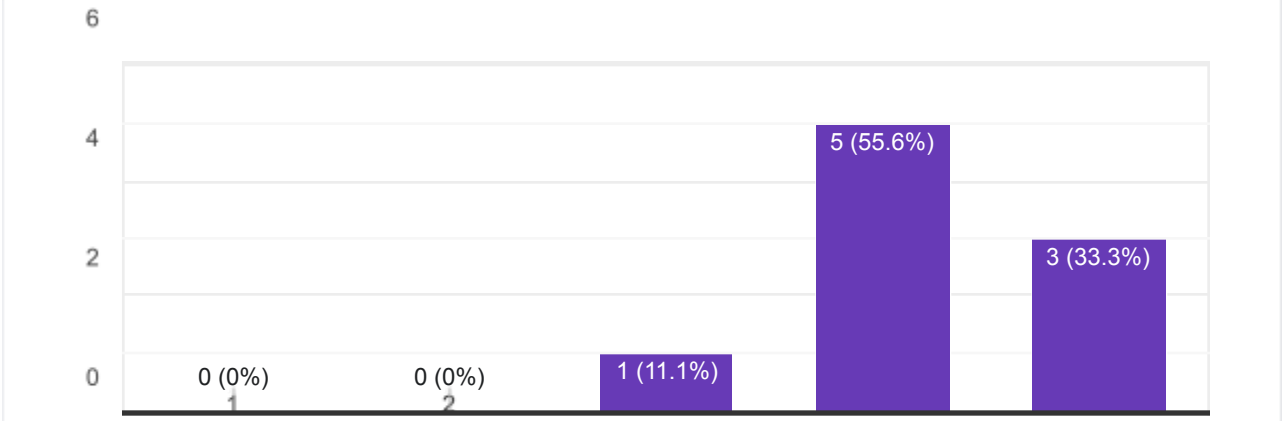
Might be helpful to denote Indigenous experts for those of us unfamiliar with the individuals/ orgs :)

4. Timelines for development of proposed Expert Panel Theme

The presented timelines realistic given the readiness of this effort

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9 responses



Please provide relevant feedback on the timeline here

7 responses

The timeline is well establisdh and deliverables well presented Phase II

and III seem a bit rushed to try and get it done by ASSW.

Looks good and the funding levels available will require to stick to it, which is good. Timelines are

ambitious but feasible.

The timeline could benefit from specifying: deliverables expected by the end of the first year and whether human and financial capacity is sufficient. For the second year consider mentioning submitting interim report to help monitor progress and ensure accountability.

It is advised to take into account that the advisory panel work might be delayed

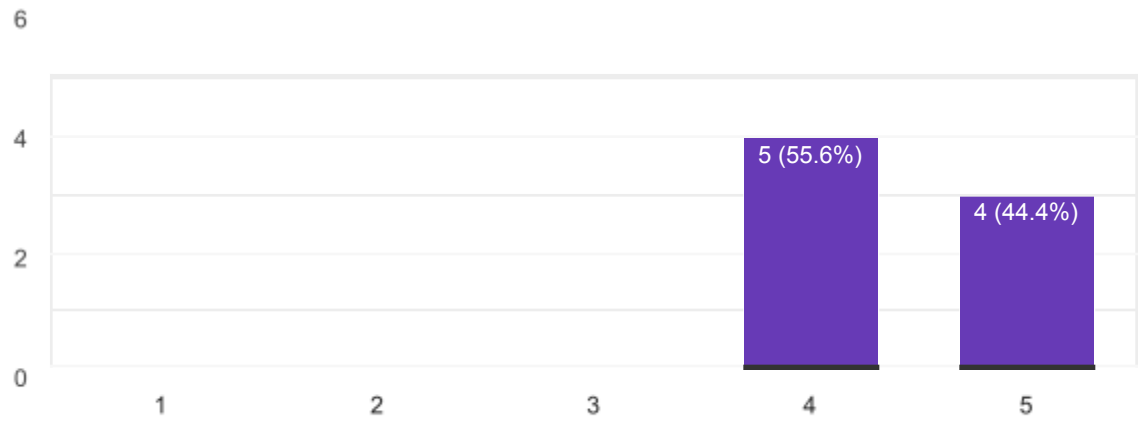
These timelines are fine. They will inevitably be flexible and fluid as time goes on. Just stay on top of reassessing and recomitting to timelines as you go.

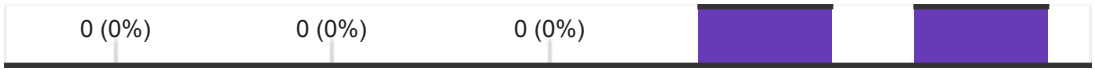
5. Funding/resources for the development of the proposed Expert Panel Theme

There is sufficient funding in place to complete Phase II of the SAON-ROADS process:

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9 responses




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The following funding or in-kind opportunities (e.g. planned workshops or gatherings) would be well-aligned with this effort:

5 responses

There is specific funding for this EP (60k$)

For phase 2 the funding is enough, but I feel that anyone in 2 should also be set for 3, so it would be good that continuity for funding in 3 can already be addressed.

The identified funding opportunities are comprehensive and well-targeted, but additional clarity on budgeting for specific activities (e.g., workshops, Indigenous capacity-building) and efforts to secure supplementary resources would further strengthen the effort.

I hope possible delays in the are not affecting the funding of the Expert Panel

Great job on funding. As always, this will be a moving target -- don't overcommit your funds and continue to look for additional funding opportunities.

Summary findings and recommendations

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