



SAON Board meeting 9th September 2024
15 – 16 UTC / 17-18 CET / 11am-12pm EST
Teleconference

1. Welcome, Introductions, Tour de table and Adoption of agenda

The SAON Board Chair, Mikko Strahlendorff, welcomed participants to the meeting. Given that a number of nations and organisations have appointed new members to the SAON Board, a tour de table was conducted (Appendix 2 Listing of Participants). Today's agenda is available in Appendix 1. The [Draft minutes](#) from the teleconference 3rd June 2024 are also available for review.

2. SAON Governance

- Jan Rene Larsen reported that Mikko has been confirmed as the incoming SAON Board Chair. Mikko has moved up from the Board Vice-Chair so this position will need to be filled in the coming months.
- Jan reported that the Board composition has changed significantly (see [Board composition](#)) and he welcomed new members and their input.

3. SAON ROADS Process

- a. **Advisory Panel** - Sandy Starkweather, Advisory Panel (AP) Co-Chair provided an update on activities. She noted efforts by six Expert Panel teams that are working through the ROADS process. Further information on the ROADS Process is available [here](#). Engagement in the process continues to be excellent and good progress is being made. She noted that the three-year terms of several AP members are ending, and that new nominations are welcomed.
- b. **ArcticPASSION** - Michael Karcher provided a short overview of the EU-funded ArcticPASSION that runs from 2020 – 2025.

Mikko reported on Deliverable 6.3: Report on SAON Progress in ROADS. *A status report for the EAVs developed during Arctic PASSION from the perspective of the ROADS process. It will for each EAV provide an overview of their status of development in terms of identification, specification and implementation.* Progress on Deliverable 6.3 is wrapping up this year. Mikko noted that while none of the variables are nearing implementation, good progress is being made.

Michael Karcher reported on Deliverable D8.2: Roadmap for further evolution of the pan-AOSS; and Deliverable D8.5: Final Synthesis Report on a pan-AOSS: *A report on the achievements, the lessons learned and the way forward from Arctic PASSION to make the pan-AOSS useful, flexible and efficient on scientific, technical and societal levels, and in terms of implementation and operationalization, embedded into the European and international observing structures.* Michael highlighted that good progress is being made in the final synthesizing of outputs from ArcticPASSION and he outlined current chapter themes in this reporting. He welcomed

discussion and feedback at several upcoming events (e.g. ArcticNet, Arctic Circle, Arctic Frontiers, etc).

- c. **RNA CoObs** - Sandy Starkweather reported on this US-led initiative that has strong Indigenous participation. There are currently three topics being examined – Salmon in the Western Arctic, Harmful Algal Blooms, and Wildfires (linking to ArcticPASSION efforts).
- d. **SAON ROADS Graphics** – Members were asked to review the following link for information on [Graphics under preparation](#) that will explain the ROADS process.

4. The Committees

- a. **Arctic Data Committee (ADC)** - Øystein Godøy noted that there are two new co-chairs of the ADC - Chantelle Verhey and Vanessa Raymond. Øystein reported on the development of an [Open Letter](#) by the [Polar Vocabularies and Semantics Working Group](#) that promotes effective use of semantics in Polar science and operations (e.g. in describing the contents of data sets and in accessing data). Mikko requested that SAON Board national members forward this Open Letter to their research institutions and respective data providers. Øystein also reported on the initiative [Mapping the Polar Data Ecosystem](#) that attempts to map out active players hosting polar data holdings. Jan Rene requested that Board members encourage any relevant data centres to complete information into the polar data ecosystem
- b. **Committee on Observations and Networks (CON)** - Alice Bradley, Chair of the CON, reported that the CON is in a rebuilding phase and future work efforts are being reviewed. She invited Board members input on this future direction. Jan Rene reported on the [Polar Observing Assets Working Group](#) as a sub-working group of the CON. The newly developed Registry of Polar Observing Networks ([RoPON](#)) is under development and will be reported on in the future.

- 5. **Arctic Observing Summit 2024** – AOS [Summit Recommendations and Summaries \(draft\)](#) - Alice Bradley, Chair AOS 2024, reported that the full AOS report and conference statement are nearing completion. She noted that there are Summit recommendations related to the SAON ROADS process. The next AOS will be held in March 2026 and planning will begin in the coming months.

6. Any Other Business

- a. **2032- 33 IPY: [Call to organisations to join the planning group](#)** (open ended). Jan Rene reported on this call for organizations to join planning for IPY, noting that the next meeting will be held in November 2024. It could be further explored at a future Board meeting.
- b. **Arctic Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Regional Alliance (GRA)** Michael Karcher noted that a Task Team has been created to establish a new Arctic GOOS Regional Alliance. At this time, SAON will provide guidance to this development. Current work is focussed on reaching out to regional partners/participants and discussions at the recent RNA CoObs meeting provided an opportunity to initiate dialogue with several interested Arctic organizations. Jeremy Wilkinson noted that the Task Team is an open process and additional participants are welcomed.
- c. **European Environment Agency contact** - informal meeting on 14th October. Jan Rene reported that at recent European Polar Science Week meetings, discussions were held on Copernicus and linkages to ground truthing of satellite observations. Jan Rene and Mikko will continue to dialogue with the Agency regarding the role that SAON and SAON ROADS could have.

- d. **Summer 2024 SAON Newsletters:** [I](#) and [II](#). Jan Rene noted that two SAON newsletter have been distributed over the summer. If not received, you may subscribe to the newsletter [here](#). Further information is available in the newsletters on agenda items discussed above.

Board teleconferences will be held the first Monday of every 2nd Month. Future meetings may include reports of national Arctic observing activities and organizational efforts. Correspondence is encouraged with Jan Rene (jan.rene.larsen@amap.no) on matters of relevance to the Board. **The next SAON Board meeting will be 4th November.**

APPENDIX 1



SAON Board meeting 9th September 2024
15 – 16 UTC / 17-18 CET / 11am-12pm EST

Teleconference (Teams – link below)

Draft agenda

1. Welcome, introductions, tour de table and adoption of agenda (Mikko Strahlendorff)
[A number of nations and organisations have appointed new members of the SAON Board. Please note that the session will be recorded. The recording will not be shared, but only used for the preparation of minutes]. [Draft minutes](#) from the teleconference 3rd June 2024 (10 min)
2. SAON governance (Jan Rene Larsen) (5 min)
 - Board leadership
 - [Board composition](#)
3. SAON ROADS process (15 min)
 - Advisory Panel (Sandy Starkweather)
 - ArcticPASSION (Mikko Strahlendorff or Michael Karcher)
 - Deliverable 6.3: Report on SAON Progress in ROADS. *A status report for the EAVs developed during Arctic PASSION from the perspective of the ROADS process. It will for each EAV provide an overview of their status of development in terms of identification, specification and implementation* (Jan Rene Larsen)
 - Deliverable D8.2: Roadmap for further evolution of the pan-AOSS
 - Deliverable D8.5: Final Synthesis Report on a pan-AOSS: *A report on the achievements, the lessons learned and the way forward from Arctic PASSION to make the pan-AOSS useful, flexible and efficient on scientific, technical and societal levels, and in terms of implementation and operationalization, embedded into the European and international observing structures.*
 - RNA CoObs (Roberto Delgado or Sandy Starkweather)
 - [Graphics under preparation](#) (Jan Rene Larsen)
4. The Committees (15 min)
 - Arctic Data Committee (ADC) (Chantelle Verhey/Vanessa Raymond)
 - Leadership
 - The [Open Letter](#) by the [Polar Vocabularies and Semantics Working Group](#) - (Øystein Godøy)
 - [Mapping the Polar Data Ecosystem](#) (Øystein Godøy)
 - Committee on Observations and Networks (CON) (Alice Bradley)
 - [Polar Observing Assets Working Group](#) / Registry of Polar Observing Networks ([RoPON](#)) (Jan Rene Larsen)
5. Arctic Observing Summit 2024 - [Conference statement \(draft\)](#) (Alice Bradley) (5 min)
6. Any other business (10 min)

- IPY: [Call to organisations to join the planning group](#) (open ended). Next meeting in November
- Arctic Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Regional Alliance (GRA) (Jeremy Wilkinson or Michael Karcher)
- European Environment Agency contact - informal meeting on 14th October (Jan Rene Larsen, Mikko Strahlendorff)
- Summer 2024 SAON Newsletters: [I](#) and [II](#). Subscribe to the newsletter [here](#). (Jan Rene Larsen)
- Board teleconferences will be held the first Monday of every 2nd Month. The next will be 4th November

Teams link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NGFmZTM0ZTYtMzBiNC00YjcxLWlxMTctYWwRkN2EwNDI2ZDky%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e85164ec-9598-49a2-98a1-709a3f29cfc6%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22201df34a-7bdc-4596-b7a2-09094429e16e%22%7d

APPENDIX 2

List of Participants – to be confirmed by Inger

Christine Barnard, ArcticNet, Canada
Alice Bradley, Co-Chair CON
João Canário, University of Lisbon, Portugal & IASC
Liulin Chen, Polar Research Institute, China
Sdrjan Dobricic, JRC - EC
Oystein Arne Goday, Norwegian Meteorological Institute
Ola Grabek, ESA
Cornelya Klutsch, INTERACT
Jórunn Hardardottin, Iceland
Halldór Johannsson, Arctic Portal
Michael Karcher, Arctic PASSION
Ole Krarup Leth, Denmark
Nadezdha Kharlampieva, Russia
Eva Krummel, ICC
Hanna K Lappalainen, PEXX
Heikki Lihavainen, Arctic PASSION & SIOS, Co-Chair of SAON CON
Maribeth Murray, Arctic Institute of North America, Canada
Andrey Petrov, IASSA
Anna Nikolopoulos, Norwegian Polar Institute & Arctic GOOS
Rodica Nitu, World Meteorological Organization
Axel Schlindwein, APECS International
Nicolas Segebarth, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation
Sandy Starkweather, SAON ROADS Co-chair
Mikko Strahlendorff, FMI, Finland and Vice-Chair SAON Board
Tetsuo Sueyoshi, National Institute of Polar Research, Japan
Carrie Taylor, Environment & Climate Change Canada, Canadian Head of Delegation, AMAP
Am ... Virhani, Canadian Coast Guard, Canada
Jeremy Wilkinson, British Antarctic Survey

Jan Rene Larsen, AMAP Secretariat