



SAON Board Meeting

16th June 17-18 CET / 11am-12pm EST / 15-16 UTC

1. Welcome and Adoption of Agenda

The SAON Board Chair, Mikko Strahlendorff, welcomed participants to the meeting and a quick round of introductions followed. (See agenda and participants listing in Appendices 1 and 2). He noted that the minutes from the March 23rd meeting held during ASSW are not yet available for review.

2. The Committees

a. Arctic Data Committee (ADC)

Chantelle Verhey, ADC Co-chair, spoke on work to update the [IASC Data Statement \(2013\)](#). A full draft Statement is anticipated by September and hopefully finalized at the IASC Executive meeting in March 2026. The ADC has launched a survey on key Arctic data sets – ([link to survey](#)) and contributions are welcomed from the Board. The survey is intended to assess if any Arctic/Antarctic data sets may be at risk as a result of current political climate, and to determine if any action is needed at this time. Chantelle noted that the ADC continues to meet every second month with Antarctic colleagues through the [Polar to Global Online Interoperability and Data Sharing Workshop/Hackathon](#) series. These discussions are examining the upcoming International Polar Year and data management aspects. She reported that the ADC website has been updated and more information on the above activities may be found there. Finally, Jan Rene Larsen emphasized that Board members are encouraged to complete the data set survey and to share the link with colleagues.

b. Committee on Observations and Networks (CON)

Alice Bradley, one of the CON Co-chairs, reported that the committee is working on Objective 1 of its workplan - "Conduct an inventory of national observational capacities". She acknowledged that this is a huge undertaking. The initial efforts are focusing on use cases of inventories, how people are using them and what this means in terms of scope and requirements of the inventory (National, topical, regional?). This information will help guide the CON on where to focus the committee's efforts.

Eva Krummel reported that there is a meeting of UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in mid-July that ICC will be attending. One discussion item will be "studying the rights of Indigenous peoples in data". Eva will provide information coming from these discussions back to SAON and the ADC. She also reported that the ICC continues to update their Atlas for Community-based Monitoring, which represents an inventory on community-based activities and could feed into the CON efforts.

Sandy Starkweather referenced a meeting on June 17th of the US national Arctic Observing Network (AON) and that international participants were welcomed to join the

discussions. A link to meeting details was provided in the teleconference chat box. The meeting will be discussing efforts, and the possible development of White Papers, to bring to the Arctic Observing Summit 2026.

3. SAON ROADS Process

- a. **SAON ROADS Advisory Panel (AP)** – The Advisory Panel (AP) Co-chair Sandy Starkweather provided an update on efforts of the AP. The ROADS AP is undergoing a renewal of the composition of the Panel (see [Status](#)) given that four members have retired as three-year terms expire. She noted that the SAON Board appoints members to the AP and that the Panel has achieved a good balance across regions and disciplines, with the exception of Indigenous representation. It is an important time now for the Board to consider possible new members for the AP, and she asked that members give some thought to recruitment. Sandy thanked SAON Board members for their previous nominations to the AP, and she also thanked the AP members who have served over the past years. Jan Rene asked that the Board accept the proposed retirements, and noted that he will write to these retiring AP members and thank them for their efforts. The SAON Board thanked these retiring members for their commitment and efforts to SAON.

Sandy also spoke on the efforts of the AP to finalize documentation on the ROADS process (see [Documentation \(status\)](#)). The website provides an excellent overview of the material, as well as access to, the suite of documents available for the four ROADS phases. The AP has established a small writing team to prepare any missing documentation that will assist and guide the ROADS Expert Panels (currently five EPs - sea ice, wildfire, permafrost, Harmful Algal Blooms, RNA Co-obs) in working their way through the four phases of the ROADS process. The writing team will also ensure that documentation is clear and concise, and readily available for a general audience. Material is targeted to be available for the 2026 AOS conference.

Jan Rene reported that the SAON AP is conducting two surveys (internal and external users of the AP) to gain insight on what has been working well with the AP, areas for improvement, etc. The link to the survey is available at [Link to survey \('Externals'\)](#). Sandy encouraged SAON Board members to consider completing the surveys.

- b. **ArcticPASSION Deliverables**

Jan Rene reported that ArcticPASSION deliverable D6.3: Report on SAON Progress in ROADS ([draft](#)) is under development and will be delivered later this month. The report provides an overview of how the ROADS Process has evolved over the past years and will be a good background historical document.

- c. **RNA CoObs**

Alice reported that several summer activities are ongoing as the initiative begins to wind down. There is a self-assessment exercise using various frameworks on Indigenous inclusion and engagement, as well as wrap-up efforts and documentation activities. There an in-person meeting planned for August 2025 where writing efforts will address the ROADS Process.

4. Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) and Arctic Observing Summit (AOS)

Alice reported that ASSW and AOS will be held 25 March - 1 April, 2026 in Aarhus, Denmark. The first circular is now available ([First circular](#)). Efforts are underway in organizing the AOS working groups, and emails will be sent in the next month on this work; as well, calls for white papers should be expected

later in the summer. A co-chair for the AOS is still be sought, so nominations would be welcomed in this regard. Alice emphasized that the AOS is an opportunity to gain broad input into the SAON process, and encouraged the Board to consider what activities at the AOS could assist in providing this input.

5. ICARP IV 20-28 March 2025, Boulder, Colorado, USA

In the absence of Gerlis Fugmann, Sandy reported that ICARP efforts are focussing on finalizing documentation coming out of all of the input obtained in the March discussions. Further information will be provided at a future Board meeting.

6. International Polar Year (IPY)

In the absence of Gerlis Fugmann, this item will be discussed at a future Board meeting.

7. Arctic Council Ministers Meeting, 12th May 2025

Jan Rene reported that the AC Ministers meet every second year and recently met in May with all eight Arctic states represented. The May meeting marked the transition of the AC Chair from Norway to the Kingdom of Denmark. Denmark presented its work programme for the next two years. A Statement is traditionally tabled at the AC meeting, and the following statement was released [Romssa-Tromsø Statement](#).

Jan Rene noted that there should be a change in SAON Executive Committee (EC) consistent with the transition of the AC chair. He noted that the composition of the Executive is described in the [Terms of Reference for the SAON](#): *The Executive Committee (EC) is comprised of the SAON Chair and Vice-Chair, one of the eight AC country members, one of the six PPs and the SAON Executive Secretariat (ex-officio). EC participation by the AC country member and the PP will be rotational on a two-year basis. The EC is supported by the AC and IASC Secretariats.* There is a tradition that the AC country member follows the chairship of the AC. He asked that the SAON Board welcome Ole Krarup Leth (DMI, Denmark) as the new member and say thank you to Øystein Godøy (MetNo, Norway) for his work. The SAON Board supported this change and welcomed Ole to the Executive Committee.

8. Other Business

- a. The Polar Initiative - was launched in 2022 through a collaboration between the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and the Oceanographic Institute - Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation. The foundation has a call for applications open at this time, that closes 30th June (<https://www.fpa2.org/en/depots/the-polar-initiative-02>). There is some interest in submitting an application; details will come at a later date.
- b. There is an article about SAON in the Arctic Council magazine '[Pathways](#)' – SAON Board members were encouraged to read the article.
- c. Applications for the GEO post-2025 programme: ArcticGEOSS as a "Convener" Status – Mikko reported that in May 2025 the GEO General Assembly met and accepted the post-2025 work programme (for 2025-2028). ArcticGEOSS is included in a "convenor" status role which will provide opportunities to engage with GEO. Jan Rene noted that another of the ArcticPASSION deliverables will provide the history and background of the discussions with GEO regarding ArcticGEOSS.
- d. World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Polar Weather Data Use Survey – Jan Rene reported that one of the former Vice-Chairs of SAON (Larry Hinzmann) has written to him, encouraging

SAON Board members to complete the WMO survey (see [WMO Polar Weather Data Use Survey](#)).

- e. Next SAON Board teleconferences – the Board traditionally meets on the first Monday of every second month. However, given upcoming summer holiday plans of Board members, the SAON Executive will consider if the next Board meeting might be pushed until August or September. Details will be provided shortly.

APPENDIX 1



AGENDA

SAON Board meeting

16th June 17-18 CET / 11am-12pm EST / 15-16 UTC

The meeting will be a Teams teleconference

Link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NjBiYjMyNWUtZDc0Yi00ZThkLWI0MDItMGFkZDhhOGM2Yjc3%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

Draft agenda

9. Welcome and adoption of agenda (Mikko Strahlendorff)
[Please note that the session will be recorded. The recording will not be shared, but only used for the preparation of minutes. Meeting notes from the teleconference 23rd March are, unfortunately, not available yet.]
10. The Committees
 - a. Arctic Data Committee (ADC) (Chantelle Verhey/Vanessa Raymond)
 - a. Updating the [IASC Data Statement \(2013\)](#)
 - b. Key Arctic data sets - [link to survey](#)
 - c. Members of the ADC meet every second month with Antarctic colleagues through the [Polar to Global Online Interoperability and Data Sharing Workshop/Hackathon](#) series
 - b. Committee on Observations and Networks (CON) (Alice Bradley, Heikki Lihavainen, Joao Canario)
 - a. SAON CON Objective 1): Conduct an inventory of national observational capacities.
11. SAON ROADS process
 - a. Advisory Panel (Sandy Starkweather)
 - a. [Documentation \(status\)](#)
 - b. Composition of the Advisory Panel. Four members have left. [Status](#)
[The SAON Board is invited to approve the composition of the Advisory Panel. The Advisory Panel should not be seen as an 'inside job'. Some members will not want to have a 'stake' in the pilot effort.]
 - c. [Link to survey \('Externals'\)](#)
 - b. ArcticPASSION Deliverables (Jan Rene Larsen)
 - a. D6.3 deliverable Report on SAON Progress in ROADS ([draft](#))
 - c. RNA CoObs (Alice Bradley or Sandy Starkweather)
12. Arctic Science Summit Week and Arctic Observing Summit. [First circular](#). 25 March - 1 April, 2026
Aarhus, Denmark (Alice Bradley)
13. ICARP IV process (Sandy Starkweather or Gerlis Fugmann)

14. IPY (Gerlis Fugmann)

15. Arctic Council meeting 12th May

a. [Romssa-Tromsø Statement](#)

- b. The composition of the Executive is described in the [Terms of Reference for the SAON](#): *The Executive Committee (EC) is comprised of the SAON Chair and vice-Chair, one of the eight AC country members, one of the six PPs and the SAON Executive Secretariat (ex-officio). EC participation by the AC country member and the PP will be rotational on a two-year basis. The EC is supported by the AC and IASC Secretariats.* There is a tradition that the AC country member follows the chairship of the AC. The proposal is that we welcome Ole Krarup Leth (DMI, Denmark) and say goodbye to Øystein Godøy (MetNo, Norway)

16. Any other business

1. The Polar Initiative was launched in 2022 through a collaboration between the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and the Oceanographic Institute - Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation. Application deadline is 30th June:
<https://www.fpa2.org/en/depts/the-polar-initiative-02>
2. There is an article about SAON in the Arctic Council magazine '[Pathways](#)'
3. Applications for the GEO post-2025 programme: ArcticGEOSS as a convener ([Mikko Strahlendorff](#))
4. [WMO Polar Weather Data Use Survey](#)
5. Board teleconferences will be held the first Monday of every 2nd Month. The next will be 7th July

**SAON Board Meeting
16th June 2025**

List of Participants

David Arthurs, PolarView
Agnieszka Beszczyńska-Möller, Poland
Alice Bradley, CON – Co-Chair
Claudia Charest, Canadian Coast Guard, Arctic Council EPPR WG
Roberto Delgado, NSF, USA
Lauren Divine, AIA, SAON ROADS Advisory Panel Co-chair
Srdan Dobricic, EU/JRC
Kjersti Gisnås, IPA, Norway
Ola Grabak, ESA
Jórunn Hardardóttir, Icelandic Met Office, Iceland
Ulf Jonsell, Swedish Polar Research Secretariat
Ole Krarup Leth, Denmark
Cornelya Klutsch, INPA, Norway
Eva Kruemmel, ICC
Heikki Lihavainen, SIOS, CON Co-chair
Anna Nikolopoulos, Norway
Axel Schlindwein, APECS
Nicolas Segebarth, EC
Tetsuo Sueyoshi, National Institute of Polar Research, Japan
Sandy Starkweather, SAON ROADS Advisory Panel Co-chair
Mikko Strahlendorff, FMI, SAON chair
Chantelle Verhey, ADC Co-chair

Jan Rene Larsen, AMAP Secretariat