



Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP)
Submission for the World Conference on Marine Biodiversity call for abstracts
WCMB: Montreal, Canada, May 13-16, 2018

Title Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program's State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report - Findings and recommendations regarding marine mammals

Themes Biodiversity in a Changing Arctic: Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program

Short description Status and trends of marine mammals in a changing Arctic - advice for research and monitoring (SAMBR)

Presentation Format Oral presentation

Abstract Marine mammals are top predators in Arctic marine ecosystems and are key to ecosystem functioning. Many Arctic marine mammal species are important resources and hold special cultural significance in Arctic communities. The CBMP (Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme) Marine Mammal Expert Network aggregated and reviewed data on the population status and trends of all 11 ice-associated marine mammal Focal Ecosystem Components (FECs) across eight Arctic Marine Areas as well as the state of current monitoring (and research) efforts for these species. Changes taking place in the physical environment in the Arctic due to global warming are affecting marine mammal behaviour, abundance, growth rates, body condition and reproduction, and impacting the resilience of marine mammal populations with concomitant effects on the people who rely on them for subsistence, economic and cultural purposes. Effective marine mammal population monitoring will need improved techniques and application at appropriate geographic scales to measure trends that can be evaluated relative to changes in climate (e.g., sea-ice cover) and human activities (e.g., hunting, shipping, mineral exploration). This presentation will summarize current marine mammal monitoring across the Arctic, the status and trends of FECs, drivers of observed trends, and knowledge and monitoring gaps.

Key words CBMP, biodiversity, status, monitoring

Abstract presenter & co-authors

K.M. Kovacs, Norwegian Polar Institute, Tromsø, Norway (presenter)

Co-authors:

R.H. Meehan, ArcticTurn Consulting, Anchorage, U.S. (CBMP- MM Expert Group Leader)

S. Belikov, All Russian Research Institute for Nature Protection, Moscow, Russia

G. Desportes, North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission, Tromsø, Norway

S.H. Ferguson, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Winnipeg, Canada

K.L. Laidre, Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, Nuuk, Greenland

G.B. Stenson, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, St John, Canada

P.O. Thomas, Marine Mammal Commission, Washington D.C., U.S.

F. Ugarte, Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, Nuuk, Greenland

D. Vongraven, Norwegian Polar Institute, Tromsø, Norway