



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

For details on guidelines and instructions see conference website here:  
<http://www.wcmb2018.org/guidelines.html>

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**Title** (max 20 words)

- Benthos Expert Network: Findings and recommendations from the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program's State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report

**Themes** (select the appropriate themes from Conference information):

- CBMP (exact wording to be determined by Conference)

**Short description** (120 characters)

- Status and trends of Arctic benthic species and advice for monitoring in the SAMBR

**Presentation Format** (Each presentation will be 12 minutes long, followed by a 3-minute question period. A PowerPoint is normally requested for all oral presentations.)

- Oral presentation

**Abstract** (max 200 words, text only, no images, tables or special characters)

- Currently, > 4,000 macro- and megabenthic invertebrate species are known from Arctic seas, representing the majority of marine faunal diversity in this region. This estimate is expected to increase with future studies. Benthic invertebrates are important ecosystem components as food for fishes, marine mammals, seabirds and humans. The Benthos Expert Network of the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) aggregated and reviewed information on the population status and trends of macro- and megabenthic invertebrates across eight Arctic Marine Areas as well as the state of current monitoring efforts for these communities. Drivers are affecting benthic communities on a variety of scales, ranging from pan-Arctic (related to climate change, such as warming, ice decline and acidification) to regional or local scales (such as trawling, river/glacier discharge, and invasive species). Long-term benthic monitoring efforts have largely focused on macro- and megabenthic communities of the Chukchi and Barents Seas. Recently, they are increasing in waters off Greenland and Iceland, as well as in the Canadian Arctic and the Norwegian Sea. All other Arctic Marine Areas are lacking long-term monitoring. The presentation will summarize current level of knowledge and monitoring across the Arctic, drivers of observed trends, and knowledge and monitoring gaps.

**Key words** (4)

- CBMP, biodiversity, status, monitoring

**Abstract presenter & co-authors** (full name, organization, city, country)

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