McCammon general comments on structure of Draft Arctic Action Plan 2021-01-25

First, great job on synthesizing a huge amount of input. No easy task. To expand on some of our discussion Friday, I’d offer the following additional comments:

1. References to existing activities. I understand your thinking that the draft should stay “neutral” about existing organization activities, but strongly urge you to reconsider. The fact is that there are a number of ongoing initiatives that should be highly leveraged by proposed UNDOS actions. Having these organizations/initiatives acknowledged in the plan would aid in getting them additional resources. You could limit these to those entities that are global or pan-arctic, such as IMO/WMO/IHO, GOOS, GOAN, and Arctic Council initiatives as part of PAME, CAFF, AMAP, including SAON. In particular, as a representative of SAON on the task force, I hope you could include references to the ROADS process (of prioritizing observing activities based on societal benefit areas) and the Arctic Data Committee.

This could be included either under the activity: “Collaborate with key stakeholders on creating and maintaining a joint open data sharing platform” or “How to achieve - An accessible ocean with open and equitable access to data, information and technology and innovation” or under the WG 6 section:

“The IASC-SAON Arctic Data Committee (ADC) was formed in 2014.  In recent years, under the direction of IASC and SAON, ADC has been convening partners from the Arctic (e.g. Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure, EuroGOOS, Global Cryosphere Watch), the Antarctic and the broader global research data community (e.g. IODE, Research Data Alliance) to adopt standards for data discovery through federated search, develop architectures for promoting data interoperability (now being adopted in major European and North American infrastructures), and analyzing and aligning data policy, to name a few.  This effort (UNDOS) will both leverage and contribute to the ADC efforts while concurrently connecting to the SAON ROADS process. ADC representatives are actively engaging in the UNDOS WG 6 process and are connecting these efforts to ADC activities (e.g. <https://arcticdc.org/meetings/conference-calls-webinars/polar-to-global-online-interoperability-and-data-sharing-workshop-hackathon)>.”

1. Societal challenges. I like these, but think you might reconsider the “managing’ the Arctic and “supporting” the Arctic. I don’t think these short titles quite capture the intent….

You might think about describing ideal ‘outcomes” for these challenges – ones that if achieved within the decade, would really be transformational.

1. Actions. These are a combination of policy actions and science/research actions….Maybe consider the policy ones more as outcomes for the societal challenges, and focus here on the science/research/monitoring and observations needed to achieve those…..