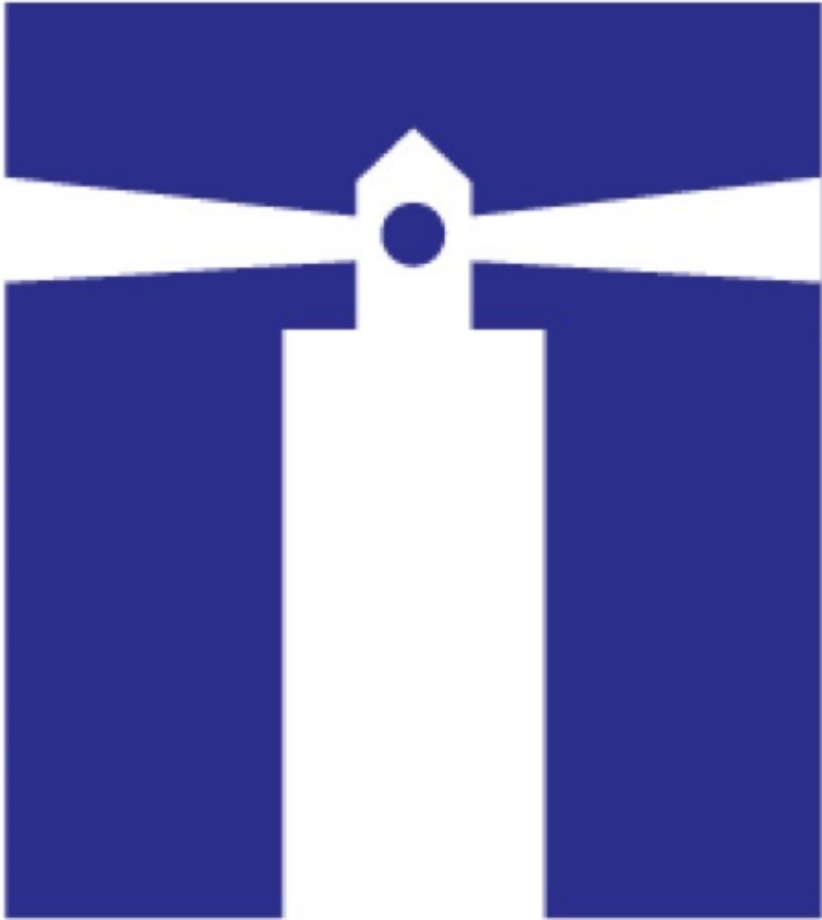


FORUM OF ARCTIC RESEARCH OPERATORS



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**F A R O**

# FARO Overview

November 2021

Arctic Shipping

Best Practices Information Forum

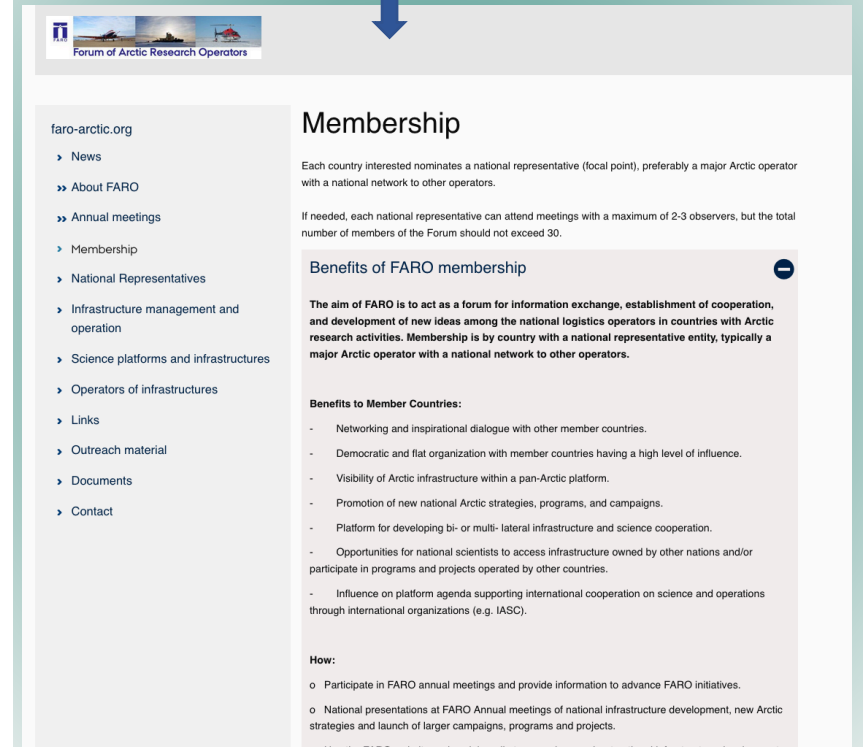
Presented by Jennifer Mercer, FARO Chair

# WHAT IS FARO?

Forum of Arctic Research Operators

- A country membership organization formed in 1998 serving as a forum for logistics and operational support for scientific research in the Arctic
- Currently has 21 member nations
- Each nation has a national representative entity (such as an institution or agency), preferably a major Arctic operator with a national network to other operators. A representative from the national entity serves as the national Point of Contact to FARO (NPOC)
- FARO is operated by an Executive Committee (ExCom) drawn from its membership with an overall Chair of the organization. A FARO secretariat supports the organization.
- Any country engaged in Arctic research is encouraged to join FARO and participate in its activities.

Find FARO Membership Benefits at  
faro-arctic.org



The screenshot shows the FARO website's membership page. At the top, there is a navigation menu with the following items: News, About FARO, Annual meetings, Membership, National Representatives, Infrastructure management and operation, Science platforms and infrastructures, Operators of infrastructures, Links, Outreach material, Documents, and Contact. The main content area is titled "Membership" and contains the following text:

Each country interested nominates a national representative (local point), preferably a major Arctic operator with a national network to other operators.

If needed, each national representative can attend meetings with a maximum of 2-3 observers, but the total number of members of the Forum should not exceed 30.

**Benefits of FARO membership**

**The aim of FARO is to act as a forum for information exchange, establishment of cooperation, and development of new ideas among the national logistics operators in countries with Arctic research activities. Membership is by country with a national representative entity, typically a major Arctic operator with a national network to other operators.**

**Benefits to Member Countries:**

- Networking and inspirational dialogue with other member countries.
- Democratic and flat organization with member countries having a high level of influence.
- Visibility of Arctic infrastructure within a pan-Arctic platform.
- Promotion of new national Arctic strategies, programs, and campaigns.
- Platform for developing bi- or multi-lateral infrastructure and science cooperation.
- Opportunities for national scientists to access infrastructure owned by other nations and/or participate in programs and projects operated by other countries.
- Influence on platform agenda supporting international cooperation on science and operations through international organizations (e.g. IASC).

**How:**

- o Participate in FARO annual meetings and provide information to advance FARO initiatives.
- o National presentations at FARO Annual meetings of national infrastructure development, new Arctic strategies and launch of larger campaigns, programs and projects.

# FARO Mission

- Networking of national operators
- Exchange of best practices in facility development and operations, including environmental concerns;
- Encouraging and supporting science-led international programs by offering opportunities for planning and coordination, and by facilitating communication and access to facilities;
- Encouraging and supporting coordination of logistics and sharing of operational resources;
- Encouraging exchange and dissemination of scientific data and information on the marine, terrestrial and human environment of the Arctic;
- Encouraging means of initiating, coordinating and maintaining long-term Arctic observational programs;
- Promoting interaction between the Arctic science community and those concerned with Arctic policy;
- Providing expert advice to scientists, policy makers, and other organizations regarding operations and logistics in the Arctic

# FARO Objectives

- Promotes dialogue on logistics and operational support for scientific research in the Arctic.
- Facilitates information exchange, establishment of cooperation and development of new ideas among national operators of ships, stations and aircrafts in the Arctic.
- FARO enables countries to optimize logistics and operational support for scientific research in the Arctic.

The collage features four circular images. The top-left image shows a yellow and black snowmobile being driven on a snowy, icy terrain. The top-right image shows a drone flying over a snowy landscape with mountains in the background. The middle-left image shows a blue and white aircraft labeled 'POLAR 5' on a tarmac, with several people in high-visibility vests standing in front of it. The bottom-right image shows a research station on the deck of a ship, with a large vessel visible in the background.

**FARO activities**

- Networking of national operators and exchange of information
- Exchange of best practices in operations, safety and environmental issues in the Arctic
- Promote synergies and optimized use of research infrastructures across national borders
- Facilitate implementation of transnational planning
- Integrate scientific priorities with strategic long-term planning and policy
- Inventories of existing infrastructures to identify gaps and promote better connection and utilization of existing capacities
- A link to knowledge and development of equipment and infrastructure

# RECENT FARO INITIATIVES

- Gathering Risk Management information from all international Arctic operators
- Understanding primary Arctic operational challenges by country
- Initiating international dialogue to promote inclusive environments at Arctic field research locations
- Using the networks and resources of NPOC's to facilitate international access to facilities/infrastructure
- Facilitating this workshop on International Access to Research Infrastructure in the Arctic (with INTERACT, ARICE, APECS)



## **Operational challenges in the Arctic listed by country:**

**USA:** Ageing infrastructure, advancing new technologies

**Poland:** Geophysical surveys, challenges for access, bartering

**France:** Advancing new technologies, access, limited funding for access

**Germany:** MOSAic expedition, replacement of Polarstern icebreaker

**Korea:** Increased demand – same infrastructure. Cold adapted technologies

**Japan:** Expanding scientific disciplinary coverage, data sharing, speaking 'different languages'

**China:** new icebreaker, international cooperation

**Czech Republic:** sustained funding for research station

**Russia:** understanding neighboring ecosystems and change, connections. Implementation of mega transects

**Portugal:** increase funding for arctic research. No infrastructure, develop cooperation

**Denmark:** connecting science and society, develop geographically dispersed observatory system and consolidate cooperation in Denmark

**Greenland:** transport and logistics, getting researchers out in the field

**United Kingdom:** national capability pays for researchers' planes etc. in Antarctica, but not in the Arctic



faro-arctic.org

› News

›› About FARO

›› Annual meetings

› Membership

› National Representatives

› Infrastructure management and operation

› Science platforms and infrastructures

› Operators of infrastructures

› Links

› Outreach material

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› Contact

## Infrastructure management and operation

The links below provide information and resources, organized by region, for managing risk during fieldwork in the Arctic. We encourage all Arctic operators to inform the FARO secretariat about relevant resources to be included in the list.

### Arctic Field Safety: Risk Management Resources

#### Alaska (USA)

Arctic Field Safety Risk Management Workshop and Report 2013  
[https://commssite.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/nsf\\_srm\\_report\\_2015\\_reducedsize.pdf](https://commssite.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/nsf_srm_report_2015_reducedsize.pdf)  
NSF Arctic Research Support Contractor <http://cpspolar.com/for-researchers/risk-management/>

The IARPC has revised the Principles for Conducting Research in the Arctic, see <https://www.iarpcollaborations.org/principles.html>

**Arctic Council** - Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) <https://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/about-us/working-groups/eppr>

#### Arctic Ocean

- Fostering a Respectful Work Environment (Video) <https://www.unols.org/document/fostering-respectful-work-environment-video>

Shelf Project Arctic Operations Manual: <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/the-north/polar-program/arctic-logistics-requests/9991>, [https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/sites/www.nrcan.gc.ca/files/pdf/polar/pcsp\\_manual\\_eng.pdf](https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/sites/www.nrcan.gc.ca/files/pdf/polar/pcsp_manual_eng.pdf)

mark)  
e of natural resources: Safety Manual for Fieldwork, GINB, Safety Manual of the e of natural resources – Offices and laboratories  
[www.isaaffik.org/logistics-links](http://www.isaaffik.org/logistics-links)

nhagen: Safety Manual for Fieldwork in the Arctic, Faculty of Science, University of

illum research stations: Material is in Danish

# MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about FARO, go to [faro-arctic.org](http://faro-arctic.org), or email the Secretariat at: [faro-arctic@bios.au.dk](mailto:faro-arctic@bios.au.dk)

You will find information about:

- *FARO, its history, past meetings, etc.*
- *The FARO member nations and the national Points of Contact*
- *Useful information about Arctic operations, infrastructure, and facilities*