

# Organizing Science for the Central Arctic Ocean

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# The Law of the Sea Convention and marine scientific research (MSR)

- The constitution of the oceans - provides the legal framework for all activities globally, including science.
- A specific regime for MSR, including:
- MSR in the EEZ/on the continental shelf:  
Requires the consent of the coastal state
- MSR one of the freedoms of the High Seas  
beyond 200 nmi

Existing regional  
bodies and processes

# The International Arctic Science Committee (IASAC)

- Established 1990, to...
- “... encouraging and facilitating cooperation in all aspects of Arctic research, in all countries engaged in Arctic research, and in all areas of the Arctic Region”
- Five working groups
- 23 member nations
- Technically an NGO - representatives usually from the national research councils

# The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

- Est. 1902, 1964 treaty makes ICES an intergovernmental organization
- “... Our goal is to advance and share scientific understanding of marine ecosystems and the services they provide and to use this knowledge to generate state-of-the-art advice for meeting conservation, management, and sustainability goals.”
- Arctic Fisheries WG, Integrated ecosystem assessment of central Arctic Ocean (WGICA), advice on Arctic fisheries management

# The Arctic Council agreement on international scientific cooperation

- In force 2018, first meeting of the eight parties  
March 2019
- “The purpose of this agreement is to enhance cooperation in Scientific Activities in order to increase effectiveness and efficiency in developing scientific knowledge about the Arctic”
- Basically about facilitating science, eg access to areas, data, and infrastructure

# Arctic Council Working Groups

- The Arctic Council (1996): “A high level intergovernmental forum to provide a means for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States...”
- WGs: Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME), Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme
- Assessments: Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA), Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA), Arctic Ocean Review

# The agreement to prevent unregulated fishing

- Agreement signed by the five coastal states and five other states/the EU in 2018, not yet in force
- Provisions for the establishment of a Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring
- Science will be the main activity under the agreement for the foreseeable future - establishment of mapping and monitoring programs



# The Arctic Science Ministerials

- 2016, 2018 and 2020 ministerials with 26 countries participating in 2018
- Aims to “... shape the course of future Arctic research”
- Outcomes are ministerial declarations, setting out priorities - three themes:
  - Observations and data
  - Regional and global dynamics
  - Vulnerability and resilience

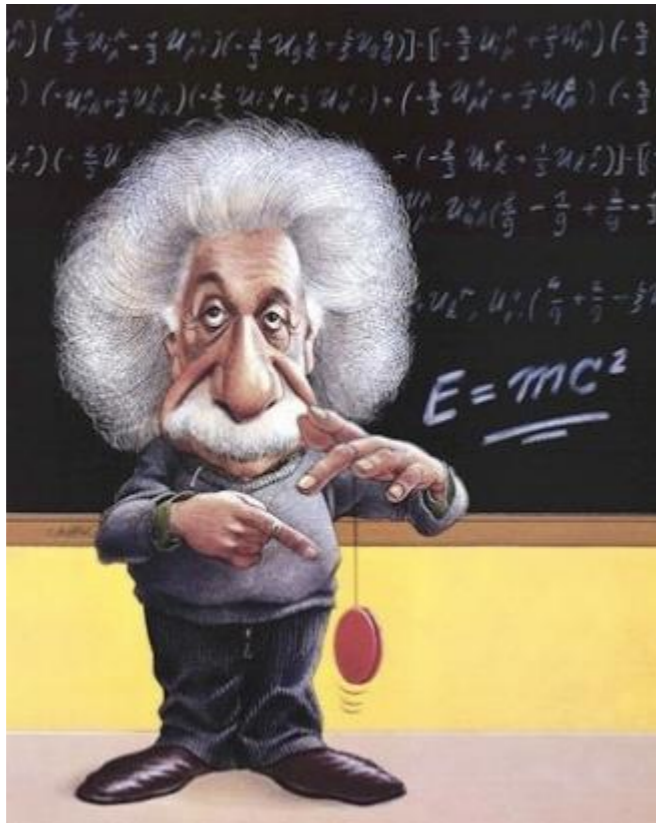
# Other

- European Polar Board
- Global instruments and processes also relevant;
  - The MSR provisions of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement
  - The on-going negotiation of an agreement on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)
  - The Regular Process on a Global Marine Assessment, second phase

# Need for stronger coordination and cooperation?

- A growing number of global and regional initiatives and bodies, some intergovernmental, some not.
- What needs are not covered by the existing agreements and bodies?
- EA and IEA – Provides a mechanism for using knowledge and identify knowledge gaps

# The science - policy relationship



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