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Theme 1: Design, Optimization and Implementation of the Observing System

Theme 5: Arctic Observations in the context of Global Observing initiatives

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Poster title (brief) Fishing for Data: integrating ocean observation with commercial and indigenous fishing

Abstract - text box

There is a lack of sub-surface oceanographic data in coastal and shelf seas. In polar regions, these data gaps are further exacerbated by inaccessibility and sea ice coverage. Many commercial and subsistence fishing techniques provide an opportunity for oceanographic sensors to ride down and back up with the gear during normal fishing operations, which actively avoid the hazards that prevent automated data collection technologies. Hydrographic data collected via fishing has a host of benefits and uses beyond oceanography ranging from stakeholder involvement to fishing industry and management. We present water column data profiles collected via fishing operations off Alaska, Greenland, and Iceland. We quantify and compare maps of existing sub-surface data coverage with the spatial distribution of fishing activities. The results show that integration with fishing can fill in some of the most pressing gaps in existing ocean observation systems in a cost-effective and sustainable manner.