

Welcome to the 2020 Arctic Observing Summit

The [Arctic Observing Summit \(AOS\)](#) is a biennial summit that aims to provide community-driven, science-based guidance for the design, implementation, coordination, and sustained long-term (decades) operation of an international network of Arctic observing systems.

In practice, this means gathering the Arctic observing community together to exchange ideas and develop ways to collaborate, share resources, and improve Arctic observing.

As a result of the global novel coronavirus outbreak, the 2020 Summit will be held online only.

Before the Summit

AOS organizers develop the Summit theme and sub-themes. The [theme for AOS 2020](#) is “**Observing for Action**”. Several sub-themes will complement the main theme for this year’s Summit. Some sub-themes have been maintained for several years of the AOS, others are new this year. [Working groups](#) are then built around the sub-themes to start organizing community input and planning for the summit.

A call for white papers and short statements is the first opportunity for the broader observational community to provide input into the organization in a year’s AOS. This year, members of the community submitted 55 white papers and short statements in response to the call. They can all be read [here](#).

Working group chairs and members read the white papers and short statements related to their thematic areas, and use this input to help shape the plan for the summit. They also summarize the submissions into a synthesis document for each sub-theme. Previous years’ synthesis documents can be viewed by clicking on the following links ([AOS 2013](#), [AOS 2016](#)). The synthesis documents for AOS 2020 will be posted at least a week prior to the start of the summit.

At the Summit

The AOS fosters communication and collaboration between members of the Arctic observing community. This includes representatives from academia, agencies, Indigenous Peoples, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and others involved or interested in long-term observing activities. A key goal for Arctic observing is to achieve equity and representation for Indigenous Peoples in Arctic Research as outlined in [this document](#). The great value of the AOS is as a forum that brings these diverse interests together and allows for exchange of ideas. In support of this, we encourage participants to read and abide by the code of conduct.

The [agenda](#) for the 2020 summit consists of plenary and breakout sessions, all of which will be held virtually.

- Plenary sessions are meant to provide context and useful information for all participants. Keynote speakers will deliver pre-recorded remarks, and these talks will be followed by live online panel discussions.
- Breakout sessions are organized by working groups or thematic areas. Each working group will prepare their own agenda for their breakout sessions.
- Not every working group will meet during every breakout session. During one live online session at the 2020 Summit, working group 1 (Design, Optimization & Implementation of the Observing System) and

working group 4 (Data Interoperability and Federated Search) will join to discuss a model for how to organize observing and data requirements across sectors.

A document summarizing the framework that will guide preparatory discussions prior to and during the 2020 online Summit for each working group is available [here](#). In addition to this summary document, a more in-depth version ([here](#)) is provided as direct guidance for working group activities and meant to ensure that input received from all working groups and breakout sessions during the Summit is collected in a way that helps to inform the broader process.

Following discussions each day, note takers and working group chairs will meet to summarize what was covered in the sessions for sharing with the plenary. All breakout sessions will be recorded and posted to the aos2020agenda.org website for you to access if you are unable to attend the live deliberations. If you have comments that you were not able to make during a live session, please submit them to aos@arcticobserving.com for inclusion in the reporting.

After the Summit

Following the summit, AOS organizers take the notes from the discussions, the white papers and short statements and any additional feedback or comments from participants and distill it into a statement for the Arctic Science Ministerial.

Outcomes from the summit also help [Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks \(SAON\)](#)'s efforts to coordinate Arctic observing.

Building on the white papers submitted to the summit, there will be an opportunity to submit full papers for publication – after peer review – in a special issue of the journal [Arctic](#) in the latter part of 2020. Those articles will provide insight into possible directions in which the Arctic observing system might evolve, and the challenges it might face in getting there.

Future AOS summits, to be held every two years in conjunction with the [International Arctic Science Committee's Arctic Science Summit Week](#), will build on the foundation established by this meeting, augmented by continued input in the form of white papers and other contributions provided by all sectors.

