Perceptions of Success: A Case Study from a Pilot Project of SAON ROADS

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Co-production of knowledge projects requires integrating multiple perspectives of what constitutes success rooted in academic, community benefit, processes, decision-making, and culture and worldviews. Research Networking Activity (RNA) for sustained Coordinated Observations for Arctic Change (CoObs) is a pilot project for SAON ROADS that is in partnership with the Food Sovereignty Working Group (FSWG) (linked but separate from the AOS working group). This poster presents an initial analysis from focus groups consisting of homogenous groups of RNA CoObs and FSWG members. The focus groups had one open-ended question prompt of “what does success look like in improving Arctic observing?” The research process followed the rapid qualitative inquiry methodological approach with a four-person research team representing the different insider perspectives of the participants. The research team conducted the focus groups and content analysis that developed a list of themes of success, which will be presented back to the participants for feedback following co-production of knowledge principles. A few key themes are observations that are used and accessible, a process that is inclusive especially to Arctic Indigenous Peoples, and designs that are flexible based on the changing environment and societal needs. Themes that diverge between scientific and Indigenous participants are centered around open science versus Indigenous sovereignty. The key outcome from this research project is to take into consideration the differences in perspectives and perceptions of success in designing projects towards SAON ROADS that include researchers, policymakers, practitioners, Indigenous leaders, and community members.