CAPARDUS - Alaska Case

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Photo by Frank Kelley (PolarTREC 2008), Courtesy of ARCUS

Project Objectives

(1) Identify the types of information used in short and long-term decisions and planning for coastal risks and hazards;

(1) Identify how existing community-based monitoring programs are situated within other information used in risk and hazard mitigation;

(1) Understand the role of standardization in connecting community observations with decision processes and the benefits and drawbacks of greater standardization for different actors.

Photo by Monica Nuñez (PolarTREC 2019), Courtesy of ARCUS

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Photo by Harley Jesse Walker

Methods Summary

Document analysis (n=30)

Interviews (6 completed, more planned)

Virtual workshops (target of 12 participants)

Initial learnings:
Data collection and observations

- Data collected
  - extreme events and long-term change
- Collection methods
  - photos, narratives, instruments
  - paid vs. volunteer
- Motivations
  - many and diverse!
  - support understanding; detect change; apply information; share and compare across regions; develop baseline data
- Steps to ensure relevance
  - Customize protocols to meet community needs; develop relationships; collaboration with organizations that work closely with communities; respond to community needs;


Source: Alaska DGGS


Source: AAOKH (credit B. Adams)


Source: Alaska HABs Network

Initial learnings:
Data collection and observations

- Process guiding data collection protocols
  - Easy to use, local context and capacity, community feedback, historical legacies

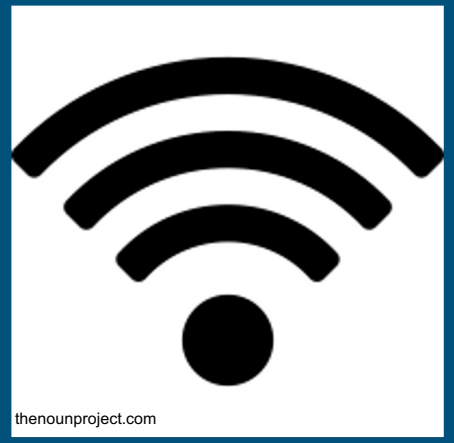
> "There's been a lot of thought and time put into sort of these kinds of questions...How to make it **respectful**, how do you make it **safe**? How do you make everyone feel like they're being **equally and fairly represented** within the platform? How to make sure that the kind of information we're gathering is **not misconstrued**" (Interview 1)

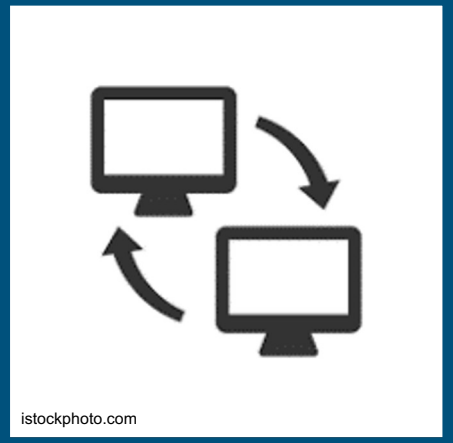
- Tools and systems to manage data
  - Various: upload to website; collect using an app; use of scientific instruments as well as personal observations.

> "We have **gone through several generations of the online database**, and we're in the midst of beginning a total rebuild. So, **we've had to keep up with technology over time**" (Interview 2)

Initial learnings:
Challenges in data collection

- Internet bandwidth
- Changing technologies that require changes in collection protocols
- Interoperability between collection and storage/sharing systems
- Sustained funding to pay observers
- Security and safety of data and ensuring Indigenous Data Sovereignty





Initial learnings:
Sharing and use of observations

Data shared with:

- Co-management organizations and agencies
- Communities (Tribal, city, consortium)
- State and federal agencies
- General public
- Scientists

Challenges in sharing/use of observations:

- How to deliver data/observations in a way that is useful for communities?

Initial learnings:
Collaboration with other CBM programs

- Sharing data and data collection protocols
- Graduate student research
- Proposal writing
- Moderate interest in a web-based platform to exchange effective practices

Next steps

- Complete Interviews
- Develop a description of information ecosystem for coastal observing and the role of CBM in that system
- Convene two online focus groups (target 14 total participants) to review this description for accuracy, discuss gaps and opportunities for improving the ecosystem for improved information to support decision-making
- Create a map/visual depiction of ecosystem and a summary of learnings

Discussion Questions

1. Can coastal hazard observing by community members improve safety practice in Alaska?

2. Can shared practices on coastal hazard observing support community needs for adaptation planning?

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Photo by Lisa Sheffield Guy