



All Together Now: One Health, One Arctic

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What is SDWG?

- The Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) is one of six WGs under the Arctic Council
- Working groups in the AC have projects – these are where the work gets done
- US is currently chairing both AC and SDWG
- Chairmanship includes a project, *Operationalizing One Health*, that I will discuss here today



How does this project define One Health?

- An approach for developing and sustaining multi-discipline collaborations and partnerships to address complex health issues at the environment, human and animal interface for the early identification, prevention and mitigation of health risks.



A few examples of One Health events in the circumpolar region

- Harmful algal bloom leading to an unusual mortality event in marine mammals, with implications for health and food security
- Social concerns about harvested food safety due to environmental contamination
- Arrival of vector-borne disease in novel areas as ticks expand range
- Forest fires
- Detection of avian influenza in wild birds



Goal of the One Health Project

- Support the resiliency of Arctic communities facing climate change by:
 - Building on and expanding existing **networks** and collaborative efforts of diverse scientific disciplines and stakeholders
 - Advancing a regional One Health operational **norm**
 - Improving **understanding** of the impacts of rapid environmental change on the health of humans, animals and ecosystems of the circumpolar north



Progression

- Gather information and raise awareness:
 - Survey to establish One Health champions and One Health-interested stakeholders
 - Knowledge sharing events and activities
- Simulate collaboration, understand gaps:
 - Table-top exercises (TTXs)
- Collaborate on the ground:
 - Establishing One Health hubs
 - More (and more coordinated) trans-boundary and trans-disciplinary collaborative activities



Country, Permanent Participant (PP) Survey Responders

Country/PP	Frequency
Austria	1
Canada	81
Kingdom of Denmark	15
Finland	5
France	1
Iceland	4
Italy	1
Netherlands	1

Country/PP	Frequency
Norway	19
Poland	1
Russia	8
Sweden	5
UK	1
US	175
Unknown	9
Of these - PP members	38

CBC coverage of the survey

3/7/2016

Arctic Council launches One Health online survey - North - CBC News

Arctic Council launches One Health online survey

Aimed at helping build networks among Arctic communities

[CBC News](#) Posted: Feb 05, 2016 7:16 AM CT Last Updated: Feb 05, 2016 7:16 AM CT

The Arctic Council's One Health initiative is seeking input from northerners and Arctic researchers through [an online survey](#).

Dr. Thomas Hennessy, co-chair of the Arctic Human Health Experts Group, says the survey is aimed at helping build networks among Arctic communities by accumulating information on health issues.

The Arctic Council wants to learn more about holistic health in the North, looking at how human, animal, plant and environment factors affect health in the Arctic.

"The problems that one community may address may be very similar to what are seen in a very different part of the Arctic, so the more we are connected, the more we are sharing information, the better it is for people because we can learn from each other," he said.

Gwen Healey, executive and scientific director of the Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre in Iqaluit, said she filled out the survey and is optimistic about where it could lead.

"This will add some meaningful evidence towards maybe shifting our health systems [...] because people want to see their values in the health systems they use."

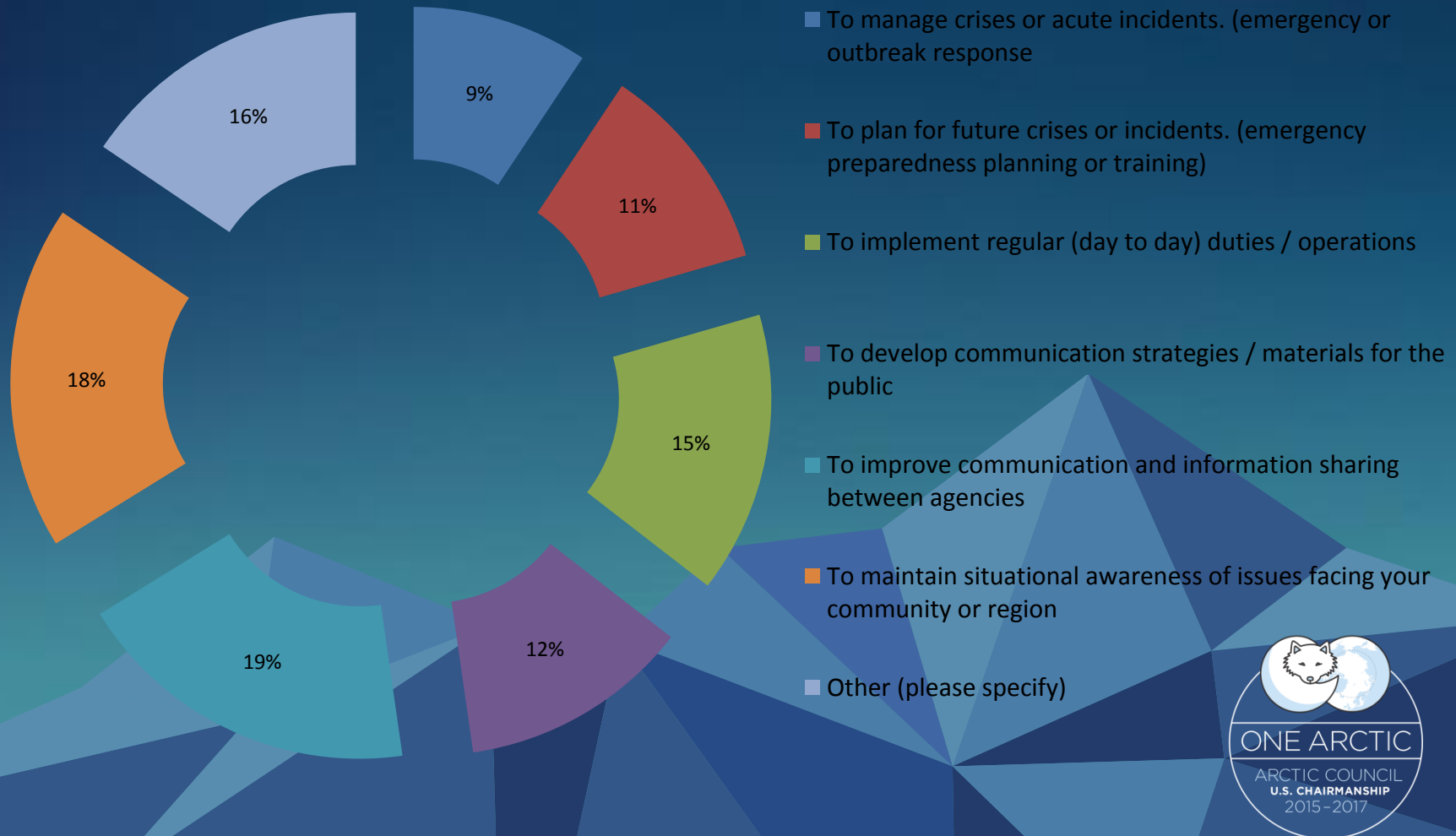


ARCTIC

ARCTIC COUNCIL
U.S. CHAIRMANSHIP
2015-2017

Notable Responses – Value

What is the primary purpose for the majority of your work with other agencies?



Other notable findings

- Near-even split of those who are/are not “familiar with a One Health approach” – but a very small minority (<25 percent) had received One Health funding or training
- More than **2 in 3** interested in doing an interview/follow-up discussion



Knowledge Sharing Activities

- Activities at:
 - June 2015 - International Congress of Circumpolar Health in Oulu, Finland
 - October 2015 - Arctic Council meetings in Anchorage, AK
 - January 2016 - Circumpolar Arctic Fulbright Conference in Hanover, New Hampshire
 - March 2016 - Arctic Science Summit Week in Fairbanks, AK
 - **February 2017 - AK Forum on the Environment**
 - April 2017 - Joint conference with Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP)



Knowledge sharing - publications

- Ruscio et al (2015) – Int'l Journal of Circumpolar Health
- 1 article out for peer review
- Glasser and Chipp (2016) – Arctic in Context blog
- 3 abstracts for forthcoming SDWG-AMAP meeting



Circumpolar Table Top Exercise

- Proven tool (“OH-SMART”) for gathering inter-sectoral partners, simulating an event of concern, assessing strengths and gaps
- Excellent method for building capacity and community
- Administered by master facilitators from USDA and the Univ. of Minnesota



Participants

40+ participants
from:

- 4 Member states (US, CAN, FIN, Kingdom of Denmark – Greenland)
- 2 Permanent Participant orgs (AIA, ICC)
- Federal as well as state/local/tribal representatives from the United States



Scenarios

Wild Fire

Acute Emergency

But, impacts on health of humans, wildlife, ecosystems

Marine Mammal Die-Off

Slower-moving event

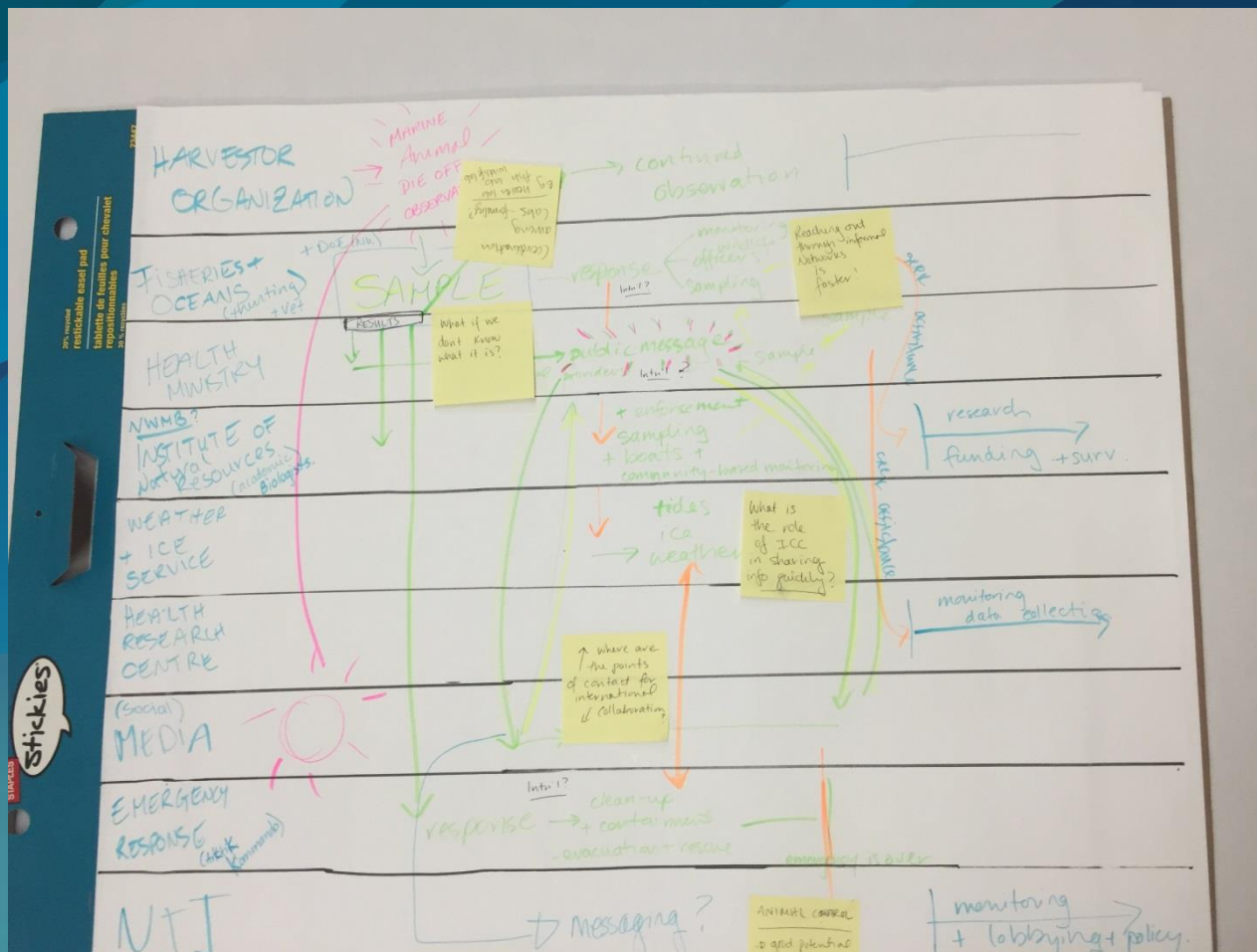
But, food safety/security implications

Method

- Use “swim lanes” to parse out roles and responsibilities
- Use “sticky notes” to highlight areas where roles are unclear or not in synch
- Create specific action plans to address these areas



Example of the method



Outcomes

- Clear-cut gap areas and plans for filling those gaps
- Formation/strengthening of networks and relationships across geographic and disciplinary boundaries
- Participants trained in OH-SMART method and expressed strong interest in repeating it in their home communities



Next Steps – Hubs and Cooperative Activities

- Table Top Exercise demonstrated the benefit of regular and recurring contact between people from different countries and sectors
- “Hubs” (or POCs) can help facilitate such contact
- Particular benefit to working on actually-observed events (e.g., from Local Env. Observers) as opposed to hypothetical scenarios



Special Thanks

- Partners and collaborators
 - CDC Arctic Investigations program
 - AK Native Tribal Health Consortium
 - EPA
 - USDA and Univ of Minnesota (OH-SMART trainers)
 - Univ of AK (Anchorage and Fairbanks)
 - Table Top Exercise participants
- International partners (especially project co-leads, Canada)

