

Questions/Evaluation Criteria used during the Canadian Workshop:

Starting with our Excel Table of activities potentially relevant to Arctic marine biodiversity (for the Coral Gables workshop, the “Dag” tables and “Russ” tables would be the starting point). The selected datasets would provide positive answers to most of these questions.

1. Which datasets have at least 5 years of past data – either due to the project/activity itself, or obtained from previous projects? (These past datasets do not need to be continuous as a set of data from several decades ago could be valuable for establishing a baseline, retrospective studies and hindcasting.)
2. Which data/activities are expected to continue for several more years?
3. Which datasets fall within our selected Focal Marine Areas?
4. Which datasets collect or measure an aspect or aspects of a Focal Ecosystem Component, or processes directly related to them? Can the dataset be used to detect change in a Focal Ecosystem Component?
5. Why are these data important for biodiversity monitoring? Do they provide information –
 - about an FEC’s role in the food web, energy transfers, trophic structure (e.g., top-down or bottom-up influences), ecosystem function generally?
 - about the sensitivity/vulnerability of an FEC to (and possible indicators of) changes in habitat or the ecosystem including ecosystem/regime shifts?
 - useful for constructing temporal trends or detecting spatial patterns?
6. What is the geographic location or track of the data, and date/time of collection?
7. What is the frequency of measurement (e.g., annually?), and the timing of collection (e.g., same time each season, different seasons?)
8. Which datasets are common across the FMAs and which are unique?
9. What Government, Indigenous and Academic priorities are supported by the dataset/activity?
10. Will the data be easy to access? Are there any restrictions?
11. Which datasets are sensitive to the identified human stressors/drivers?
12. What programs/projects exist that provide information on these human stressors?