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**Theme**

Sub- Theme 3: Operating Observing Systems and Networks

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**Poster title (brief)**

An assessment of community based monitoring in the Arctic

**Abstract - text box**

The poster presents the results of my thesis work within community based monitoring (CBM) in the Arctic. I have performed fieldwork alongside the first ever Saami led restoration project in Finland, conducted an assessment of the characteristics of Arctic CBM programmes and analysed fish stock abundance data from a “best-example” CBM case study from Greenland, in order to conclude:

1. What are the general characteristics of Arctic CBM programmes?
2. What are the most distinguishing features of CBM compared to scientific monitoring?
3. Is there a difference in the format and the results between CBM data and scientific data?

This poster is relevant to the sub-theme 3 as it amongst other addresses CBM used to guide bottom-up management of fish stocks and other wildlife.

Additionally, this thesis work feeds into the big EU project INTAROS (Integrated Arctic Observation System) and will result in a joint meta-database of Arctic scientific and CBM programmes. Thus creating an easy accessible overview of both conventional and CBM monitoring programmes in the Arctic, hopefully bringing together these two approaches.

Background: Science-driven environmental monitoring is often challenged when trying to unravel the complexities of ecosystem dynamics, especially in the Arctic where field work is extraordinarily expensive and logistically difficult. Instead novel approaches are being developed to improve the monitoring of the Arctic environment. One of these approaches is community based monitoring (CBM) which integrates local and Indigenous knowledge with scientific knowledge. CBM has been found to cost-efficiently strengthen conventional science-driven monitoring while at the same time resulting in advantageous co-benefits for the local participants and communities.