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Theme

OTHER - Topics relevant to Arctic Observing

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Poster title (brief)

Validating remote sensing products with local and indigenous observations

Abstract - text box

Remote sensing approaches provide large spatial coverage and often high repeat frequency, but require validation to effectively link the measurements to physical properties on the surface. Often the information needed for validation is hard to come by, where the remote sensing product would fill a real gap in the observational record. Indigenous and local records can fill this need for remote sensing products that are defined near coastlines, where people using the environment can provide first-hand information about the conditions.

In an effort to validate a passive microwave approach for observing sea ice extent in coastal pixels, there was a need for validation data in the fall season when darkness and persistent cloud cover made visible imagery impossible. Local records collated through the ELOKA project filled this gap, and while daily reports were not available, major events in sea ice conditions were noted which provided sufficient information to use for the validation study, especially in the early winter. Webcam and sea ice radar information supplemented these observations when available.