

Taking FARO to the Next Level



The Current Situation

FARO:

- Currently operates as a fairly independent entity.
- Has no official or legal status.
- Has an MOU with IASC
- Operates under a “Terms of Reference” document
- Holds its annual meeting during ASSW week.
- Has a web-site with member information and Arctic-relevant news.
- Has a small paid secretariat at Aarhus University, Denmark (Lillian)
- Has an Executive Committee of ~6 members that meets regularly by teleconference
- Maintains itself through annual dues from ~17 member countries

FARO SHOULD

- Be a clearing house for issues affecting Arctic operations across national boundaries
 - e.g. making everyone aware of changes in international regulations
- Be a point of contact for trans-national planning
 - who do we talk to in country X about a possible joint Arctic initiative in the continuous permafrost zone?
- Be a promoter of “best practices” in Arctic research.
- Be aware of current and future large national and trans-national initiatives
 - ie be aware of the big things coming up and try to make sure that they don't collide with each other
- Help nations and large groups negotiate the many overlapping Arctic organisations, operations, projects and initiatives.

FARO COULD

- Take a role in co-ordination of trans-national projects and programs
- Identify and promote areas where nations could benefit from more collaboration.
- Initiate studies of relevance to Arctic operations
 - e.g. identify gaps in monitoring, determine optimal sampling regimes
- Promote Arctic technology – building on the “best practices” for the Arctic
 - e.g drone/UAV technology for Arctic observations
 - Green energy initiatives adapted for polar regions
- Take an active role in advising the IASC working groups on the practicalities of Arctic observations and the opportunities that exist.

FARO Web-site

- Information on FARO – meetings, presentations, agreements, etc.
- Announcement of major national and transnational initiatives and opportunities
- Provide point of contact to national resources and personnel
- Links to major relevant documents
- Links to relevant organisations
- Discussion documents on topics of interest to Arctic Operators