

B11-O11

THE NEW ARCTIC: THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES IN AN EMERGING OCEAN

David Benton (*United States Arctic Research Commission, United States*)

davebenton@gci.net

A new ocean is emerging in the Arctic due to loss of sea ice. New ocean areas opening to potential commercial activities including commercial fishing. In the United States Arctic, managers and industry worked together to adopt a precautionary approach to commercial fishing. Recently, the five coastal states that border the Central Arctic Ocean met and agreed on a similar approach to the international waters of the CAO. In both cases, the approach was predicated on obtaining the scientific information necessary to make reasoned decisions about when, where, and how commercial fishing might occur in the future. The challenge is to develop programs to obtain such information, both at the national level for each of these states, and collectively as part of a broader international program. The author will explore the policy behind these initiatives and the possible options for future scientific programs. The opinions will be solely those of the author.