



The Arctic Institute of North America presents the 2017 – 2018

Arctic Speaker Series

Stakeholder engagement in sustained Arctic observations: Community-based observations, satellite remote sensing and participatory scenarios focusing on coastal sea ice

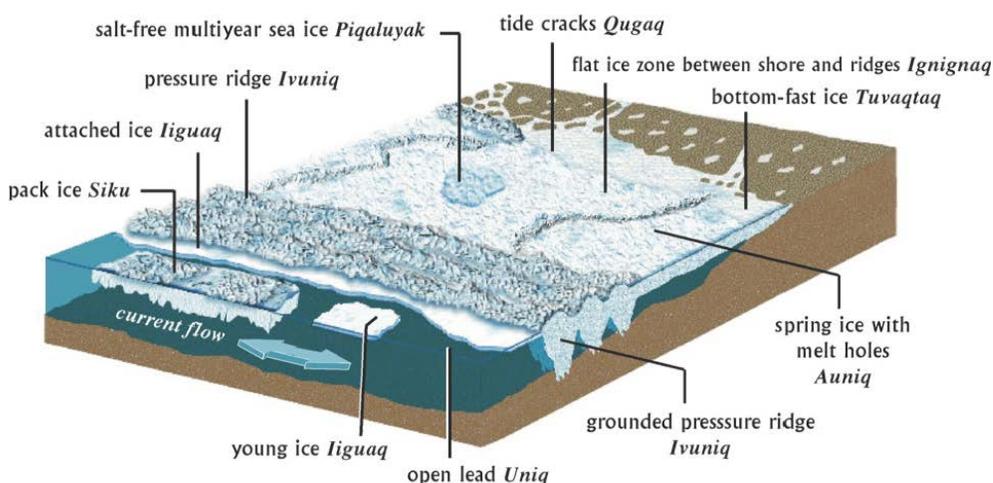
Who: Hajo Eicken

Date: Thursday, Oct. 5, 2017

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Location: University of Calgary; Social Sciences 113

While major reductions in the extent of Arctic summer sea ice have been well studied, changes in the seasonal cycle of sea ice have received less attention. Here, we discuss decadal scale changes and interannual variability in the timing of the transition seasons, spring break-up and fall freeze-up, with a focus on coastal communities in Arctic Alaska. This work has been motivated and guided by input from ice and environmental experts in a number of Alaska Arctic coastal communities. Specifically, we have developed a framework for community-based ice observations to learn more about uses of and services provided by coastal ice. In combination with in situ geophysical measurements and remote sensing we were able to obtain insights into changes in the seasonal ice cycle and their impacts on human activities, ranging from ice use by Indigenous hunters to coastal shipping or resource exploration activities. This approach has been broadened and refined through analysis of participatory scenarios examining key drivers of community health and sustainability. Input from a broad range of experts and citizens from northern Alaska indicates that linkages between sea-ice or climate change and community health and sustainability are complicated, with shifts in the seasonal ice cycle emerging as an issue of major concern.



Biography: Hajo Eicken is Professor of Geophysics and Director of the International Arctic Research Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). His research focuses on sea ice geophysics, with particular attention to Arctic coastal processes and their importance for human activities and ecosystems. He has helped build a sea-ice observatory in northern Alaska at the interface between geophysical and local knowledge of ice conditions and hazards. He heads an effort at UAF to enhance use of scientific data by stakeholders, drawing on a number of different approaches, including scenarios development and analysis. As immediate-past Chair of the

Science Steering Committee of the U.S. Study of Environmental Arctic Change (SEARCH), he has worked towards the establishment of an observing network to improve understanding and responses to rapid Arctic change.

This event is **free and open to the public**

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