

# CER-ARCTIC

## An Arctic Research Center at UAB

F. Breton\* & N. Einarsson\*\*

\*Professor Emeritus UAB

\*\* Director, Stefansson Arctic Institute,  
Akureyri, Iceland





The Arctic is not only a wilderness or resource frontier but a home to four million people

Over 40 indigenous languages spoken in the region

- Arctic circle
- Arctic boundary: AMAP
- Arctic boundary: AHDR

Source:  
Compiled by W.K. Dalgaard,  
Norwegian Polar Institute

A landscape photograph showing a wide valley with a large, calm lake in the middle ground. The foreground is a grassy, rocky plain. In the background, there are steep, brownish mountains with some snow patches. A small campsite with several colorful tents (red, blue, orange, white) is visible on the left side of the lake. The sky is overcast and grey.

# Rationale

- The Arctic has seen dramatic changes in environmental, social, and economic spheres during the last decades.
- *This requires the consideration of numerous complex developments, not just with regard to climate change.*

Abrupt climate change contributes to magnify these complex interlinkages through biophysical, cultural and social changes.



The Arctic is no longer a place of isolation : local livelihoods and global processes are closely interlinked.

The Arctic is opening up to mass tourism, providing new sources of economic opportunity, e.g., whale watching, but may create challenges for indigenous marine resource use.





An enormous challenge for societies whose welfare is reliant on sustainable resource use, healthy environments and rights to harvest local resources

Oil and gas seismic exploration has impacts on fish and cetacean behaviour and it is perceived by local communities as problematic.



CER ARCTIC aims at being a full participant in an Arctic Research paradigm which includes responsible research “with” and “for” Arctic habitants towards their well-being and sustainable futures, working together on local knowledge and a responsible science.



# The Arctic is the common responsibility of humankind !



# Research philosophy

- Responsible research with and for the local communities
- Looking at rights and social justice regarding use of maritime resources and spaces
- Pluridisciplinary and multicultural research approach
- Linking and articulating research among NETWORKS, fomenting dialogue
- CER ARCTIC as a linchpin and creative meeting place for work in synergy and open communication
- A bridge for studying similar issues in Southern latitudes such as the MEDITERRANEAN

# Research themes

**The logic of industrial megaprojects, mass tourism and interaction with traditional sectors**

**Privatization of common property resources as a tool of resource governance - Impacts and externalities**

**Human-wildlife conflicts and  
North-South relations:  
Symbolic politics and pragmatic  
conservation**



# Endangered Arctic Indigenous languages

Relationships between indigenous and experience based knowledge, and western scientific ways of knowing

Gender issues,  
Arctic youth  
and northern  
community  
long-term viability

Understanding  
peace in the  
Arctic



Contacts: Dr Françoise Breton  
[Francoise.breton@uab.cat](mailto:Francoise.breton@uab.cat)



Muchas gracias  
Moltes gràcies!  
Takk fyrir!

