Limits to Resilience Framing

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Issues

- Framing
- Stakeholder involvement
- Resilience framing
Management Goals as Climate Changes

- What are the natural resource management goals in the Arctic?
  - To prevent change?
  - To ease transitions?
  - To protect existing human communities?
  - To protect vulnerable species or areas of interest?
  - To understand changes as they occur?
  - To protect human uses?
Framing

“a basis for discussion and action.... [they] bound and order a chaotic situation, facilitate interpretation and provide a guide for doing and acting.”
Framing sets boundaries

- Influences how a problem is understood
- Highlights certain values and issues
- Defines who is included and excluded
- Triggers support and opposition
- Affects the expertise considered relevant
- Restricts the alternatives considered
- Game may be won or lost at the framing stage
Competing frames

- Different groups frame issues and problems in different ways that highlight their interests
- Frames can be manipulated to promote certain interests
- Competing frames help people to understand different ways of seeing the problem
- Framing is a dynamic process, but eventually one frame will need to be adopted, at least as a starting point
Framing interacts with stakeholders

- Framing privileges some interests over others
- Stakeholders influence the way a problem is framed
Stakeholder Issues

- Who should be involved in management planning and decisions?
- At what stages and for what purposes?
- How will their voices be heard?
Who should have a voice?

- Legal rights
- Moral rights
- Political interests
How can soft voices be heard?

- Who will speak for nature?
- For the powerless?
- For those who lack capacity?

“I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues.”
Role of new voices

- Nation States
- Non-state Actors
Resilience

- Ecosystem resilience is the capacity of an ecosystem to tolerate disturbance without collapsing into a qualitatively different state that is controlled by a different set of processes. A resilient ecosystem can withstand shocks and rebuild itself when necessary.
  - Resilience Alliance

- The ability of a system to absorb disturbance and still retain its basic function and structure
  - Walker and Salt, 20006
Resilience

- Resilient with respect to what?
  - Any change?
  - Change that affects human appreciation and uses?
  - Change that affects ecosystems?
  - Political changes?
  - Economic changes?
  - Institutional changes?
Resilience

- Human management affects natural resources
- Natural resources attract human uses
- Climate change will affect both human and natural systems
- Need management systems that are resilient to political, social, and economic shocks, as well as to bio-physical shocks
Resilience Advantages

- Contextual decisions
- Connections across scales
- Emphasis on sustainability
- Considers future needs
- Protects current resources
- Recognition of constant change
Resilience Limitations

- Focuses on present range of conditions
- Protects current state
- Manages for temporary stresses
- Focuses on bio-physical stresses
- Tends to be local
- Emphasis on biological/physical sciences
- Implies control over decisions
Conclusions

- The way Arctic natural resource problems are framed will affect the way the problems are understood, the knowledge reviewed, the alternatives considered, and the ways decisions are made.

- Stakeholders matter. Framing privileges some interests over others, and stakeholder involvement influences framing.

- Resilience framing provides some advantages but may limit the driving forces, stakeholders, expertise, institutions, and other complexities considered in Arctic resource management issues.