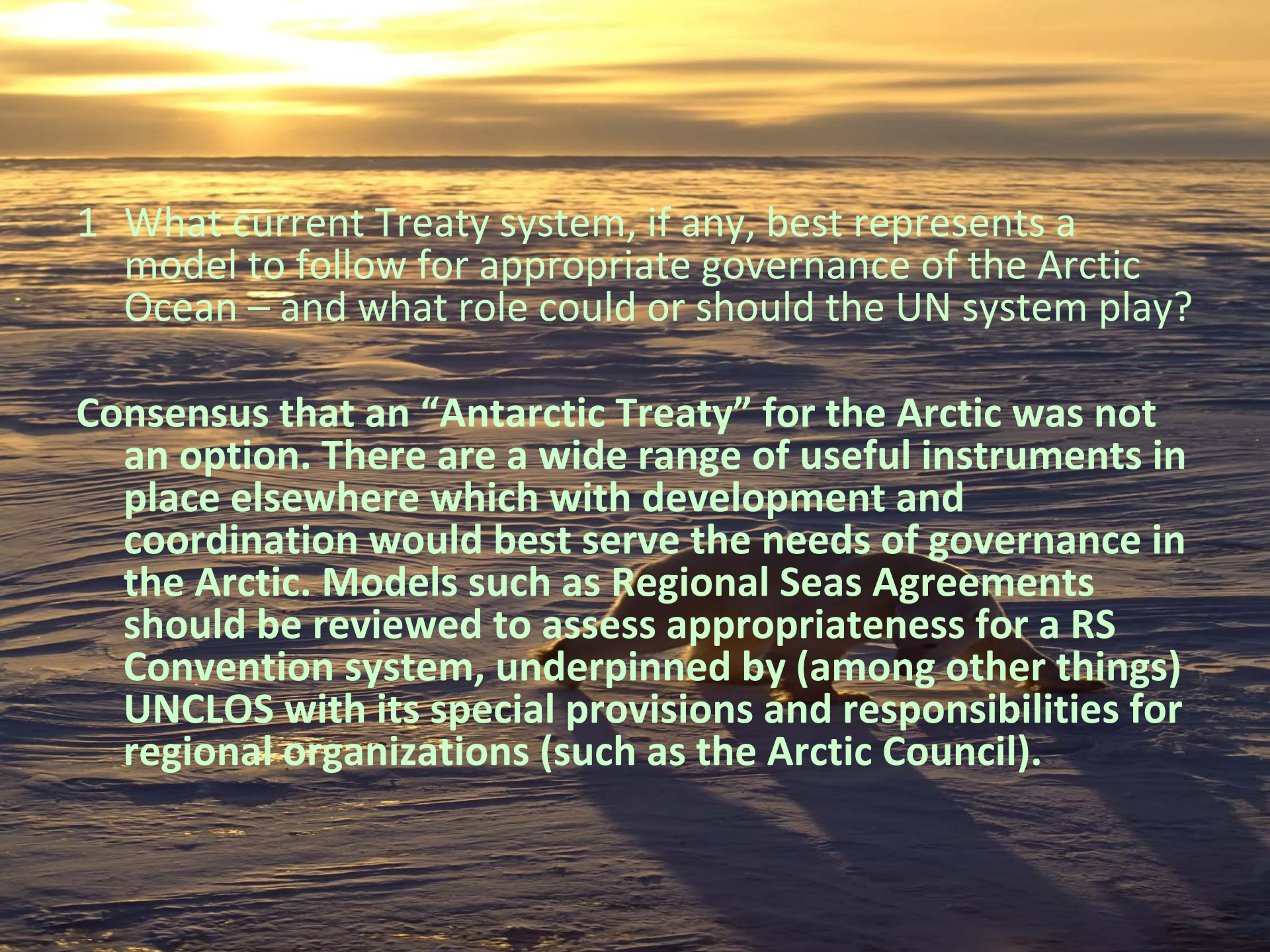




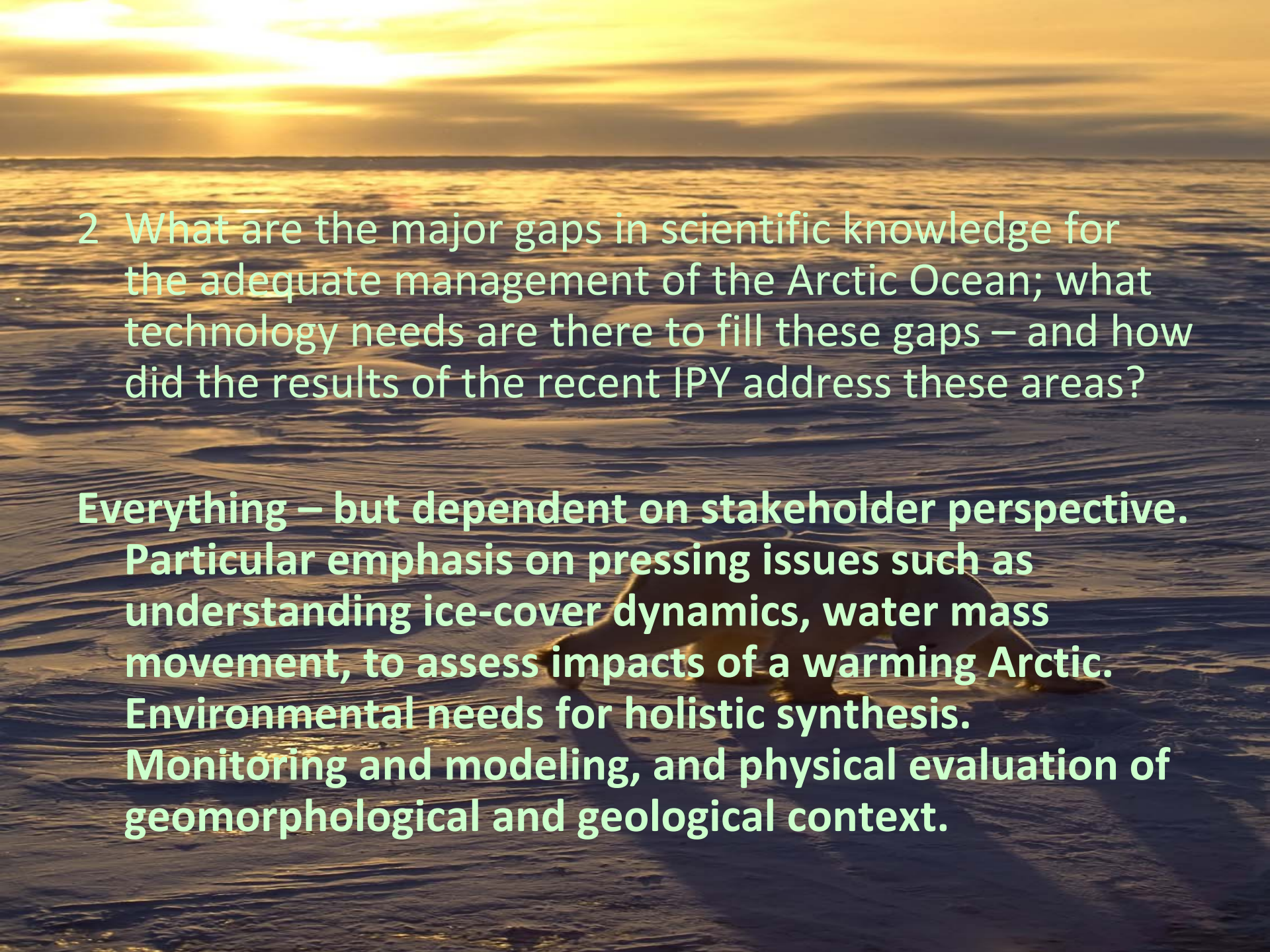
International Ocean Stewardship Forum 2009

IOSF 2009 Focus Groups - The Arctic

A sunset over the ocean with a boat's wake visible in the foreground. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and water. The water is dark blue with white foam from the boat's wake.

1 What current Treaty system, if any, best represents a model to follow for appropriate governance of the Arctic Ocean – and what role could or should the UN system play?

Consensus that an “Antarctic Treaty” for the Arctic was not an option. There are a wide range of useful instruments in place elsewhere which with development and coordination would best serve the needs of governance in the Arctic. Models such as Regional Seas Agreements should be reviewed to assess appropriateness for a RS Convention system, underpinned by (among other things) UNCLOS with its special provisions and responsibilities for regional organizations (such as the Arctic Council).

A sunset over the ocean with a whale breaching the water in the foreground. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over the water. The whale's back and tail are visible above the surface.

2 What are the major gaps in scientific knowledge for the adequate management of the Arctic Ocean; what technology needs are there to fill these gaps – and how did the results of the recent IPY address these areas?

**Everything – but dependent on stakeholder perspective.
Particular emphasis on pressing issues such as understanding ice-cover dynamics, water mass movement, to assess impacts of a warming Arctic.
Environmental needs for holistic synthesis.
Monitoring and modeling, and physical evaluation of geomorphological and geological context.**

A sunset over the ocean with a whale breaching the water. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over the sky and water. The water is dark blue with white foam from the whale's breach. The whale's back and tail are visible above the water.

3 What scale of impact is needed in order to require Environmental Impact Assessments?

5 What constitutes a "vulnerable marine ecosystem"?

Commonly EIAs dealt with under an overarching SEA, and in a domestic framework, but should be harmonized across a regional body (AC). What are practical boundaries to the Arctic, and how much acceptance would there be for an imposed system such as, for instance, CZM? As before, guidelines exist.

What about the defence 'stakeholder'?

Need to keep defence perspective in mind.

Increased interest in security aspects, as well as acknowledgement that ice-cover changes operational dynamics.



A polar bear is swimming in the ocean, with its head and front paws visible above the water. The background shows a sunset over the horizon, with the sun low and the sky filled with warm, golden light. The water is dark blue with some ripples.

6 How can joint international, multi-national and multi-disciplinary scientific studies be created and funded to address key Arctic management needs?

Extant programmes already delivering. The mechanisms exist, but need steerage. EU Arctic Vision, European national Science programmes, US, Russia and Canada positive. Norway consistently active. Coordination needed to optimize efficiency.

A sunset over the ocean with a whale breaching the water. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over the sky and water. The water is dark blue with white-capped waves. A whale is visible in the lower right, breaching the surface.

4 What are the biggest challenges to development of integrated maritime policies for the Arctic – can it serve equally the local population as well as the coastal states?

Enthusiasm within the AC need to be developed for a Regional Seas Convention to coordinate the reform of existing tools of governance and to exercise responsibilities of a regional organization. This may be the greatest challenge. Proposal that the Observer States and entities to the AC, including UNEP, deliver a set of recommendations at the AC governments meeting in November this year. AC and wider community to be informed of output from present meeting as warm-up.

A sunset over the ocean with a whale breaching the water. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over the sky and water. The water is dark blue with whitecaps. A whale is visible in the middle ground, breaching the water.

7 What is the public perception of needs for governance of the Arctic Ocean and how may they best be informed?

Outreach activities are ongoing, circulate to inner community well, but rarely to wider public. More emotive connections are made through the media use of arresting imagery and misleading presentation. Efforts should be made to, at least, ensure that ‘facts’ are correct and supportable, material (such as maps) are not over-complex and distributed widely.



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