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Statement of Interest for WAS*IS

My recent experiences in science policy and research highlight the value and necessity of integrating societal information in weather research. While at the National Academies, I led two efforts that incorporated societal information into long-range science planning documents. One of these ventures included travel to 10 Alaskan communities to discuss local concerns about the marine ecosystem; input from fisherman, subsistence hunters, and politicians helped the committee develop a core set of research priorities. I've also been developing operational medium- to long-range forecasts of ice conditions in the Arctic and Great Lakes. An important and challenging component of this work is trying to determine how best to display forecast information for stakeholders, decision-makers, and other interested parties.

While my previous experiences have highlighted the importance of societal integration, the reality is that it is a difficult endeavour done mostly ad-hoc, and that it is not highly regarded by many scientists and especially reviewers from major funding agencies. I look forward to meeting with like-minded scientists and practitioners to actually develop a community of individuals who have the desire, knowledge, and capacity to successfully integrate societal impacts into science projects.

I have been to many workshops where participants discuss great ideas and talk about how things should be done, only to see the momentum fade over time; At the conclusion of this workshop, I hope to be able to partner with several other workshop participants to develop new proposals based on the WAS*IS concepts. This will ensure a legacy for WAS*IS and begin to change the culture.