**Ice Forecasting Competency Framework**

**Regional Variations**

The national ice centres will typically apply and address regional variations in ice cover and user needs in their production environment.

This may include but are not limited to the following:

 Agreed and documented criteria and thresholds

 The range of environmental factors, including but not restricted to:

o Ice types

o Ice-related hazards

o Permanent/semi-permanent local occurrences (e.g. gyres and polynyas)

o Tides, sea level and storm surge

o Sea currents and drifting of ice

o Sea-surface temperature and salinity where required

 Appreciation of the types and use of forecast guidance

 Local climatology

 Designated offices responsible for advice on meteorology, sea ice, lake and river ice, icebergs, oceanography

 Regional regulations

 Boundaries of forecast and warning areas

 Communication language(s)

 Communications technology for forecast and warning transmission, and for ice briefings

 Forecast database(s) utilized –gridded/text/graphical/digital, etc.

 Extent of automation of observing and sensing system