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Building information into prediction for the Cryosphere

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The full success of IPY requires that we convert our discoveries and data as rapidly as possible into predictive skill. The breadth of IPY science, and the well-recognized unpredictability of biological or geophysical systems during periods of extreme stress or rapid change, make the prediction process more challenging, but the requirements of a prediction process will advance communication and impact of Cryospheric science like no other activity. Producing a useful Cryosphere prediction entails substantial risk (and requires changes in thinking and funding), but prediction focus and frameworks help us think operationally, assess the timeliness and quality of observations, develop and use assimilation schemes, and identify and meet user needs. Using Cryosphere prediction examples from IPY, I will show that the prediction framework can also accelerate and enhance Cryosphere science.