Atlantic Plastics 2026

Third International Symposium on Marine Plastic Pollution

Arctic to the Antarctic

#AtlanticPlastics

Harpa Conference Centre, 20–22 October 2026

Program | All times are in GMT

FOR SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS

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Conference Presenter: Hlynur Guðjónsson, Director Arctic Affairs, Senior Arctic Official, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Iceland

DAY 1 Tuesday, 20 October 2026

08:00–09:30 — **Registration, Harpa 2nd floor in Eyri**

09:30–11:30 — **PLENARY: Welcoming, Opening Addresses and a keynote speech**

Silfurberg · Moderator: Hlynur Guðjónsson, Director Arctic Affairs, Senior Arctic Official, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Iceland

- Opening Address by Jóhann Páll Jóhannsson, Minister of the Environment, Energy and Climate
- Video Address by Ambassador Julio Cordano, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution
- Address by Dr Malika Chlaida, Research Director and Scientific Committee Coordinator, National Institute of Fisheries Research (INRH), Morocco
- Video Address by H.E. Mr Costas Kadis, Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans of the European Union
- Video Address by H.E. Mr Rivetla Edipo Araujo Cruz, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Federative Republic of Brazil
- Address by Ms Radia Razack, Deputy Director General, Chief Directorate Integrated Coastal Management, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment of the Republic of South Africa
- Video address by Mr Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, France's Ambassador for Polar and Maritime Issues
- Address by Guðmundur Kristjánsson, CEO, Brim, on behalf of Fisheries Iceland
- Introduction to a **'Message in a Bottle'** by Arnór Þórir Sigfússon, Animal Ecologist, Verkís
- Introduction to 'From Knowledge to Action Interactive Survey'

11:30–12:25 — Lunch hosted by the Nordic Council of Ministers · Hörpuhorn

12:25–17:30 — Two parallel sessions on thematic discussions, Themes 1 & 2

12:25–15:00 — PARALLEL SESSIONS

THEME 1

Innovative plastic pollution monitoring and assessment across multi-scales

Silfurberg A

Moderator: Hrönn Jörundsdóttir, Director General, Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority
Rapporteur: Sólveig Rósa Ólafsdóttir, Ocean Chemist, Marine and Freshwater Research Institute

12:25–12:45	Keynote speaker *Dr. Thomais Vlachogianni, Head of Science, Research & Policy, MIO-ECSDE*
12:45–13:00	First systematic tracking of plastiglomerate in the southwestern Atlantic Ocean. *Fernanda Avelar Santos, São Paulo State University (UNESP)*
13:00–13:15	Development of a new OSPAR common indicator for microlitter (including microplastics) on the seafloor – from development to first pilot assessment. *Adil Bakir, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas)*
13:15–13:30	Advanced Beach Litter Monitoring Across Scales: Harmonisation, Source Assessment, and Indicator Development in the OSPAR Region. *Eva Blidberg, Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation*
13:30–13:45	Multidimensional Assessment of Beach Litter Pollution in the Northeast Atlantic. *Juan Ceballo, University of Cadiz*
13:45–14:00	Method development for microplastic detection in fish fillet. *France Collard, Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA)*
14:00–14:15	From Citizen Science to Action: What 1 Million Citizen Science Findings Reveal About Norway's Litter Challenge. *Malin Stapnes Dahl, Keep Norway Beautiful*
14:15–14:30	From clean-up to science: an in-depth diagnostic approach to Arctic marine litter. *Barbara Jóźwiak, forScience Foundation*
14:30–14:45	Cory's shearwater fledglings: A new indicator of plastic pollution in remote Atlantic waters. *Christopher Kim Pham, Research Associate, University of the Azores, Institute of Marine Sciences – OKEANOS*
14:45–15:00	Integrated Monitoring of Macro- and Mesoplastics on Urban Oslofjord Beaches: Evaluating OSPAR and Mesoplastic Protocols. *Amy Lusher, Norwegian Institute for Water Research*

THEME 2

Modelling sources, pathways and fate of plastics in the environment

Silfurberg B

Moderator: Camilla Scharff-Olsen, Science Department Officer, ICES – International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
Rapporteur: Katrín Sóley Bjarnadóttir, Specialist, Ocean and Water Unit, Icelandic Environment and Energy Agency

12:25–12:45	Keynote speaker *Andrés Cózar Cabañas, Head, Marine Litter Lab*
12:45–13:00	Wet wipes in untreated wastewater are a source of litter pollution to the Arctic marine environment – A case study on the loads of litter and microplastics in wastewater effluents in Greenland. *Lis Bach, Aarhus University*
13:00–13:15	A New Trick Up Our Sleeves? Reconstructing Background Atmospheric Deposition from Remote Lake Sediments. *Mathis Blache, University of Iceland*
13:15–13:30	Modelling Marine Litter in the Irish waters. *Sara Cloux, Marine Institute*
13:30–13:45	Including decision makers in development of cost-efficient litter monitoring – A three step process. *Jannike Falk-Andersson, UiT Arctic University of Norway*
13:45–14:00	Towards a standard practice for microplastics identification in snow and ice samples: a systematic review. *Sydney Fox, Reykjavik University / University of Iceland*
14:00–14:15	Co-exposure of microplastics and endocrine-disrupting chemicals in subantarctic seabirds. *Joana Fragão, University of Coimbra – CFE*
14:15–14:30	Citizen science reveals Iceland's first baseline of floating microplastics to support marine protection. *Belén García Ovide, University of Iceland*
14:30–14:45	Sea ice and fresh water regulate what you find in Arctic surface seawater. *Ingeborg Hallanger, Norwegian Polar Institute*
14:45–15:00	Evidence of Microplastic Ingestion in Ringed Seals (Pusa hispida) from the Canadian Arctic. *Haylee Hatton, MacEwan University*

15:00–15:30 Coffee break hosted by VERKÍS · Hörpuhorn

15:30–17:30 — PARALLEL SESSIONS

THEME 1

Innovative plastic pollution monitoring and assessment across multi-scales (cont.)

Silfurberg A

15:30–15:45 Using High-Resolution Drone Imagery and Machine Learning to Support Beach Litter Monitoring in Remote Arctic Areas. *Carolin Leluschko, German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence GmbH*

15:45–16:00 Advancing Marine Microplastic Monitoring: Raman Spectral Mapping Combined with Machine Learning. *Lara Mikac, Rudjer Boskovic Institute*

16:00–16:15 Reconstructing a Century of Microplastic Pollution Using Sediment Cores. *Rocío Quintana, University of Cádiz*

16:15–16:30 From Stakeholder Needs to Monitoring Practice: Best-Practice Guidance for Drone-Based Beach Litter Monitoring in the Arctic. *Marc Schnurawa, BioConsult SH GmbH & Co. KG*

16:30–16:45 Advances in Seafloor Litter Research: From Detection to Environmental Assessment. *Josie Russell, Centre of Environment for Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas)*

16:45–17:00 Plastic chemicals in tissues of Arctic animals with and without ingested plastics. *Katrin Vorkamp, Aarhus University*

17:00–17:15 Contribution to the Assessment of Microplastics in the Digestive Tract of Small Pelagic Fish from the North Atlantic of Morocco. *Asia Ben Haddouch, Institute National de Recherche Halieutique*

17:15–17:30 Microplastics contamination in Isinuka Springs and CO2 seeping freshwater systems in South Africa: A baseline study. *Thendo Mutshekwa, Rhodes University*

THEME 2

Modelling sources, pathways and fate of plastics in the environment (cont.)

Silfurberg B

15:30–15:45 Microplastics in glaciers: Atmospheric Transport and Fate of Microplastics in Vatnajökull. *Fleur van Bemmel, University of Iceland*

15:45–16:00 Citizen Science for our Polar Oceans: a hybrid cruise ship-citizen science-university-NGO partnership to rapidly expand geographic microplastic/microfiber concentration, potential source knowledge in surface water and air in the Arctic and Antarctica and public engagement. *Rachael Miller, Rozalia Project for a Clean Ocean*

16:00–16:15 Patterns in marine litter in northern Canada across regions between 2017 and 2025. *Jennifer Provencher, Environment and Climate Change Canada*

16:15–16:30 Towards a Harmonised Global Beach Litter Monitoring Protocol: Integrating IAEA, UNEP, and GESAMP Approaches at Strandfontein, South Africa. *Keshnee Pillay, Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment*

16:30–16:45 Sampling volume as a source of methodological bias in microplastic concentration estimates. *Miguel Jorge Sánchez-Guerrero-Hernández, University of Cádiz, UCA – INMAR, Department of Biology*

16:45–17:00 Tracing Microplastic Inputs and Environmental Pathways in Rural Iceland Using Lake Sediment Archives and Glacier Snow Cores. *Ásta Margrét Ásmundsdóttir, University of Akureyri, Iceland*

17:00–17:15 Distribution of Chemicals of Emerging Arctic Concern in the Canadian Arctic. *Aaron McQuaid, Toronto Metropolitan University*

17:15–17:30 Invisible Invaders: Micro-nanoplastic Accumulation in Atlantic Herring (Clupea harengus) in Icelandic Waters. *Kaylin Rose Nickels, University of Iceland*

17:30–19:30

Reception hosted by the Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Climate & Ministry of Industries · Hörpuhorn

DAY 2 Wednesday, 21 October 2026

08:30–12:30 — Two parallel sessions on thematic discussions, Themes 3 & 4

08:30–10:05 — PARALLEL SESSIONS

THEME 3

Assessing impacts of plastic pollution

Silfurberg A

Moderator: Jóhann Sigurjónsson, former Director, Marine Research Institute
Rapporteur: Lis Bach, University of Aarhus

08:30–08:50	Keynote speaker *Gunn-Britt Retter, Head of Arctic and Environmental Unit, Saami Council*
08:50–09:05	Biodiversity and Plastics: What's the Risk? Expert Elicitation and Spatial Mapping in Fiji. *Bella Charlesworth, University of New South Wales (Australia) and Central European University (Austria)*
09:05–09:20	CoDesigning Coastal Impact Assessments of Plastic Pollution: Lessons from TREASURE's Living Labs. *Maëlle Montier, Nausicaa*
09:20–09:35	Gannets in a Plastic World. *Sindri Gíslason, Southwest Iceland Nature Research Centre*
09:35–09:50	Floating 'Plastisphere' in the Pacific-Arctic Ocean and the western North Pacific. *Takahito Ikenoue, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC)*
09:50–10:05	Trapped in trash: Entanglement of terrestrial Svalbard reindeer (Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus) in marine debris. *Marthe Larsen Haarr, Salt Lofoten AS*

THEME 4

Circular economy, innovation, and industry solutions

Silfurberg B

Moderator: Wouter-Jan Strietman, Wageningen Social & Economic Research
Rapporteur: Georg Haney, Fishing Gear Specialist, Marine and Freshwater Research Institute

08:30–08:50	Keynote speaker *Haraldur Einarsson, Senior Scientist, Marine and Freshwater Research Institute & Fishing Gear Expert, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*
08:50–09:05	Do We Know Enough About Plastic Flows in Aquaculture? A Comprehensive Material Flow Analysis of Plastics in Norway's Sea-Based Aquaculture Sector. *Toluse Priscilla Ashaolu, NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology*
09:05–09:20	Navigating knowledge gaps: Towards a quantitative assessment of plastic emissions from commercial shipping. *Maartje Folbert, Open Universiteit*
09:20–09:35	Ocean Innovations to Tackle Plastic Pollution and Its Impact on Marine Biodiversity in West Africa. *Peter Teye Busumprah, Ocean Rock Base*
09:35–09:50	Plastic waste from oral healthcare clinics: leakage pathways and relevance to Arctic and marine environments – updated scientific data. *Anne Margrete Gussgard, UiT The Arctic University of Norway*
09:50–10:05	Untangling marine debris impacts on southeast Alaska's coastlines. *Zofia Danielson, Sitka Sound Science Center*

10:05–10:30 Coffee break hosted by the EU Delegation to Iceland · Hörpuhorn

10:30–12:30 — PARALLEL SESSIONS

THEME 3

Assessing impacts of plastic pollution (cont.)

Silfurberg A

10:30–10:45	Tracking Wildlife–Plastic Interactions Through Citizen Science. *Diana M. Matos, Aarhus University*
10:45–11:00	Plastic pollution: Effects on Arctic animals. *Jennifer Provencher, Environment and Climate Change Canada*

THEME 4

Circular economy, innovation, and industry solutions (cont.)

Silfurberg B

10:30–10:45	From Evidence to Action? Examining the Knowledge Base for Extended Producer Responsibility in Norway's Aquaculture Sector. *Paritosh Chakor Deshpande, NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology*

11:00–11:15	Jellies – microplastics ferries? Diel shifts in microplastic burden of gelatinous zooplankton across the water column, Scotia Sea. *Alena Sakovich, British Antarctic Survey / University of Durham*
11:15–11:30	Assessment of plasticizer contamination in sicklefin devil rays (Mobula tarapacana) from the remote Azores Archipelago. *Lena Schaffeld, Okeanos Research Institute*
11:30–11:45	Abundance and diversity of microplastic polymers in coastal regions of South Africa. *Anusha Rajkaran, University of the Western Cape*
11:45–12:00	Tracing Plastic-Associated Chemical Exposure from Coastal Systems to Seafood: Evidence from African Marine Environments. *Stacey Webb, Sustainable Seas Trust*
12:00–12:15	Shipping, Contaminants, and Plastics: Understanding a growing environmental pressure across the Circumpolar North. *Bonnie Hamilton, University of Ottawa*
12:15–12:30	Where sea turtles meet litter: assessing exposure risk across the Atlantic. *Josué Viejo Marín, University of Cadiz*

10:45–11:00	Studying Temporal Trends of Microplastic Pollution in the St. Lawrence River Basin: a Case Study. *Iselle Flores Ruiz, Ocean Diagnostics Inc*
11:00–11:15	The Ones that Get Away: Investigating the Leaching of Persistent, Mobile, and Toxic Plastic Additives from New and Weathered Plastic Products. *Eric Fries, Toronto Metropolitan University*
11:15–11:30	Citizens of a Changing Coast: A Socio-ecological Analysis of Marine Plastic Pollution in Scottish Island Communities. *Chloe McKenna, Hebridean Coastal Stories*
11:30–11:45	Quantifying Coastal Restoration and Plastic Leakage Reduction through Community-Integrated Systems: Evidence from the RestorationX10000 Initiative (2021–2025) in LMIC Contexts. *Ahmed Tiamiyu, Community Action Against Plastic Waste (CAPws)*
11:45–12:00	Recycling of plastics and use of biodegradable materials in Fisheries. *Christian Karl, SINTEF Industry*
12:00–12:15	Connecting Communities & Cleaning Coastlines Through the Arctic Cleanup Project. *Kristina Tirman, Ocean Conservancy, Ingeborg Rønning, Hold Norge Rent & Christina Koch, Stiftelsen Vårt Hav*

12:30–13:25 Lunch hosted by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Iceland · Hörpuhorn

13:25–17:30 — Two parallel sessions on thematic discussions, Themes 5 & 6

13:25–15:15 — PARALLEL SESSIONS

THEME 5

Mitigation, management, and restoration

Silfurberg A

Moderator: Katrin Vorkamp, Professor, Department of Environmental Science, Aarhus University
Rapporteur: Keshnee Pillay, Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment, South Africa

13:25–13:45	Keynote speaker *Carmen Antuña Rozado, Climate Resilient Communities, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd*
13:45–14:00	Greening the Blue: A Multi-Criteria Decision-Making Framework for Circular Fishing Gear Management in Norway. *Paritosh Chakor Deshpande, NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology*
14:00–14:15	The Circular Economy of Fishing Gear in Nordic Fisheries. *Haraldur Einarsson, MFRI*
14:15–14:30	Wishcycling to Recycling – A Tourists' Study. *Audrey Matthews, University of Akureyri*
14:30–14:45	The role of regenerative design practice in reducing plastic pollution from net mending. *Jannike Falk-Andersson, UiT Arctic University of Norway*

THEME 6

Science-policy interface and capacity building

Silfurberg B

Moderator: Bergþóra Njála Guðmundsdóttir, Director General, Department of International Affairs, Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Climate
Rapporteur: Sæmundur Sveinsson, Icelandic Environment and Energy Agency

13:25–13:45	Keynote speaker *Dr. Thomas Maes, SEAMOHT Ltd.*
13:45–14:00	Alaska Pacific University Microplastics Research and Education Center: Partnering with NASA. *Dee Barker, Alaska Pacific University*
14:15–14:30	Invisible emissions at sea: Fishing gear abrasion and Global Plastics Treaty (GPT) responses. *Emily Cowan, SINTEF Ocean*
14:30–14:45	Beyond Collection: Lessons from Beach Cleanup Initiatives in Brazil. *Johanna Franke, Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network*
14:45–15:00	The Integrated Marine Debris Observing System: Coordinated global monitoring to support research and decision-making. *Amy Lusher, Norwegian Institute for Water Research*

14:45–15:00 Technological Readiness for Environmental Impact: Global policy is only as effective as the available technological alternatives. *Thelma Gonzalez Cruz, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)*

15:00–15:15 Recycling fishing gear: Building circular pathways for marine plastics in Scotland. *Zoe Scott-Green, KIMO International*

15:00–15:15 A Collaborative and Scalable Framework for Arctic Marine Litter: Design and Implementation of the Alaska Marine Debris Action Plan. *Peter Murphy, NOAA Marine Debris Program*

15:15–15:45 Coffee break hosted by the EU Delegation to Iceland · Hörpuhorn

15:45–17:30 — PARALLEL SESSIONS

THEME 5

Mitigation, management, and restoration (cont.)

Silfurberg A

15:45–16:00 De-Implementing Household Plastic Waste Burning: Effectiveness of a Community-Led Behavior Change Intervention in Rural Villages in Jalapa, Guatemala. *Margaret Handley, University of California San Francisco*

16:00–16:15 Environmental Guardians: A community-based model for waste prevention and ocean stewardship in Arctic regions. *Christina Koch, Our Ocean Foundation / Stiftelsen Vårt Hav*

16:15–16:30 Indigenous Youth-Led Eco-Literacy and Community-Based Solutions to Plastic Pollution in Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems. *Justin Langan, O'KANATA*

16:30–16:45 Ethnoknowledge of Ghost Fishing (ALDFG) in the Delta do Parnaíba Environmental Protection Area – Brazilian Equatorial Margin. *Cezar Fernandes, Federal University of Delta of Parnaiba (UFDPar)*

16:45–17:00 Tire and Road Wear and Tire-Derived Substances in the Aquatic Environment: Selected Exposure Scenarios and Retention Options (RAseR). *Ludowika Kattner, University of Applied Science RheinMain*

17:00–17:15 Persistence: when volunteers become unpaid infrastructure. *Maurizio Milesi, Independent Documentary Photographer*

THEME 6

Science-policy interface and capacity building (cont.)

Silfurberg B

15:45–16:00 Fishing-related marine debris in Ghana: is it really a problem? *Peter Randall, Cefas – Centre of Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science*

16:00–16:15 From Local Knowledge to Action: Strengthening Capacity Through Arctic Cleanup Collaboration. *Ingeborg Rønning, Keep Norway Beautiful & Kristina Tirman, Ocean Conservancy*

16:15–16:30 Governance and stakeholder perspectives for micro- and nanoplastic mitigation: a One Health approach from the Helgeland Water Region in Northern Norway. *Salina Magdalena Spiering, Nordland Research Institute*

16:30–16:45 Determination of activity and geographic sources of marine litter: improving methods to support policy-making and evaluate measures effectiveness. *Nicola Marlene Jesus Pestana, Regional Directorate of Environment and the Sea (DRAM) in Madeira Island*

16:45–17:00 The importance of including car tire particles in microplastic monitoring. *Marie-Fleurine Olsen, Norwegian Environment Agency*

17:00–17:15 Low-cost preventative measures can effectively mitigate microplastic release from scientific research facilities in Antarctica. *Aanchal Jain, British Antarctic Survey*

17:15–17:30 Large scale monitoring of marine macrolitter. *Georg Hanke, European Commission Joint Research Centre*

DAY 3 Thursday, 22 October 2026

08:30–09:15 — **Indigenous Approaches for Actionable Solutions to Plastics Pollution**

Panel discussion · Moderator: Lauren Divine, Aleut International Association, Permanent Participant representative

- Kukik Baker, Inuit scholar, Executive Director of the Arviat Aqqiumavvik Society and founder of Ujjiqsuiniq Young Hunters Program
- Alana Wilcox, Métis scholar, University of Ottawa
- Shankell Mack, Unangax̂ scholar, Environmental Coordinator for the Aleut International Association

09:15–09:45 — **Preventing Marine Litter Through Circular Fishing Gear Systems**

Panel discussion · Moderator: Sandra Brá Jóhannsdóttir, Icelandic Recycling Fund

- Peter Buhl, Input and Logistics Manager, Plastix
- Marthe Amundsen Brodahl, ESG Director, Hampiðjan Group

09:45–10:15 — Coffee break hosted by VERKÍS · Hörpuhorn

10:15–11:00 — **Main Messages from Thematic Presentations**

Moderator: Magnús Jóhannesson, Chair of the Scientific Steering Committee

- Theme 1: Sólveig Rósa Ólafsdóttir, Ocean Chemist, Marine and Freshwater Research Institute
- Theme 2: Katrín Sóley Bjarnadóttir, Specialist, Ocean and Water Unit, Icelandic Environment and Energy Agency
- Theme 3: Lis Bach, University of Aarhus
- Theme 4: Georg Haney, Fishing Gear Specialist, Marine and Freshwater Research Institute
- Theme 5: Keshnee Pillay, Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment, South Africa
- Theme 6: Sæmundur Sveinsson, Icelandic Environment and Energy Agency

11:00–11:10 — **Summary from the Conference 'MACRO to NANO'**

Thomas Maes, SEAMOHT Ltd

11:10–12:20 — **From Knowledge to Action Interactive Survey**

Panel discussion on the survey outcomes with keynote speakers · Moderator: Thomas Maes, SEAMOHT Ltd

- Thomais Vlachogianni, Head of Science, Research & Policy, MIO-ECSDE
- Gunn-Britt Retter, Head of Arctic and Environmental Unit, Saami Council
- Haraldur Einarsson, Senior Scientist, Marine and Freshwater Research Institute & Fishing Gear Expert, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Carmen Antuña Rozado, Climate Resilient Communities, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd
- Wouter-Jan Strietman, Wageningen Social & Economic Research

12:20–12:30 — **Symposium Closing Remarks**

Martin Eyjólfsson, Permanent Secretary of State, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

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