

Atlantic Plastics 2026

Third International Symposium on Marine Plastic Pollution

Arctic to the Antarctic

#AtlanticPlastics

Harpa Conference Centre, 20-22 October 2026

Draft programme — 12 August 2026 | All times are in GMT

Conference Presenter: TBD

DAY 1

Tuesday, 20 October 2026

08:30-09:30

Registration, Harpa 2nd floor

09:30-11:30

PLENARY: Welcoming, Opening Addresses and a keynote speech — including an opening address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, Mrs. Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir.

👤 Silfurberg

11:30-12:30

🍽️ Lunch · Hörpuhorn

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

12:30-15:00 — 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: TBD

12:30-12:50

Keynote Speaker *Dr. Thomas Vlachogianni*

12:50-13:05

First systematic tracking of plastiglomerate in the southwestern Atlantic Ocean. *Fernanda Avelar Santos, São Paulo State University (UNESP)*

13:05-13:20

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)*

13:20-13:35

Advanced Beach Litter Monitoring Across Scales: Harmonisation, Source Assessment, and Indicator Development in the OSPAR Region. *Eva Blidberg, Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation*

13:35-13:50

Multidimensional Assessment of Beach Litter Pollution in the Northeast Atlantic. *Juan Ceballo, University of Cadiz*

13:50-14:05

Method development for microplastic detection in fish fillet. *France Collard, Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA)*

14:05-14:20

From Citizen Science to Action: What 1 Million Citizen Science Findings Reveal About Norway's Litter Challenge. *Malin Stapnes Dahl, Keep Norway Beautiful*

14:20-14:35

From clean-up to science: an in-depth diagnostic approach to Arctic marine litter. *Barbara Jóźwiak, forScience Foundation*

14:35-14:50

Cory's shearwater fledglings: A new indicator of plastic pollution in remote Atlantic waters. *Christopher Kim Pham (tbc)*

14:50-15:00

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 in Team for Ocean and Water, Environment Agency of Iceland

12:30-12:50

Keynote speaker *Dr. Delphine Lobelle (TBC)*

12:50-13:05

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*

13:05-13:20

Four-Dimensional Modelling of Microplastics in Pingvallavatn, Iceland's Largest Lake. *Mathis Blache, University of Iceland*

13:20-13:35

Modelling Marine Litter in the Irish waters. *Sara Cloux, Marine Institute*

13:35-13:50

Including decision makers in development of cost-efficient litter monitoring – A three step process. *Jannike Falk-Andersson, UiT Arctic University of Norway*

13:50-14:05

Towards a standard practice for microplastics identification in snow and ice samples: a systematic review. *Sydney Fox, Reykjavik University / University of Iceland*

14:05-14:20

Co-exposure of microplastics and endocrine-disrupting chemicals in subantarctic seabirds. *Joana Fragão, University of Coimbra – CFE*

14:20-14:35

Citizen science reveals Iceland's first baseline of floating microplastics to support marine protection. *Belén García Ovide, University of Iceland*

14:35-14:50

Sea ice and fresh water regulate what you find in Arctic surface seawater. *Ingeborg Hallanger, Norwegian Polar Institute*

14:50-15:00

Evidence of Microplastic Ingestion in Ringed Seals (*Pusa hispida*) from the Canadian Arctic. *Haylee Hatton, MacEwan University*

15:00-15:30

☕ Coffee break · 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. *Carolín 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. *Ali Benhra, National Institute of Fisheries Research*

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

Ecological effects of micro/nanoplastics on plant-associated food webs. *Ilyas Muhammad, Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences*

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 · 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: TBD

08:30-08:50

Keynote speaker *TBD*

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

Navigating knowledge gaps: towards a quantitative assessment of plastic emissions from international shipping. *Maartje Folbert, Open Universiteit*

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: TBD

08:30-08:50

Keynote speaker *Haraldur Einarsson, Senior Scientist, Marine and Freshwater Research Institute & Fishing Gear Expert, 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

From Coast to Policy: Advancing Plastic Pollution Prevention Through Regulatory Innovation. *Lilly Woodbury, Surfrider Foundation Canada (tbc)*

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

The Design Against Litter Guide: how design can prevent litter. *Malin Stapnes Dahl, Hold Norge Rent*

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 · 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*

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*

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*

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 Tihami, Community Action Against Plastic Waste (CAPws)*

11:45-12:00

A Novel Mechanochemistry Treatment for Sustainable Plastic Waste Management. *Jessica Zhang, University of North Texas (tbc)*

12:00-12:15

Recycling of plastics and use of biodegradable materials in Fisheries. *Christian Karl, SINTEF Industry, Forskningsveien 1, 0373 Oslo*

12:15-12:30

Connecting Communities & Cleaning Coastlines Through the Arctic Cleanup Project. *Kristina Tirman, Ocean Conservancy*

12:30-13:30

🍽️ Lunch · Hörpuhorn

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

13:30-15:15 — 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

13:30-13:50

Keynote speaker *TBD*

13:50-14:05

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*

14:05-14:20

The Circular Economy of Fishing Gear in Nordic Fisheries. *Haraldur Einarsson, MFRI*

14:20-14:35

Wishcycling to Recycling – A Tourists' Study. *Audrey Matthews, University of Akureyri*

14:35-14:50

The role of regenerative design practice in reducing plastic pollution from net mending. *Jannike Falk-Andersson, UiT Arctic University of Norway*

14:50-15:05

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) (tbc)*

15:05-15:15

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

THEME 6**Science-policy interface and capacity building**

👤 Silfurberg B

Moderator: TBD Rapporteur: TBD

13:30-13:50

Keynote speaker *Dr. Thomas Maes, SEAMOHT Ltd.*

13:50-14:05

Alaska Pacific University Microplastics Research and Education Center: Partnering with NASA. *Dee Barker, Alaska Pacific University*

14:05-14:20

Youth as Agents of Change in Ocean Governance: Building Capacity for Young People to Lead on Plastic Pollution and Marine Environmental Policy. *Manal Bidar, Water Youth Network*

14:20-14:35

Invisible emissions at sea: Fishing gear abrasion and Global Plastics Treaty (GPT) responses. *Emily Cowan, SINTEF Ocean*

14:35-14:50

Beyond Collection: Lessons from Beach Cleanup Initiatives in Brazil. *Johanna Franke, Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network*

14:50-15:05

The Integrated Marine Debris Observing System: Coordinated global monitoring to support research and decision-making. *Amy Lusher, Norwegian Institute for Water Research*

15:05-15:15

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 · 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

Communicating Microplastics in the digital age: Global Perspectives on People and Practices. *Lesley Henderson, University of Strathclyde*

16:15-16:30

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

16:30-16:45

Indigenous Youth-Led Eco-Literacy and Community-Based Solutions to Plastic Pollution in Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems. *Justin Langan, O'KANATA (tbc)*

16:45-17:00

Ethnoknowledge of Ghost Fishing (ALDFG) in the Delta do Parnaíba Environmental Protection Area – Brazilian Equatorial Margin. *Cezar Fernandes, Federal University of Delta of Parnaíba (UFDPAr)*

17:00-17:15

Rights, Resilience & Arctic Frontlines: Local Voices, Global Resonance. *Michelle Calcatelli, Artica Svalbard (for Phase I)*

17:15-17:30

Care as Resistance. *Maurizio Milesi, In the Same Boat (tbc)*

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

When Does EPR Work? Cost, Logistics, and Material Constraints in Circular Plastic Systems — Evidence from Aquaculture Netting in Norway. *Rasa Zuzeviciute, NTNU – Norwegian University of Science and Technology*

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

08:30-09:00

Actionable and innovative solutions to inform policy, strengthen stewardship, and advance effective responses to plastic pollution at local, regional, and global scales

09:00-09:45

Main Messages from Thematic Presentations

09:45-09:55

Summary from the Conference 'MACRO to NANO' — Dr. Thomas Maes, SEAMOHT Ltd

09:55-10:30

Preventing Marine Litter Through Circular Fishing Gear Systems

10:30-11:00

 Coffee break · Hörpuhorn

11:00-12:20

TBD

12:20-12:30

Symposium Closing Remarks — Icelandic Government Representative

Programme subject to change. For the latest version, visit atlanticplastics.is