

Atlantic Plastics 2026

Third International Symposium on Marine Plastic Pollution

Arctic to the Antarctic

#AtlanticPlastics

Harpa Conference Centre, 20–22 October 2026

Draft program — 22 September 2026 | All times are in GMT

Program

Conference Presenter: TBD

DAY 1 Tuesday, 20 October 2026

08:00–09:30 Registration, Harpa 2nd floor

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

 Silfurberg · Moderator: Conference Presenter

- Opening Address by H.E. Ms Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland
- Video Address by Ambassador Julio Cordano, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution
- Address by Dr Mohamed Najih, Director General, National Institute of Fisheries Research of the Kingdom of Morocco
- Introduction to the "From Knowledge to Action" Interactive Survey
- Introduction to a "Message in a Bottle" by Arnór Þórir Sigfússon, Animal Ecologist, Verkís

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: Sólveig Rósa Ólafsdóttir, Ocean Chemist, Marine and Freshwater Research Institute

12:30–12:50 Keynote Speaker *Dr. Thomas Vlachogiovanni, Senior Policy & Programme Officer, MIO-ECSDE*

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. <i>France Collard, Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA)</i>
14:05–14:20	From Citizen Science to Action: What 1 Million Citizen Science Findings Reveal About Norway's Litter Challenge. <i>Malin Stapnes Dahl, Keep Norway Beautiful</i>
14:20–14:35	From clean-up to science: an in-depth diagnostic approach to Arctic marine litter. <i>Barbara Józwiak, forScience Foundation</i>
14:35–14:50	Cory's shearwater fledglings: A new indicator of plastic pollution in remote Atlantic waters. <i>Christopher Kim Pham, Research Associate, University of the Azores, Institute of Marine Sciences – OKEANOS</i>
14:50–15:00	Integrated Monitoring of Macro- and Mesoplastics on Urban Oslofjord Beaches: Evaluating OSPAR and Mesoplastic Protocols. <i>Amy Lusher, Norwegian Institute for Water Research</i>

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 <i>Andrés Cózar Cabanas, Head, Marine Litter Lab</i>
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. <i>Lis Bach, Aarhus University</i>
13:05–13:20	Four-Dimensional Modelling of Microplastics in Þingvallavatn, Iceland's Largest Lake. <i>Mathis Blache, University of Iceland</i>
13:20–13:35	Modelling Marine Litter in the Irish waters. <i>Sara Cloux, Marine Institute</i>
13:35–13:50	Including decision makers in development of cost-efficient litter monitoring – A three step process. <i>Jannike Falk-Andersson, UiT Arctic University of Norway</i>
13:50–14:05	Towards a standard practice for microplastics identification in snow and ice samples: a systematic review. <i>Sydney Fox, Reykjavik University / University of Iceland</i>
14:05–14:20	Co-exposure of microplastics and endocrine-disrupting chemicals in subantarctic seabirds. <i>Joana Fragão, University of Coimbra – CFE</i>
14:20–14:35	Citizen science reveals Iceland's first baseline of floating microplastics to support marine protection. <i>Belén García Ovide, University of Iceland</i>
14:35–14:50	Sea ice and fresh water regulate what you find in Arctic surface seawater. <i>Ingeborg Hallanger, Norwegian Polar Institute</i>
14:50–15:00	Evidence of Microplastic Ingestion in Ringed Seals (<i>Pusa hispida</i>) from the Canadian Arctic. <i>Haylee Hatton, MacEwan University</i>

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. <i>Carolin Leluschko, German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence GmbH</i>
15:45–16:00	Advancing Marine Microplastic Monitoring: Raman Spectral Mapping Combined with Machine Learning. <i>Lara Mikac, Rudjer Boskovic Institute</i>
16:00–16:15	Reconstructing a Century of Microplastic Pollution Using Sediment Cores. <i>Rocío Quintana, University of Cádiz</i>
16:15–16:30	From Stakeholder Needs to Monitoring Practice: Best-Practice Guidance for Drone-Based Beach Litter Monitoring in the Arctic. <i>Marc Schnurawa, BioConsult SH GmbH & Co. KG</i>
16:30–16:45	Advances in Seafloor Litter Research: From Detection to Environmental Assessment. <i>Josie Russell, Centre of Environment for Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas)</i>
16:45–17:00	Plastic chemicals in tissues of Arctic animals with and without ingested plastics. <i>Katrin Vorkamp, Aarhus University</i>
17:00–17:15	Contribution to the Assessment of Microplastics in the Digestive Tract of Small Pelagic Fish from the North Atlantic of Morocco. <i>Asia Ben Haddouch, Institute National de Recherche Halieutique</i>

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 TBD

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: Lis Bach, University of Aarhus

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 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. <i>Toluse Priscilla Ashaolu, NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology</i>
09:05–09:20	Navigating knowledge gaps: towards a quantitative assessment of plastic emissions from international shipping. <i>Maartje Folbert, Open Universiteit</i>
09:20–09:35	Ocean Innovations to Tackle Plastic Pollution and Its Impact on Marine Biodiversity in West Africa. <i>Peter Teye Busumprah, Ocean Rock Base</i>
09:35–09:50	TBD
09:50–10:05	Untangling marine debris impacts on southeast Alaska's coastlines. <i>Zofia Danielson, Sitka Sound Science Center</i>

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. <i>Diana M. Matos, Aarhus University</i>
10:45–11:00	Plastic pollution: Effects on Arctic animals. <i>Jennifer Provencher, Environment and Climate Change Canada</i>
11:00–11:15	Jellies – microplastics ferries? Diel shifts in microplastic burden of gelatinous zooplankton across the water column, Scotia Sea. <i>Alena Sakovich, British Antarctic Survey / University of Durham</i>
11:15–11:30	Assessment of plasticizer contamination in sicklefin devil rays (<i>Mobula tarapacana</i>) from the remote Azores Archipelago. <i>Lena Schaffeld, Okeanos Research Institute</i>
11:30–11:45	Abundance and diversity of microplastic polymers in coastal regions of South Africa. <i>Anusha Rajkaran, University of the Western Cape</i>
11:45–12:00	Tracing Plastic-Associated Chemical Exposure from Coastal Systems to Seafood: Evidence from African Marine Environments. <i>Stacey Webb, Sustainable Seas Trust</i>
12:00–12:15	Shipping, Contaminants, and Plastics: Understanding a growing environmental pressure across the Circumpolar North. <i>Bonnie Hamilton, University of Ottawa</i>
12:15–12:30	Where sea turtles meet litter: assessing exposure risk across the Atlantic. <i>Josué Viejo Marín, University of Cadiz</i>

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. <i>Paritosh Chakor Deshpande, NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology</i>
10:45–11:00	Studying Temporal Trends of Microplastic Pollution in the St. Lawrence River Basin: a Case Study. <i>Iselle Flores Ruiz, Ocean Diagnostics Inc</i>
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. <i>Eric Fries, Toronto Metropolitan University</i>
11:15–11:30	Citizens of a Changing Coast: A Socio-ecological Analysis of Marine Plastic Pollution in Scottish Island Communities. <i>Chloe McKenna, Hebridean Coastal Stories</i>
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. <i>Ahmed Tiamiyu, Community Action Against Plastic Waste (CAPWs)</i>
11:45–12:00	A Novel Mechanochemistry Treatment for Sustainable Plastic Waste Management. <i>Jessica Zhang, University of North Texas (tbc)</i>
12:00–12:15	Recycling of plastics and use of biodegradable materials in Fisheries. <i>Christian Karl, SINTEF Industry, Forskningsveien 1, 0373 Oslo</i>
12:15–12:30	Connecting Communities & Cleaning Coastlines Through the Arctic Cleanup Project. <i>Kristina Tirman, Ocean Conservancy</i>

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 *Carmen Antuña Rozado, Senior Scientist, Climate Resilient Communities*
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- 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*
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- 14:05–14:20** The Circular Economy of Fishing Gear in Nordic Fisheries. *Haraldur Einarsson, MFRI*
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- 14:20–14:35** Wishcycling to Recycling – A Tourists' Study. *Audrey Matthews, University of Akureyri*
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- 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*
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- 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)*
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- 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.*
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- 13:50–14:05** Alaska Pacific University Microplastics Research and Education Center: Partnering with NASA. *Dee Barker, Alaska Pacific University*
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- 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*
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- 14:20–14:35** Invisible emissions at sea: Fishing gear abrasion and Global Plastics Treaty (GPT) responses. *Emily Cowan, SINTEF Ocean*
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- 14:35–14:50** Beyond Collection: Lessons from Beach Cleanup Initiatives in Brazil. *Johanna Franke, Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network*
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- 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*
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- 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*
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- 16:00–16:15** TBD
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- 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*
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- 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*
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- 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)*
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- 17:00–17:15** Rights, Resilience & Arctic Frontlines: Local Voices, Global Resonance. *Michelle Calcatelli, Artica Svalbard (for Phase I)*

17:15–17:30 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), 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 **Actionable and innovative solutions to inform policy, strengthen stewardship, and advance effective responses to plastic pollution at local, regional, and global scales**
Panel discussion

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

09:45–10:15  Coffee break · Hörpuhorn

10:15–11:00 **Main Messages from Thematic Presentations**
Moderator: Conference Presenter

- Theme 1: Sólveig Rósa Ólafsdóttir, Ocean Chemist, Marine and Freshwater Research Institute
- Theme 2: Katrín Sóley Bjarnadóttir, Specialist in Team for Ocean and Water, Environment Agency of Iceland
- 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: TBD

11:00–11:10 **Summary from the Conference 'MACRO to NANO'**
Dr. Thomas Maes, SEAMOHT Ltd

11:10–12:20 **From Knowledge to Action Interactive Survey**
Panel discussion on the survey outcomes with keynote speakers · Moderator: Dr. Thomas Maes, SEAMOHT Ltd

12:20–12:30 **Symposium Closing Remarks — Minister of the Environment, Energy and Climate**