

Atlantic Plastics 2026

Third International Symposium on Marine Plastic Pollution
Arctic to the Antarctic

#AtlanticPlastics

Harpa Conference Centre, 20–22 October 2026

Draft Program — 30 September 2026 | All times are in GMT

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

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 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
- Video Address by H.E. Mr Costas Kadis, Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans of the European Union
- Video Address by Mr Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, France's Ambassador for Polar and Maritime Issues
- Introduction to a "Message in a Bottle" by Arnór Þórir Sigfússon, Animal Ecologist, Verkís
- Introduction to the "From Knowledge to Action" Interactive Survey

11:30–12:30

Lunch · Höropuhorn

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. Thomais Vlachogianni, 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. *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. *Cecilie Lindvall Wendelboe, 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, Research Associate, University of the Azores, Institute of Marine Sciences – OKEANOS*
- 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 *Andrés Cózar Cabanas, Head, Marine Litter Lab*
- 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** A New Trick Up Our Sleeves? Reconstructing Background Atmospheric Deposition from Remote Lake Sediments. *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

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, Institut 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** 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

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 international 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** TBD
- 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*

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*

- 11:15–11:30** 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*

- 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** TBD
- 12:00–12:15** Recycling of plastics and use of biodegradable materials in Fisheries. *Christian Karl, SINTEF Industry*
- 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 *Carmen Antuña Rozado, Climate Resilient Communities, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd*
- 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)*
- 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: Sæmundur Sveinsson, Icelandic Environment and Energy Agency

- 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*

15:45–17:30 — 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** TBD
- 16:15–16:30** Environmental Guardians: A community-based model for waste prevention and ocean stewardship in Arctic regions. *Christina Koch & Ellen Sandvik Mikkelsen, 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*
- 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 (UFDPa)*
- 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) 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*

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 Manitoba
- Shankell Mack, 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 Manager, Hampidjan Group

09:45–10:15

Coffee break · Höropuhorn

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

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

- 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: Sæmundur Sveinsson, Icelandic Environment and Energy Agency

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**

Jóhann Páll Jóhannsson, Minister of the Environment, Energy and Climate

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