

# Sustainable Svalbard Coasts (Svalcost)



Workshop for scientists, managers and stakeholders

Arranged by **UNIS** in collaboration with **Akvaplan-niva**, **NORCE**, **Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Sciences** and **Murmansk Marine Biological Institute**

When: 18-20 February 2020

Where: The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS)  
Longyearbyen, Norway



## Rationale

Svalbard is an archipelago with extensive coast lines.

Less sea ice, increased coastal erosion, sediment loads and increased human activity will physically change the nearshore habitats and fjords and, thus, the biodiversity and productivity of these coastal ecosystems which will provide new challenges but also new opportunities.

It is now important to synthesize existing data and identify critical knowledge gaps to be able to develop a sustainable, holistic management plan which recognize the future consequences, challenges and opportunities in Svalbard coastal waters.

## Main aim of the workshop

To develop a long term multi-disciplinary coastal monitoring plan for Svalbard that have direct and relevant application for settlements, government decision makers, tourism businesses and other users. Relevant for the up-coming infrastructure call: InfraNOR2, deadline end of April

## How to accomplish this?

1. Increase existing and initiate new cooperation to synthesize current knowledge and to make data available in databases.
2. Improve coordination of long term, multi-disciplinary monitoring of Svalbard coastal areas and more involvement of "citizen science" (closer cooperation with stakeholders and managers)
3. Establish a Svalbard Coastal Expert Group of scientists, managers and stakeholders to ensure good communication and knowledge sharing.

## **18<sup>th</sup> February - DAY 1 TUESDAY**

~14:00 Arrival Longyearbyen airport

~14:30 Minibus to accommodation UNIS Guest House

**16:00** Welcome and introduction to the workshop (at UNIS: room Lassegrotta)

Janne Søreide (UNIS)

*Coffee, soft drink and a sandwich will be offered*

*Session I Room: Lassegrotta (by the reception)*

**Science perspective– ongoing time series and monitoring** (lead Jan Marcin Weslawski, IO PAN)

**16:15** Thirty years of intertidal studies in Svalbard, Jan Marcin Weslawski, IO PAN

**16:40** IMR/PINRO annual Barents Sea Ecosystem surveys, Gro I. van der Meeren, IMR

**17:00** Research priorities in Svalbard, Harald Steen, leader of the Svalbard program at the Norwegian Polar Institute

**17:20** *Coffee break*

**17:40** "Russian marine and coastal research in Svalbard", Denis Moiseev (Murmansk Marine Biological Institute) and Yuri Ugryumov (Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute)

**18:10** Sea ice monitoring Svalbard, Sebastian Gerland, Norwegian Polar Institute

**18:30** Time series of relevance from Hornsund research station, Mateusz Moskalik

**18:50** UNIS time series of relevance, Janne E. Søreide, UNIS

**19:10** Czech activities in Svalbard, Josef Elster, Centre for Polar Ecology University of South Bohemia

**19:30** *Dinner at UNIS*

## **19<sup>th</sup> February Day 2 WEDNESDAY (at UNIS)**

09:00 Welcome by Helén Johanne Andersen (SSF) and Janne E. Søreide (UNIS)

*Session II Room: Lassegrotta, UNIS*

**Sustainable Svalbard coasts – from a policy and management perspective (lead Guttorm Christensen)**

09:15 MOSJ-Environmental monitoring of Svalbard and Jan Mayen, Therese Sigurdson, Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI)

09:35 Management plan for Central-Spitsbergen, Gunhild Lutnæs, Environmental department, Governor of Svalbard

10:00 Sea ice statistics in Svalbard (30 years records) Jacek Urbanski (Gdansk University)

**10:20** *Coffee break*

10:40 CAFF Coastal Expert Monitoring work and advice, Maria P. Arvnes (via skype)

11:00 ØKOKYST Svalbard monitoring, invasive species and Arctic char! Guttorm Christensen, Akvaplan-Niva

- 11:20 Adventdalen – Adventfjorden system, Terrestrial fluxes and water column chemistry, Aga Nowiak, UNIS
- 11:40 Marine mammals in Svalbard – climate change impacts and future challenges, Kit Kovacs, NPI
- 12:00 Discussion
- 12:30 Lunch at UNIS**

*Session III* **Perspectives from Svalbard coasts users** (lead Piotr G, NORCE)

- 13:30 How to best predict future society and nature scenarios for Svalbard? Scenario-building methods, Piotr Graczyk, NORCE
- 13:50 Managing Responsible Arctic Cruise Tourism, Malik Milfeldt, AECO, via skype
- 14:10 Local fishery and other non-tourism business interests, Terje Aunevik, head of Longyearbyen business association
- 14:30 Linking marine research with citizen involvement and local societal impact, Børge Damsgård, Acting director of UNIS
- 14:50 **Coffee break**
- 15:10 Longyearbyen as important recreation and observatory site, Bjørn Frantzen, Longyearbyen Feltbiologiske Forening
- 15:30 Potential use of our close-by attraction – an example from Denmark, Magnus Andreasen
- 15:45 Discussion
- 16:30 **Departure from UNIS to the Governor's vessel Polarsyssel for dinner and a small trip in Isfjorden. Return around 20:00-20:30 . Ca 10 min walk from UNIS to the harbour.**

## 20<sup>th</sup> February DAY 3 Thursday

09:00	Joint session: Short summary of the workshop so far Identified challenges and opportunities – how to proceed? What are the most important action points?
09:15	Existing and future opportunities for coastal researchers within SIOS, Inger Jennings, SIOS
09:45	<p>Time set aside to discuss/ address following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Most critical knowledge gaps to ensure sustainable use of Svalbard coastal regions</li><li>• Central Spitsbergen management plan - concerns and recommendations</li><li>• How to optimize current and new infrastructure to cover present and future society needs within industry, tourism and monitoring and research.....</li></ul> <p>We aim for plenum discussions since we want viewpoints and recommendations from user groups with different interests. However, we may divide into smaller discussion groups if we find this more fruitful and efficient.</p>
11:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUMMARY and the next step</b></p> <p>..... a following-up meeting for a selected committee of scientists, managers and stakeholders will be arranged to finalize the outcome and recommendations of this workshop in a written report. More about this during the workshop and be prepared for being asked to join this committee.</p>
12:30	<b>Lunch UNIS</b>
13:10	Departure UNIS to the airport