



From research to practice – how to reduce plastic pollution in the Arctic

SALT Lofoten, KG Jebsen Center for the Law of the Sea, Norut and the research project “Marine Plastic Pollution in the Arctic” are organizing a half-day workshop on how to reduce plastic pollution in the Arctic.

The workshop will take place on Monday 21st of January from 12.00 to 16.30 at Scandic Ishavshotel (Fredrik Langnes gate 2, Tromsø). We invite decision makers in key industries in the Arctic, policy makers, managers and scientists to an introduction session on recent research on plastic pollution in the region. Through the following discussions we aim to identify solutions, key knowledge gaps and barriers to reducing the level of marine litter in the European Arctic.

About the research project:

The research project Marine Plastic Pollution in the Arctic (www.marp.no) is the first, large, interdisciplinary research project on marine plastic pollution financed by the Research Council of Norway. It has worked closely with key stakeholders in the region, and brought together specialists from law, economics, resource- and ecological economics, ecology, toxicology, environmental psychology and marine resource management from Norway, Russia and the UK. MARP has produced new knowledge on the sources of litter in the region, its impact on ecosystems and society, as well as regulations and incentives governing marine debris in the Arctic.

About the workshop:

Key research findings from the MARP project as well as other relevant research projects on the topic will be followed by discussion sessions with stakeholders to identify how the levels of marine plastics in the Arctic can be reduced.

The discussions will look at 1) Incentive mechanisms to reduce input of litter to the environment and 2) Circular economy as a solution bringing additional benefits.

For each topic, participants will discuss the research results, give input and insights, and identify solutions on how to reduce plastic pollution in the Arctic and move towards an economy that follows the principles of a circular economy.

Program

Introduction



12.00-12.10 Welcome by Scientific Advisory Board member Marit Hiim Haugseth (Norwegian Fishermen's Association)

12.10-12.20 Introduction to the MARP research project (Anne Katrine Normann, Norut)

12.20-12.30 Unexpected Impacts of Arctic Marine Litter (Dr Nicola Beaumont, Plymouth Marine Laboratory)

12.30-12.40 How much is reduction of plastic pollution in the Arctic worth? (Dr. Tenaw Abate, Norut)

12.40-12.50 Is the majority of litter found in the Barents Sea region due to dumping? (Dr. Jannike Falk-Andersson, SALT).

12.50-13.00 Global, regional and national regulation of marine debris in the Arctic: legal gaps and opportunities (Prof. Ingvild Jakobsen and Linda Finska, University of Tromsø)

13.00-13.10 Prevention of plastic litter in the Barents Sea: institutional gaps on the Russian side (Dr. Ludmila Ivanova, Kola Science Centre)

13.10-13.20 What do we know about Marine Litter in the Arctic? (Soffía Guðmundsdóttir, PAME)

13.20-13.30 Break

Workshops

Aim and outcome: The output of the workshop will be a document synthesising key findings of the research and make recommendations that can aid policy makers and industry in measures to implement in order to achieve the environmental quality objectives of marine waste in the Arctic.

Workshop organizing: For each of the two workshops the participants will be divided into groups. The participants are asked to find solutions in their field in light of the research presented and own expertise, as well as identify 1) how far we are from implementing the solutions, 2) what are the key knowledge gaps- and 3) barriers to implementation. Notes will be taken in the form provided. In the end each group will be asked to present a summary of their solutions and discuss this with the other participants.

Workshop on how to reduce marine litter input

Introductory talks

13.30-13.40 What drives people's plastic waste behaviour? (Dr. Kayleigh Wyles, University of Surrey).

13.40-13.50 Marine debris: impacts on the oceans, solutions on land? (Dr. Aleke Stöfen-O'Brien)

13.50-14.30 Group work on how to reduce marine litter input into the ocean. How close are we to implementing solutions? What are the knowledge gaps? What are the barriers?

14.30-14.50 Presentation of group work and discussions

14.50-15.00 Break

Workshop on Circular Economy as a solution

15.00-15.10 Circular Economy- from theory to practice. (Amy Brooks, Jambeck Research Group).

15.10-15.20 Challenges and opportunities in recycling fishing gear. (TBA, Blue Circular Economy)

15.20-16.00 Group work on implementing a circular economy to reduce the environmental impact of plastics. How close are we to implementing solutions? What are the knowledge gaps? What are the barriers?

16.00-16.20 Presentation of group work and discussions

16.20-16.30 Wrap-up

19.00 Dinner at Fiskekompaniet (Killengransgate 9007, Tromsø).