



Science & Education Report

MS Fridtjof Nansen 2025

Reyjavik to Nuuk

Science Program Overview

- 4 Science Boat with 56 people & 32 Data Collections For Iceberg Ecosystems Project
- 264 iNaturalist Observations, 90 Species, 16 Observers
- Education Program, 8 Lectures, 17 Workshops, 3 Discovery Sessions, 505 Attendees
- 5 Wildlife watches 34 watchers



Plankton Samples

Back in the science centre, we brought the ocean into focus—examining our water samples under the microscope to uncover the hidden world of **phytoplankton** and **zooplankton**.

Using microscopes, we projected magnified images onto the screen, allowing everyone to see the intricate details of these tiny organisms. Smaller binocular microscopes offered a hands-on experience, inviting you to search for life in each drop of water.

The samples revealed a world dominated by diatoms, a type of phytoplankton that forms the foundation of the marine food web. What seemed invisible to the eye became a vivid reminder that even the smallest life forms shape this vast and wild ecosystem.

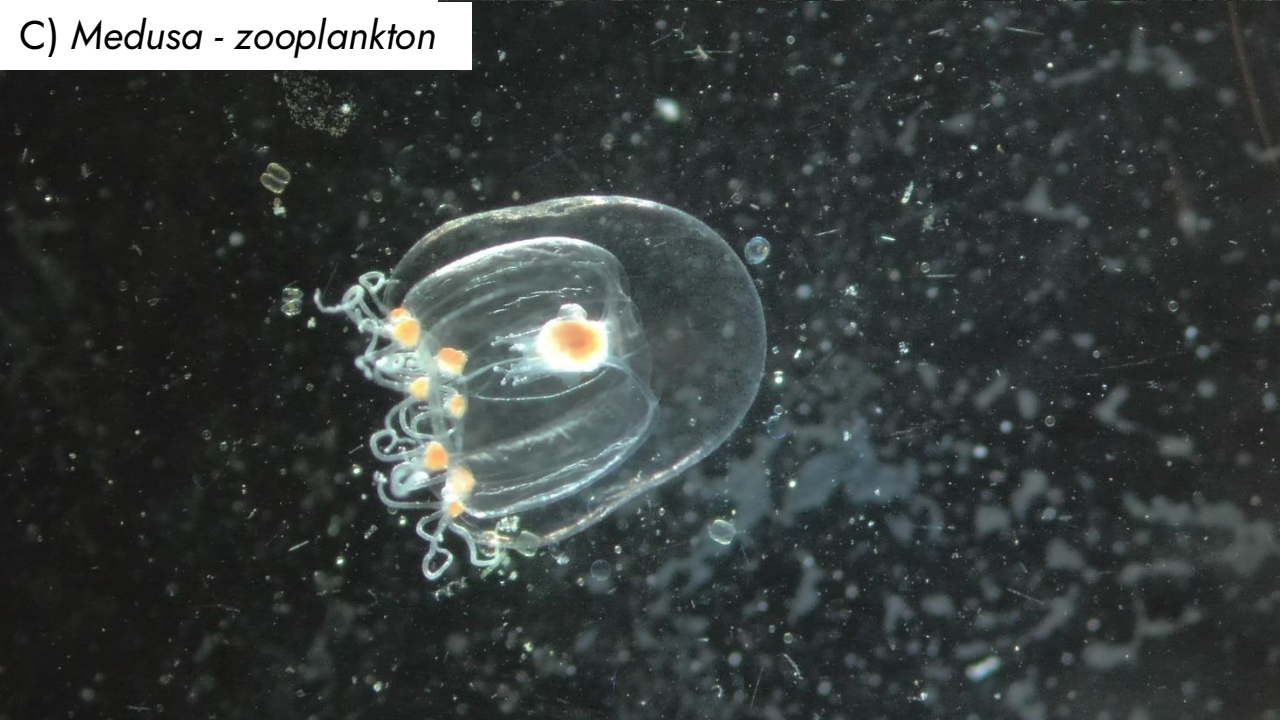
A) *Isopod* - zooplankton



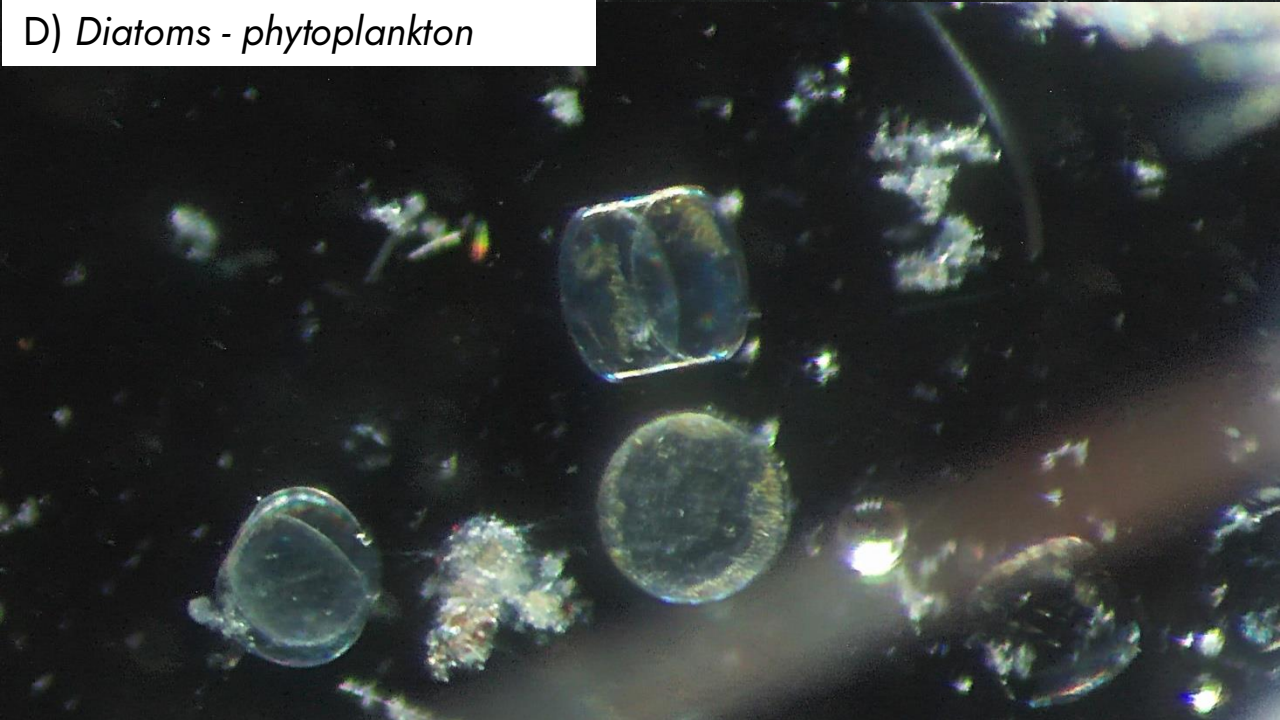
B) *Copepod* - zooplankton



C) *Medusa* - zooplankton



D) *Diatoms* - phytoplankton



Wildlife

List - Marine Mammals



Credit: Dougie Wainwright

Wildlife List – Marine Mammals

Scientific Name	English	Deutsch	Français
<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>	Harp Seal	Sattelrobbe	Phoque du Groenland
<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	Hooded Seal	Klappmütze	Phoque à capuchon
<i>Phoca Vitulina</i>	Harbour Seal	Seehund	Phoque veau marin
<i>Globicephala melas</i>	Long-finned pilot whale	Grindwal	Globicephale noir
<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blue whale	Blauwal	Baleine bleue
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Humpback whale	Buckelwal	Baleine à bosse
<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Orca	Schwertwal	Orque
<i>Balaenoptera pysicalus</i>	Fin Whale	Finnwal	Rorqual Commun
<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Sperm Whale	Pottwal	Cachalot
<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	Northern bottlenose whale	Nördlicher Entenwal	Hyperoodon boreal
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Harbour porpoise	Schweinswal	Marsouin commun

Wildlife List - Birds



Wildlife List – Seabirds

Scientific name	English	Deutsch	Français	Norsk	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Fulmarus glacialis	Northern Fulmar	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal	Havhest	X	X	X								
Chroicocephalus ridibundus	Black-headed Gull	Lachmöwe	Mouette rieuse	Hettemåke								X			
Morus bassanus	Northern Gannet	Basstölpel	Fou de Bassan	Havsule		X									
Larus fuscus	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Heringsmöwe	Goéland brun	Sildemåke							X	X			
xxLarus glaucoides	Iceland Gull	Polarmöwe	Goéland arctique	Grønlandsmåke			X	X	X	X	X	X			
Larus hyperboreus	Glaucous Gull	Eismöwe	Goéland bourgmestre	Polarmåke			X	X		X	X	X			
Larus marinus	Great Black-backed Gull	Mantelmöwe	Goéland marin	Svartbak								X	X		
Rissa tridactyla	Black-legged Kittiwake	Dreizehenmöwe	Mouette tridactyle	Krykkje			X				X	X			
Sterna paradisaea	Arctic Tern	Küstenseeschwalbe	Sterne arctique	Rødnebbterne	X										
Stercorarius longicaudus	Long-tailed Skua/Jaeger	Falkenraubmöwe	Labbe à longue queue	Fjelljo	X	X	X								
Alle alle	Little Auk/Dovekie	Krabbentaucher	Mergule nain	Alkekonge		X	X								
Fratercula arctica	Atlantic Puffin	Papageitaucher	Macareux moine	Lunde	X										
Cepphus grylle	Black Guillemot	Gryllteiste	Guillemot à miroir	Teist					X	X	X	X	X		
Uria lomvia	Brünnich's Guillemot	Dickschnabellumme	Guillemot de Brünnich	Polarlomvi		X	X								
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard	Stockente	Canard colvert	Stokkand				X	X	X			X		
Anser anser	Greylag Goose	Graugans	Oie cendrée	Grågås					X						
Mergus serrator	Red-breasted Merganser	Mittelsäger	Harle huppé	Siland						X		X			
Somateria mollissima	Common Eider	Eiderente	Eider à duvet	Ærfugl								X	X		
Somateria spectabilis	King Eider	Prachteiderente	Eider à tête grise	Praktærfugl								X			

Wildlife List – Landbirds

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Geology

From some of the oldest rocks in the world, the Amitsoq Gneiss, at 3.8 billion years old found near Nuuk, the towering icebergs of Ikersuaq Fjord and Ivittuut's abandoned cryolite mine. Greenland has hit the geological jackpot.

Greenland today may be quite geologically stable but its roots hark back to the joining of crustal segments and megacontinents over billions of years. These rocks, formed at great depths and have travelled around 7,000 km thanks to continental drift.

We have traversed many of the fjords, carved out in the Quaternary period, thanks to many glacial cycles, then flooded by the sea after the ice melted. These fjords have formed in areas where there are cracks and faults which formed during these ancient continental collisions.

The geology of Greenland really puts earth's age into perspective and demonstrates the great erosive power of ice.



A photograph of two whales swimming in deep blue water. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'IX' is overlaid on the image. The text 'Connect With Your Inner Scientist' is centered in white.

Connect With Your Inner Scientist