Science & Education Report

MS Spitsbergen

10.09. – 22.09.2025

Greenland – The Ultimate Fjord and National Park Expedition

Science & Education Program

Our Science and Education Team accompanied you during your expedition to the remote nature of the Scoresbysund and Northeast Greenland National Park.

We had the opportunity to explore our destination's natural beauty, exceptional wildlife, and local culture. We organized lectures and interactive activities onboard and explored our destinations during landings, guided walks, and from the water.

History

We explored the dramatic landscapes of Scoresby Sound, the world's largest fjord system, first mapped by Arctic explorer William Scoresby in 1822. Our journey also brought us into the vast expanse of Northeast Greenland National Park—a protected wilderness teeming with wildlife and steeped in the history of polar exploration.

Culture

We experienced Greenland's vibrant cultural identity, symbolized by *Erfalasorput*—the striking red and white flag that proudly sets Greenland apart from other Nordic nations. In the remote community of Ittoqqortoormiit, we witnessed firsthand the resilience and traditions of those who live at the edge of the Arctic wilderness.

Aurorasaurus

During our voyage we were lucky enough to observe the Northern Lights in three consecutive nights when sailing in the Northeast Greenland National Park.

We contributed our observations to the citizen science initiative Aurorasaurus, that helps NASA improve the accuracy of northern lights predictions.

Visit their website to learn more about the project

NASA Globe Cloud Observer

Together with our Environmental Scientist Liam you observed the clouds and submitted your observations to NASA GLOBE Observer on 4 occasions.

These cloud observations can help NASA improve our understanding of Earth's atmosphere and climate by providing valuable data for scientific research and climate modelling.

View our data on the global map

iNaturalist

Throughout our expedition, we documented the flora and fauna of East Greenland and uploaded all our findings to the iNaturalist platform.

During our voyage, we submitted 158 observations of 74 different species. This effort contributes to the creation of a comprehensive understanding of the current distribution of species in the this understudied area and can aid researchers in their ongoing studies and conservation efforts to protect these species.

View our data submitted on our iNaturalist project

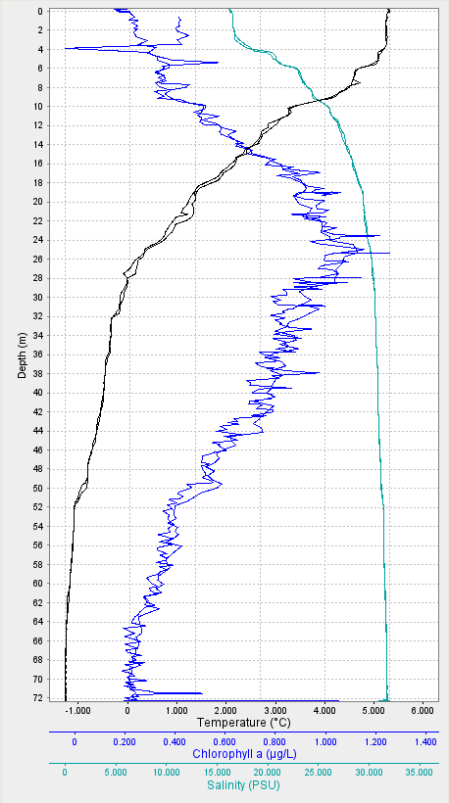
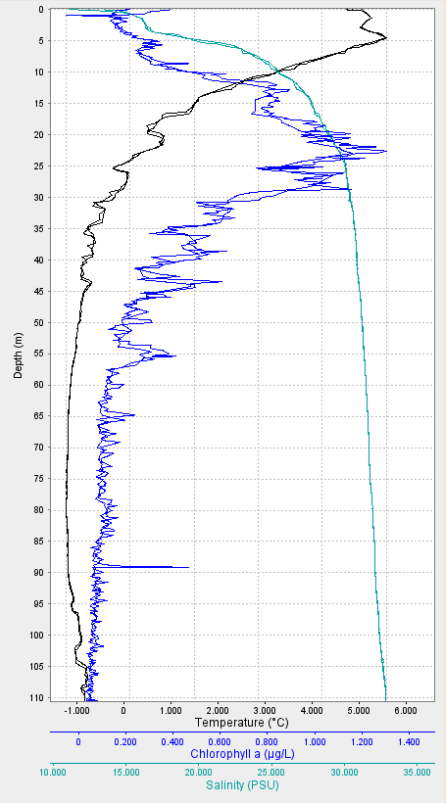
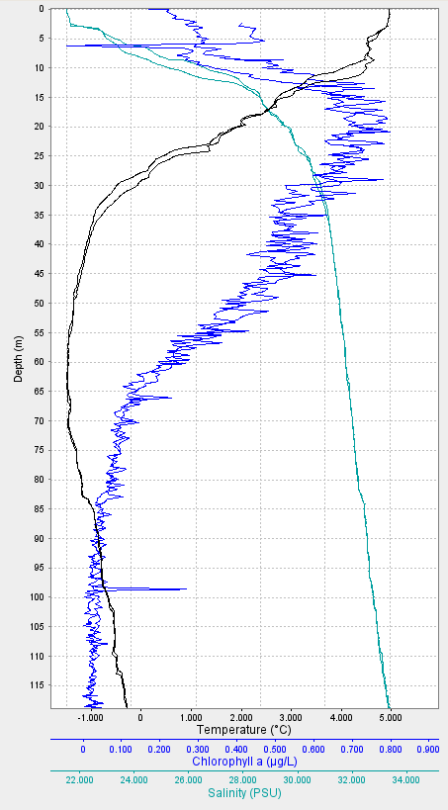
Science Boat

16 eager participants joined our 2 Science Boats in Scoresbysund to study plankton and the hydrography of our destination.

They helped monitor ocean clarity through participation in the Secchi Disk citizen science study, contributing to important research on the distribution of phytoplankton blooms.

View our data submitted to the Secchi Disk Project

Science Boat Water Profiles & Supported Projects

	Rødepynt	Rypefjord	Hall Bredning
Secchi Depth (m)	11.4	7.6	-
Planktonics samples	3	-	3
CTD Profile			

EPIC Project

During our Science Boats, we also collected environmental DNA samples for the EPIC project (Innovative approaches to understanding marine pelagic ecosystems through eDNA biodiversity data).

Our samples will contribute to groundbreaking research by capturing eDNA from the waters we traversed, helping to build a comprehensive picture of marine biodiversity in the North Atlantic-Arctic interface. This effort supports the scientific community in monitoring ecosystem health and understanding the impacts of environmental changes.

Wildlife List - Birds

Wildlife List – Seabirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
Fulmarus glacialis	**Northern Fulmar**	Eissturmvogel	Fulmar boréal
Ardenna grisea	**Sooty Shearwater**	Dunkler Sturmtaucher	Puffin Fuligineux
Morus bassanus	**Northern Gannet**	Basstölpel	Fou de Bassan
Stercorarius pomarinus	**Pomarine Skua (Pomarine Jaeger)**	Spatelraubmöwe	Labbe pomarin
Stercorarius parasiticus	**Arctic Skua (Parasitic Jaeger)**	Schmarotzerraubmöwe	Labbe parasite
Rissa tridactyla	**Black-legged Kittiwake**	Dreizehenmöwe	Louette tridactyle
Larus hyperboreus	**Glaucous Gull**	Eismöwe	Goéland Bourgmestre
Larus fuscus	**Lesser Black-backed Gull**	Heringsmöwe	Goéland brun
Alle alle	**Little Auk**	Krabbentaucher	Mergule nain

Wildlife List – Shore birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
Calidris alba	**Sanderling**	Sanderling	Bécasseau sanderling
Calidris canutus	**Red Knot**	Knutt	Bécasseau maubèche
Calidris maritima	**Purple Sandpiper**	Meerstrandläufer	Bécasseau violet
Calidris alpina	**Dunlin**	Alpenstrandläufer	Bécasseau variable

Wildlife List – Land birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
Anser brachyrhynchus	**Pink-footed Goose**	Kurzschnabelgans	Oie à bec court
Branta leucopsis	**Barnacle Goose**	Weißwangengans	Bernache nonnette
Somateria mollissima	**Common Eider**	Eiderente	Eider à duvet
Gavia immer	**Common Loon**	Germeiner loon	Plongeon huard
Gavia stellata	**Red-throated Diver (Red-throated Loon)**	Sterntaucher	Plongeon catmarin
Clangula hyemalis	**Long tailed duck**	Eisente	Harelde boréale
Lagopus muta	**Rock Ptarmigan**	Alpenschneehuhn	Lagopède alpin
Oenanthe oenanthe	**Northern Wheatear**	Steinschmätzer	Traquet motteux
Acanthis flammea	**Redpoll**	Birkenzeisig	Sizerin flammé
Plectrophenax nivalis	**Snow Bunting**	Schneeammer	Bruant des neiges
Bubo scandiacus	**Snowy owl**	Schneeeule	Harfang des neiges
Falco rusticolus	**Gyrfalcon**	Gerfalke	Faucon gerfaut
Falco peregrinus	**Peregrine falcon**	Wanderfalke	Faucon pelerin

e-Bird

During our Wildlife Watches and on shore, our Expedition Team conducted detailed bird surveys, recording observations for the citizen science platform eBird. We recorded 27 different species of birds in 36 checklists.

This initiative helps contribute valuable data to global bird conservation efforts, enhancing our understanding of seabird populations and their habitats.

View our data on our e-Bird trip report

Wildlife List - Marine Mammals

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
Megaptera novaeangliae	**Humpback whale**	Buckelwal	Baleine à bosse
Orcinus orca	**Killer whale, Orca**	Schwertwal, Orka	Orque
Erignathus barbatus	**Bearded Seal**	Bartrobbe	Phoque Barbu
Pusa hispida	**Ringed Seal**	Ringelrobbe	Phoque annelé
Ursus maritimus	**Polar bear**	Eisbär	Ours polaire

Wildlife List - Land Mammals

Wildlife List – Land mammals

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS
Lepus arcticus	**Arctic Hare**	Polarhase	Lièvre Arctique
Vulpes lagopus	**Arctic Fox**	Polarfuchs	Renard arctique
Ovibos moschatus	**Muskox**	Moschusochse	Boeuf Musqué
Dicrostonyx groenlandicus	**Northern Collared Lemming**	Nördlicher Halsbandlemming	Lemming du Groenland

Connect with your inner scientist