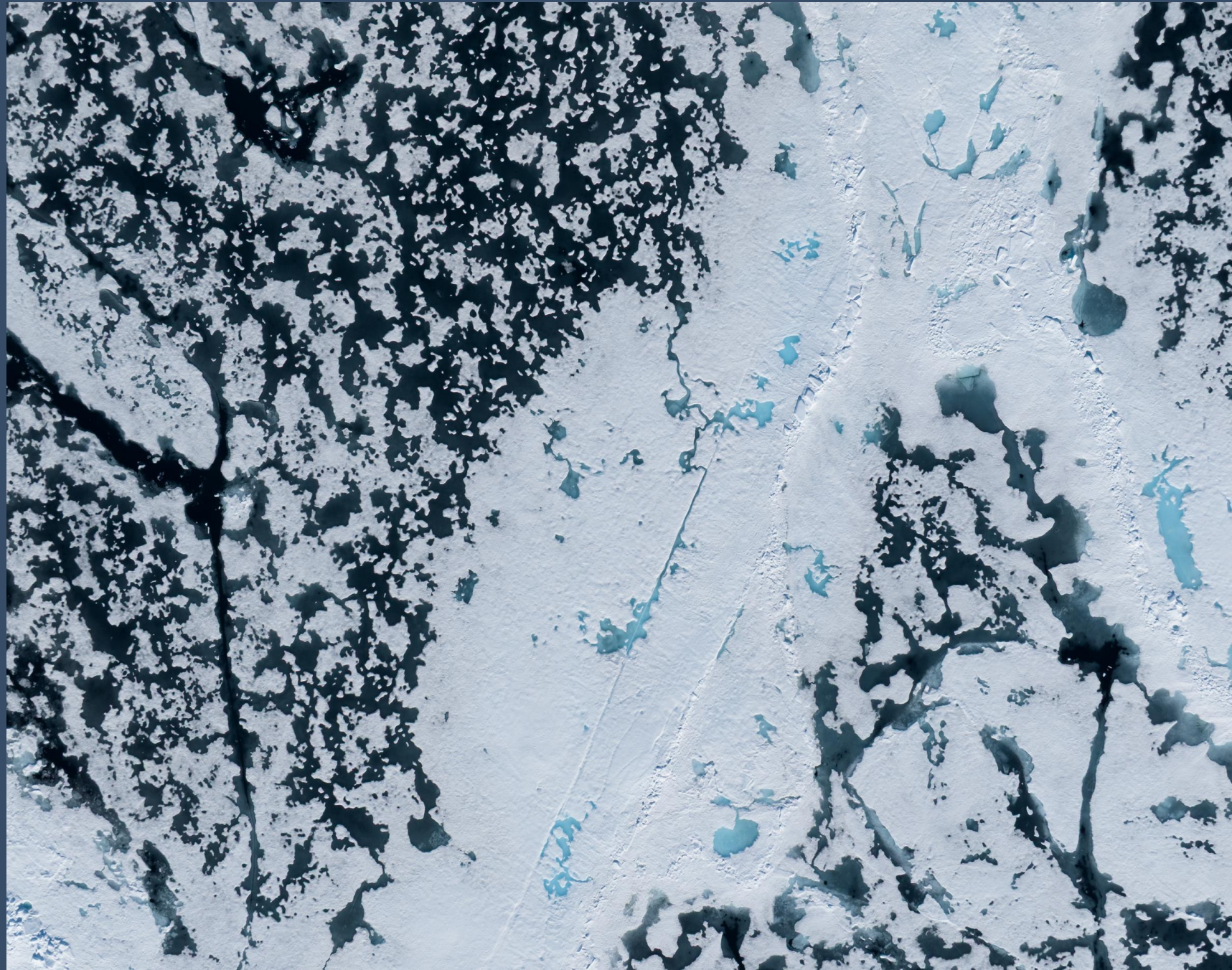


MS FRAM - May 24th – 31st 2026

Svalbard in Spring — The Return
of the Sun



History & Culture

Ny Ålesund

At nearly 79°N, Ny-Ålesund is the world's northernmost permanent research station — a former coal-mining outpost, now an international Arctic science hub. In 1926, Roald Amundsen, Lincoln Ellsworth, and Umberto Nobile departed from here aboard the Norge airship, crossing the North Pole. His mooring mast and bronze bust still stand — quiet markers of one of exploration's most defining moments.





iNaturalist

Thanks to your efforts, we recorded around 40 opportunistic observations representing nearly 25 different species!

By sharing your data on iNaturalist, you are contributing to a global, open-access database that fuels scientific research and conservation monitoring. These records are vital tools for researchers tracking species distribution and assessing ecosystem health.

You can view the project and also upload your observations from our voyage [by clicking here.](#)



eBird

Your onboard ornithologist Enzo completed 10 eBird checklists of 16 different species during our 7-day voyage. The most abundant species was the Little Auk, followed by the Common Eider. If you want to check the complete records, please use the following link:

[View our data on our e-Bird trip report](#)



Happywhale

Although we didn't manage to submit any photos to the HappyWhale project during this voyage, we were fortunate to spot several marine mammals, including beluga and minke whales, as well as harbour seals and polar bears.

The photo here shows these beautiful beluga whales, known as the "canaries of the sea" for their very unique chirps and squeals.

Being part of the toothed whale family, they have a unique melon that not only gives them the ability to use echolocation, but also to manipulate the melon's shape creating unique sounds for vocalization to other beluga whales!

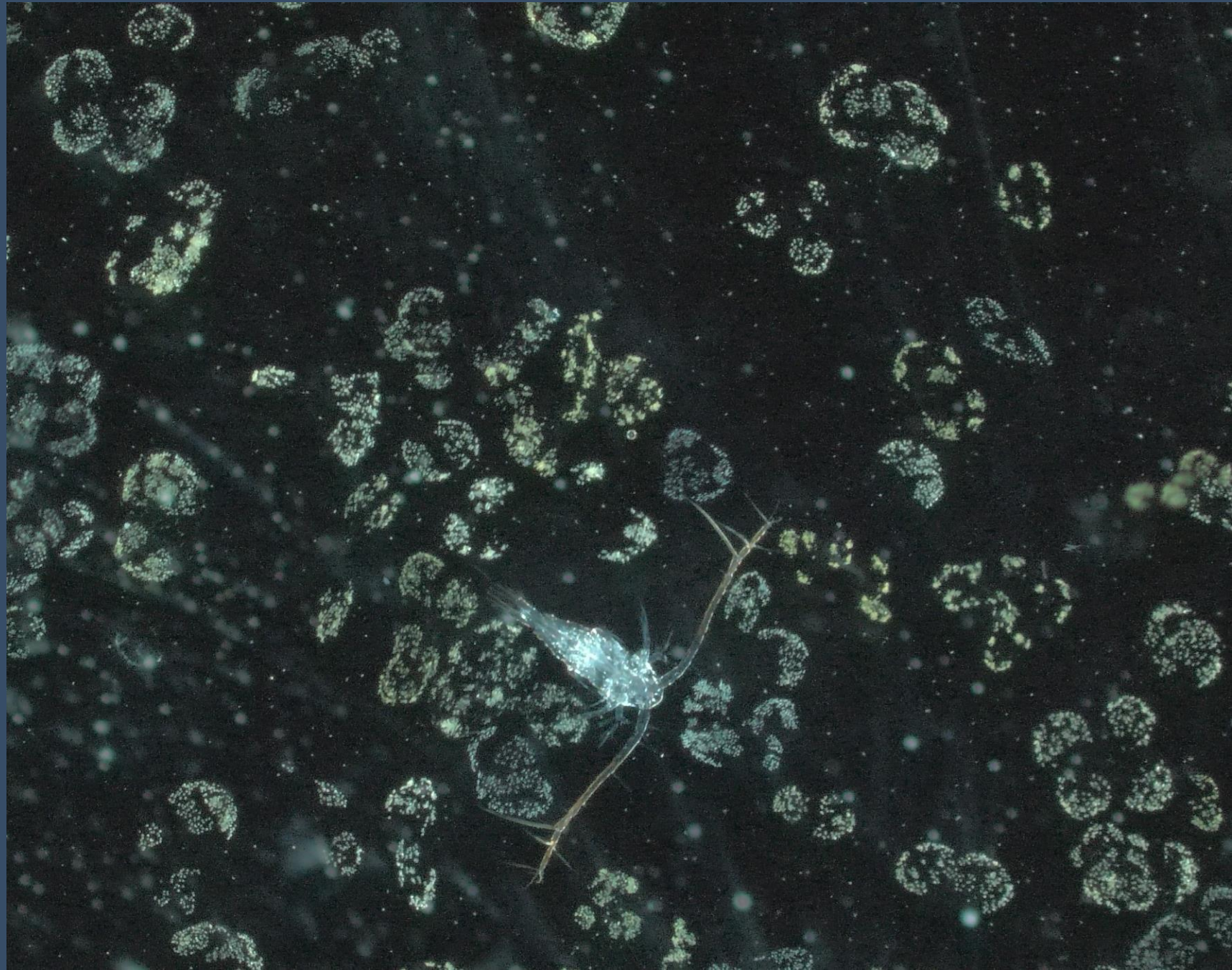
We hope you keep your eyes on the horizon for wildlife once you're back home. Who knows? We may see you on board again soon! Thanks for travelling with HX!

Science Boat

During this voyage, we conducted six science boat sessions between Hornsund, at the southernmost part of Spitsbergen, all the way north to the ice-edge.

We performed CTD measurements, collected water samples, and launched our hydrophone to record the underwater soundscapes. Among our results, we were lucky enough to record the call of a young male walrus, and observe larval sea worms and copepods as well as adult individuals. We detected a bloom of phytoplankton (diatoms) in the northern part of the archipelago, while high zooplankton (copepod) abundance was recorded in the south, as illustrated in the photo.

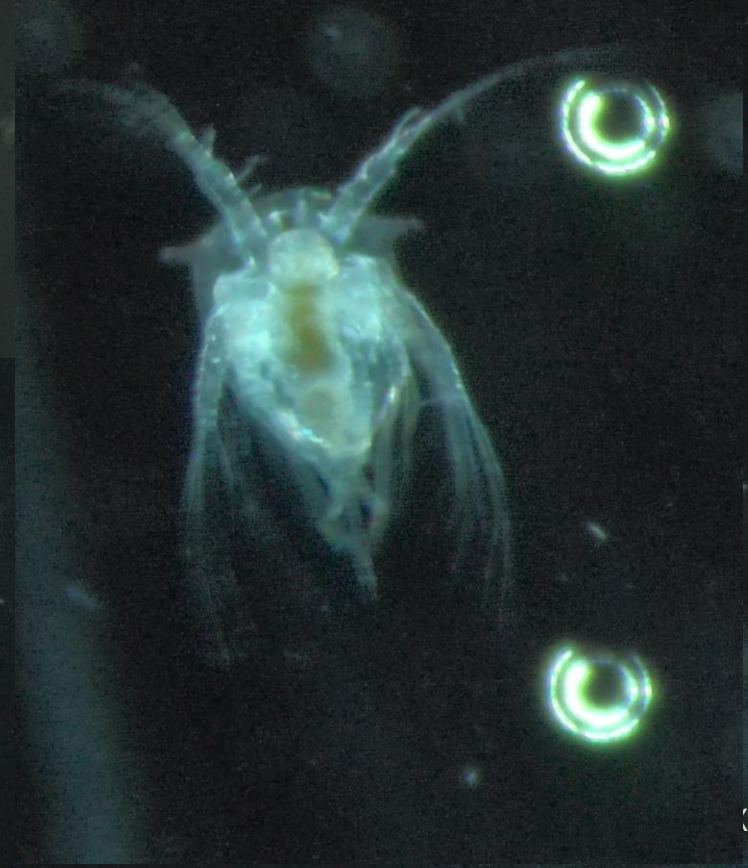
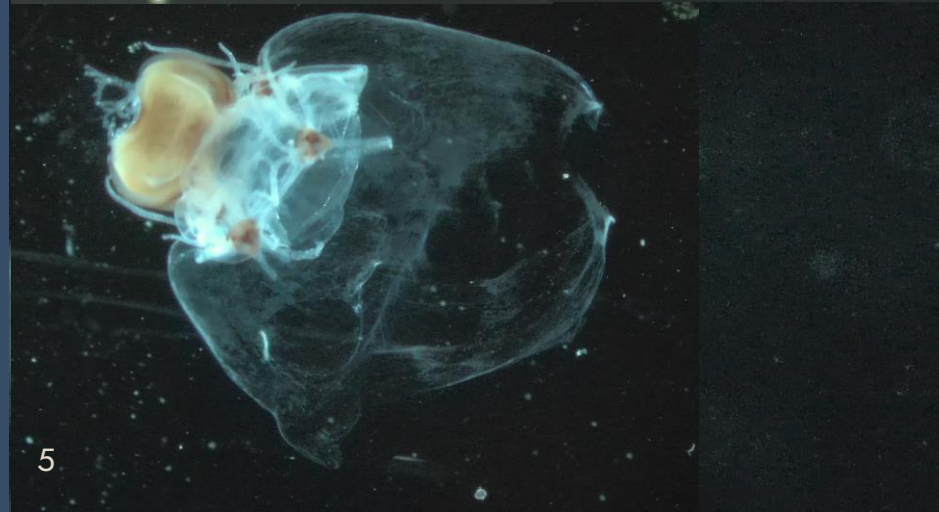
Altogether, these results will help us better understand the ongoing changes in the Arctic Ocean through the living platform and network of EMODnet.



Science Boat

This collage shows different tiny organisms found in a drop of water, all classified as zooplankton:

1. Sea worm or polychaete
2. Sea worm larvae
3. Radiolaria
4. Copepod larvae
5. Jellyfish larvae
6. Barnacle larvae



Geological Highlights

During this voyage, we sailed along the western part of the Spitsbergen archipelago.

In Svalbard, layered sedimentary rocks and uplifted fault blocks expose an impressive archive of past climates and ecosystems — sandstones, shales, limestones and mudstones were the background of our activities. This impression of Hornsund during our first morning in Svalbard illustrates this rich geological past.



Climate change survey

How do you feel about climate change?

As an experiment, we conducted a survey on our guests' views and feelings on the subject of climate change. In the long run, we would like to gather enough data for a scientific statistical study in the microcosm of our ship.

Thank you to the 87 participants who answered the survey. On our cruise, we found that 65% of our guests consider climate change a serious problem caused by humans. [You can view the results and interpretations on this link.](#)

The results will continue to evolve the more data we collect.

68.2%

believe climate change is a serious human-caused problem

61%

feel "concerned but hopeful" when hearing about climate change

54%

see some damage as unavoidable but still believe meaningful action matters (Q3)

7.45

average personal worry score out of 10 — vs 4.74 perceived for the general public

77%

are willing or very willing to make major lifestyle changes (Q7 scores 4–5)

Q7

If such large-scale changes were required, how willing would you personally be to make major changes to your way of life?

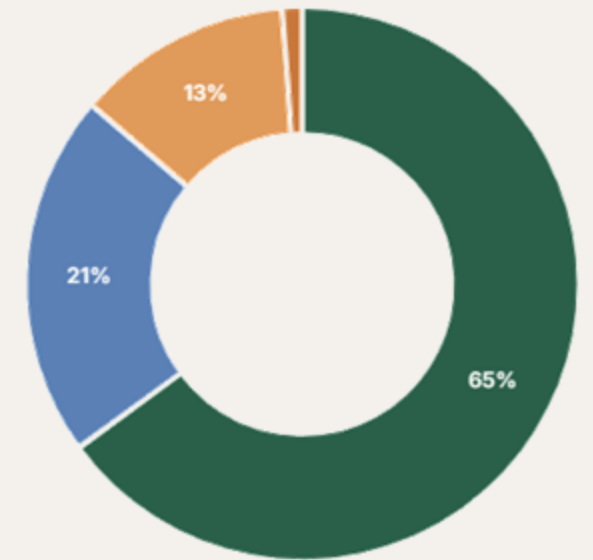
Scale: 1 = Very unwilling → 5 = Very willing - 447 respondents



● 1 = Very unwilling: 12 ● 2: 20 ● 3: 69 ● 4: 223 ● 5 = Very willing: 123



When you hear about climate change, what best describes your reaction?



- Serious human-caused problem — 64.9%
- Real but causes/impacts uncertain — 21.3%
- Happening regardless of humans — 12.6%
- Overstated — 1.1%
- Not happening — 0.0%

Visit the IPCC website

Climate Change IPCC FAQ

IPCC Summary report

Guest Scientists WAVE Project

Dr. Lauren McWhinnie and PhD student Alanna Frayne from Heriot-Watt University, Scotland, conducted 40 hours of visual surveys aboard MS FRAM for Project WAVE. Their research tracks Arctic whale distribution and abundance to minimise vessel impacts on marine life. Five species were recorded: beluga and minke whales, bearded and ringed seals, and walruses.

Supported by HX Foundation and HX Expeditions, the WAVE team thanks you for your contribution — scan the QR code to follow their progress.



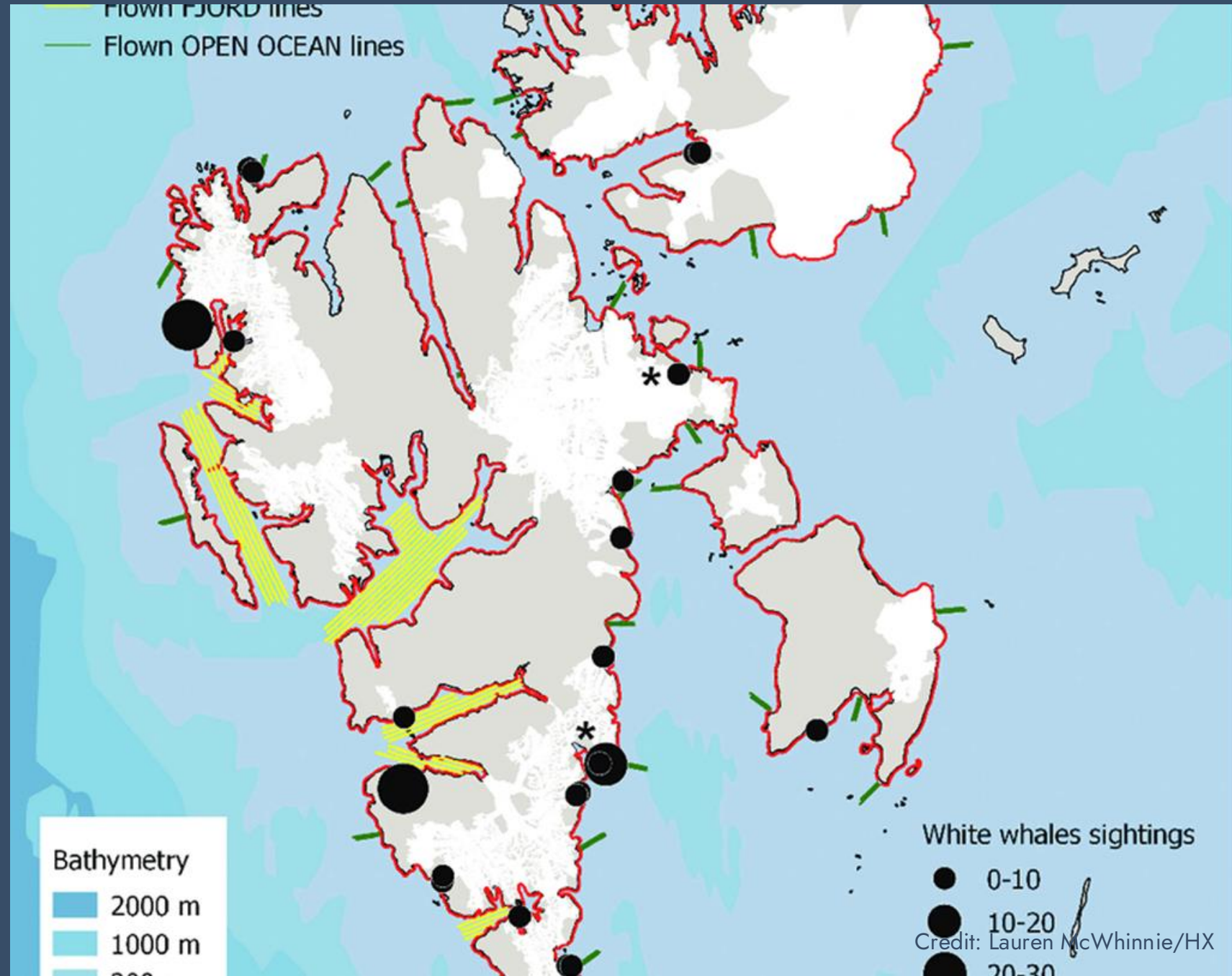
Guest Scientists WAVE Project

After the first abundance estimate in 2018, which resulted in an estimate of 549 (CI 436–723) individuals, belugas in Svalbard are now classified as Endangered (EN) on the Norwegian Red List.

We were fortunate to spot two groups of between 10 and 20 animals during our visit to Samarinbreen, Hornsund.

Keep up to date with the project and stay involved: www.wave-arcticwhales.com

PLEASE SEND US MARINE MAMMAL PHOTOS: l.mcwhinnie@hw.ac.uk





Wildlife List — Marine Mammals

Wildlife List – Marine Mammals



SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	humpback whale	Buckelwal
<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	common minke whale	Zwergwal
<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	beluga whale	Weißwal
<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	polar bear	Eisbär
<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	grey seal	Kegelrobbe
<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	harbour seal, common seal	Seehund
<i>Pusa hispida</i>	ringed seal	Ringelrobbe
<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	bearded seal	Bartrobbe
<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	walrus	Walross
	unidentified seal	Nicht identifizierte Robbe



Wildlife List — Land Mammals

Wildlife List – Land Mammals



SCIENTIFIC NAME		ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>		reindeer	Rentier
<i>Alopex lagopus</i>		Arctic fox	Polarfuchs

Wildlife List — Birds



Wildlife List – Seabirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Alle alle</i>	little auk/dovekie	Krabbentaucher
<i>Cephus grylle</i>	black guillemot	Gryllteiste
<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Atlantic puffin	Papageitaucher
<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	northern fulmar	Eissturmvogel
<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	glaucous gull	Eismöwe
<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	black-legged kittiwake	Dreizehenmöwe
<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	common eider	Eiderente
<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Arctic skua/ parasitic jaeger	Schmarotzerraubmöwe
<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	great skua	Skua
<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Brünnich's guillemot / thick-billed murre	Dickschnabellumme

Wildlife List – Waterbirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	pink-footed goose	Kurzschnabelgans
<i>Branta bernicla</i>	brant goose	Ringelgans
<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	barnacle goose	Weißwangengans
<i>Calidris maritima</i>	purple sandpiper	Meerstrandläufer
<i>Gavia stellata</i>	red-throated diver/loon	Sterntaucher
<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	common eider	Eiderente
<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	king eider	Prachteiderente

Wildlife List — Landbirds



SCIENTIFIC NAME		ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Lagopus mytus</i>	rock ptarmigan	Alpenschneehuhn	
<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	snow bunting	Schneeammer	

Wildlife List — Flora



Wildlife List — Flora

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Flavocetraria cucullata</i>	curled snow lichen	Kapuzenflechte
<i>Xanthoria elegans</i>	elegant sunburst lichen	Zierliche Gelbflechte
<i>Silene acaulis</i>	moss campion	Stängelloses Leimkraut
<i>Cherleria biflora</i>	mountain stitchwort	Zweiblütige Bergmiere
<i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i>	purple saxifrage	Roter Steinbrech
<i>Oreomecon dahliana</i>	Svalbard poppy	Svalbard-Mohn
<i>Saxifraga cespitosa</i>	tufted saxifrage	Rasen-Steinbrech
<i>Carex</i> spp.	sedge	Seggen
<i>Saccharina latissima</i>	sugar kelp	Zuckertang
<i>Fucus vesiculosus</i>	vesicled rockweed	Blasentang

In summary

Our springtime expedition along the western coast of Svalbard was a remarkable journey into some of the most remote waters of the Arctic. Our itinerary allowed us to collect valuable data regarding terrestrial flora, fauna, and marine ecosystems.

Key scientific highlights included spectacular sightings of several polar bears and beluga whales, as well as the emblematic common eider and king eider. Our science boat sessions were popular, together with our lectures and workshops, helping to bridge the gap between science and general knowledge on the pristine and remote ecosystem we visited.

What data?	How much data?
iNaturalist	43 observations, 23 species
Ebird	10 checklists, 16 species
HappyWhale	0 submissions
CTD profiles	6 submissions
Climate Change Survey	87 participants
WAVE Project Guest Scientists	7 seven reported including minke (1) and humpback whales (2), belugas (20-30) and white beaked dolphins (+100), walruses (25), bearded seals (15) and grey seals (20).

Thank you!

The MS Fram Science and Education Team extends sincere thanks for choosing HX to explore the western part of the Svalbard archipelago during springtime. Your participation not only supports the ongoing work of researchers but also enables them to join our voyages, carry out meaningful studies, and access essential logistical resources that are often difficult to secure.

We are genuinely grateful for your curiosity and shared enthusiasm for the natural world — from birds and marine mammals to flowers, lichens, mosses, and even the microscopic life found in a drop of water.

It was a pleasure to exchange ideas, reflect on history over coffee, and marvel together at the diverse ecosystems we encountered. We hope this journey stays with you long after you return.





IX

**Thank you for your
participation!**