

The background of the slide features a deep blue underwater scene with two whales. A large, semi-transparent watermark of the Roman numeral 'IX' is positioned on the left side, spanning most of the vertical height. The text 'Science & Education Report' is centered horizontally and partially overlaps the 'IX' watermark.

Science & Education Report

MS Fridtjof Nansen

Grand Greenland —
Mythical Lands of the North

4 — 18 July 2026





Science & Education Programme

As we sailed along the Greenland coast, we journeyed together through landscapes shaped by sea, weather, wildlife, history, and time.

Through lectures, workshops, time on deck, and moments ashore, we explored coastlines, fjords, islands, seabirds, whales, plants, clouds, and the forces shaping this polar route, while contributing to citizen science along the way.

We hope these shared experiences helped deepen your connection to the places we visited and inspired you to keep observing, recording, and caring for the natural world beyond this voyage.

History & Culture

We discovered Greenlandic settlements and received a warm welcome from every community we visited. Through engaging lectures and discussions with Sidsel, Kasper, and Chef Inuunguaq, we gained a deeper understanding of Greenlandic traditions, cuisine, daily life, and the deep connection between people and nature. We also learned about the challenges and opportunities of living in the Arctic and were introduced to basic Greenlandic words, enriching our understanding of Greenland's unique culture and way of life.



NASA cloud observer

During our voyage, we conducted 4 Cloud Observation sessions.

By comparing our observations with satellite data, scientists can improve cloud classification, weather forecasting, and climate models.

You can continue contributing from home using the GLOBE Observer app.

[View our data](#) on the global map



iNaturalist

Throughout this voyage, you played a vital role in documenting the biodiversity of Greenland.

Together, we gathered:

877 Observations

205 Species Identified

11 Observers Participating

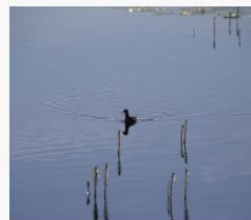
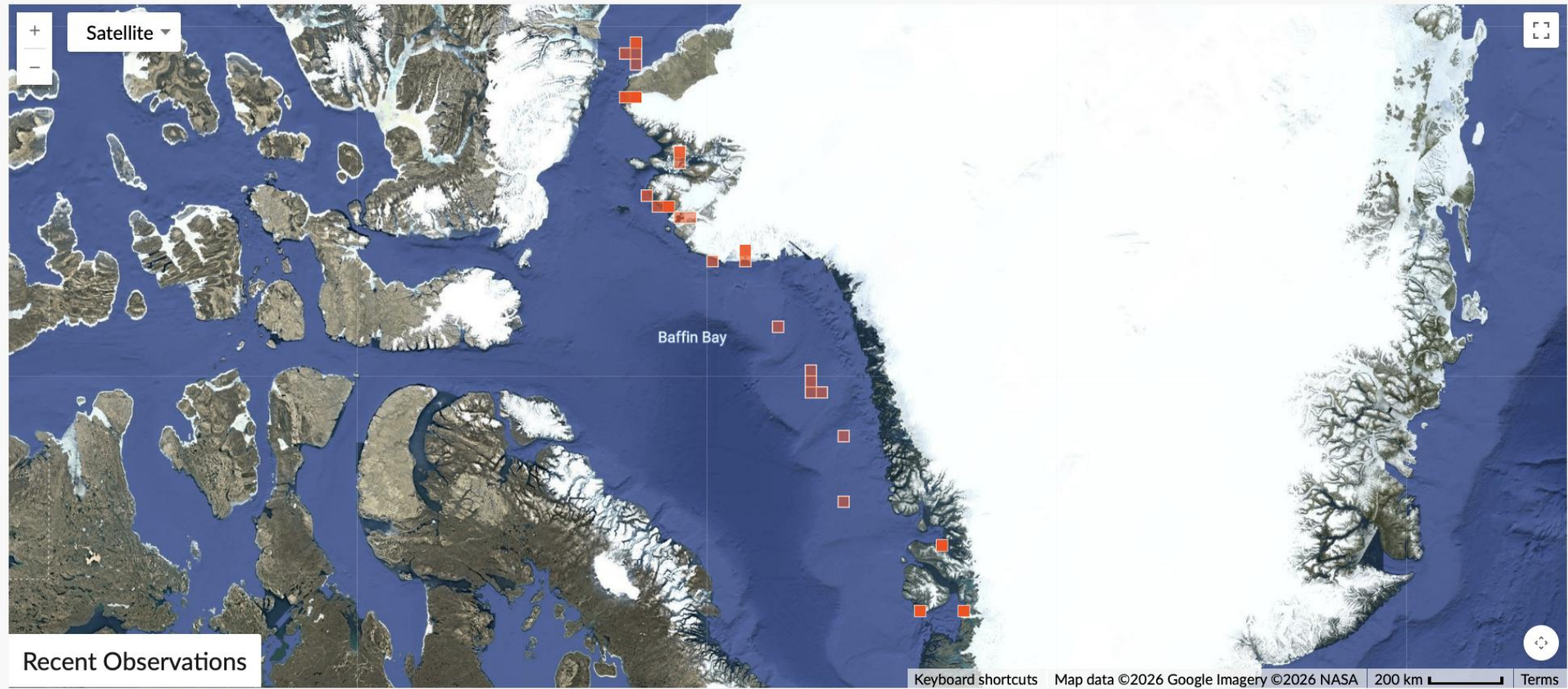
Each observation helps scientists build a clearer picture of biodiversity in Arctic regions.

Ready to explore our findings? View our data submitted on our [iNaturalist project](#)



Saxifraga oppositifolia
Purple saxifrage

Map of Observations





Science Boat

Over 16 science boat sessions, you moved beyond observation and took part in hands-on exploration of the waters along our route.

Using the plankton net, CTD, and Secchi Disk, you collected samples and measurements to better understand the hidden world beneath the surface, from tiny drifting organisms to water conditions and clarity.

Together with our Guest Scientist Tammy, you also collected various data including water samples for the Iceberg Ecosystems project. These samples help us understand how increased meltwater and the presence of icebergs affect the surrounding ecosystems.

[View our data](#) submitted to the Secchi Disk Project



CTD

Beneath the surface, the ocean holds important clues about change.

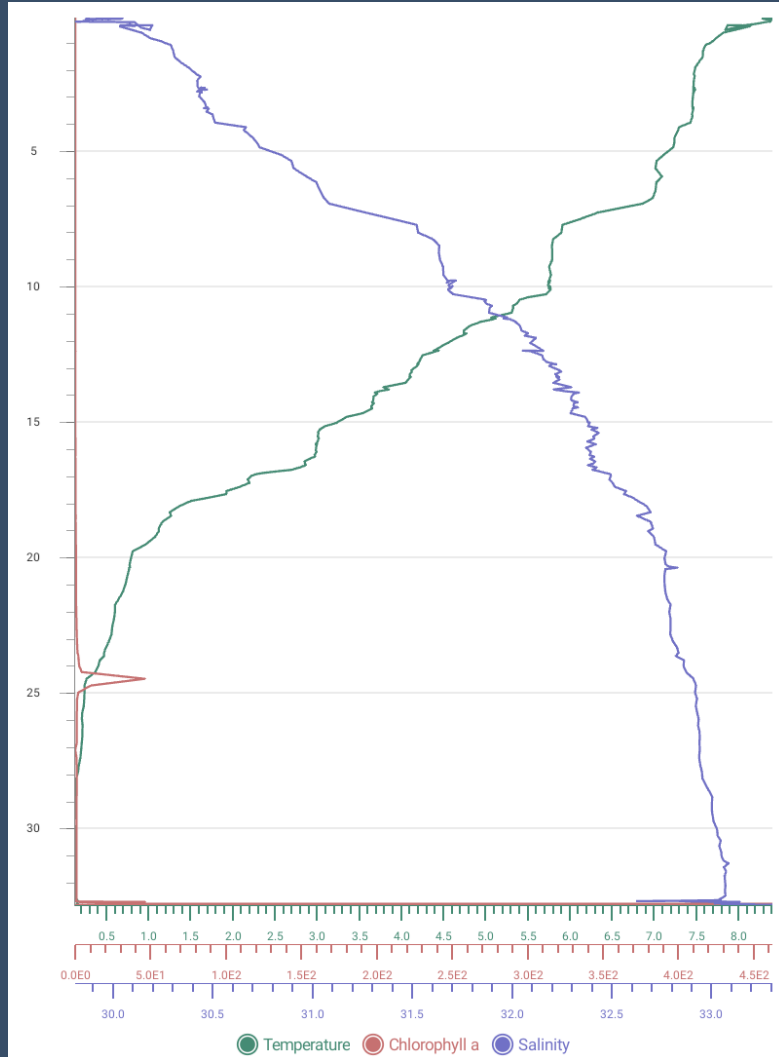
With the CTD, you measured temperature, salinity, and depth, helping us better understand water conditions along our route.

Each profile added useful data on how freshwater, currents, and ocean layers shape these waters, one measurement at a time.

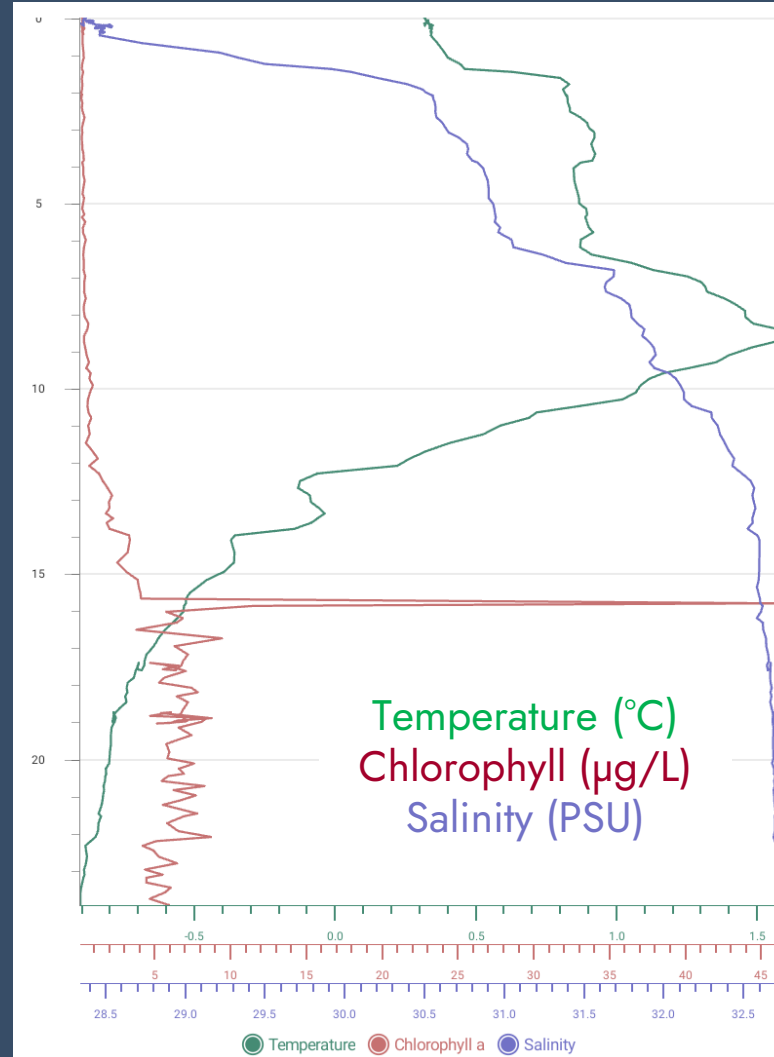
All the CTD data you collected is uploaded to the European Marine Observation and Data Network ([EMODnet](#)).

CTD

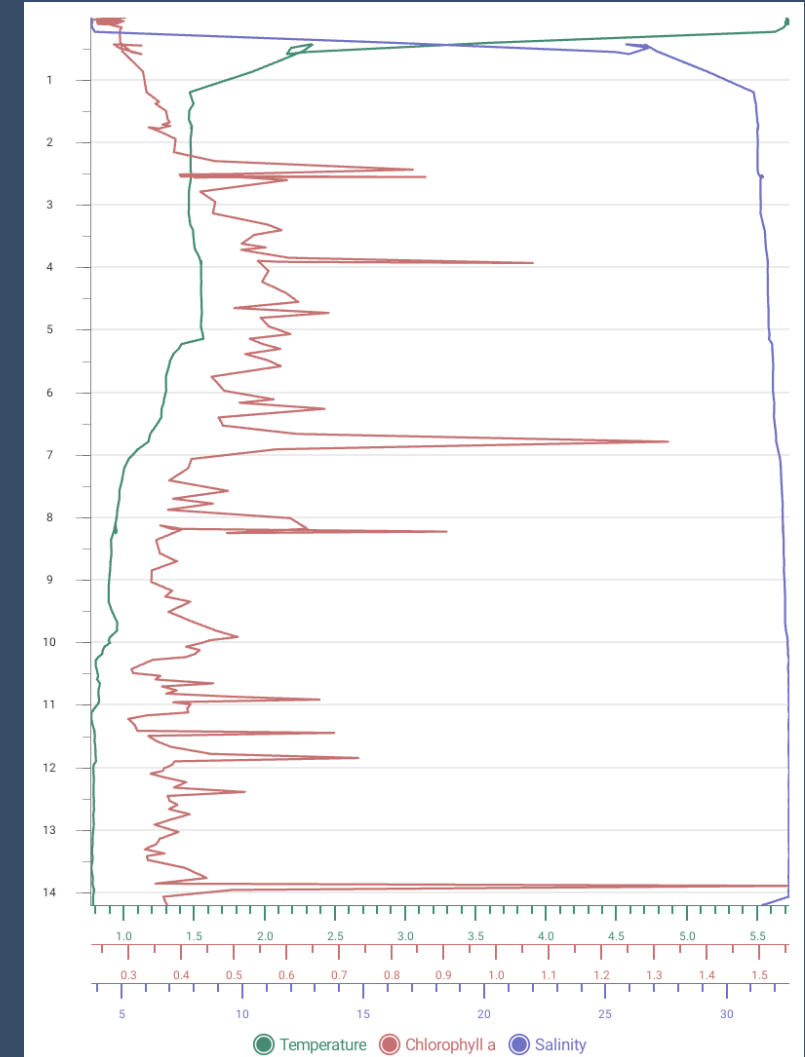
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Savissivik

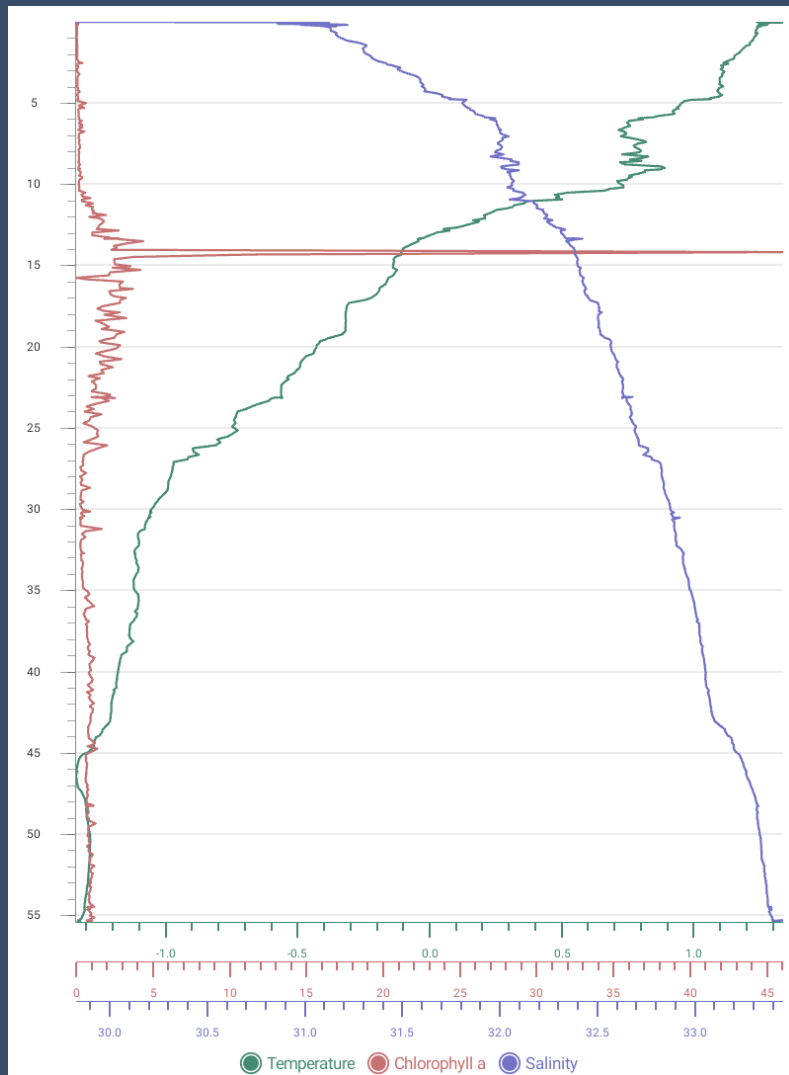


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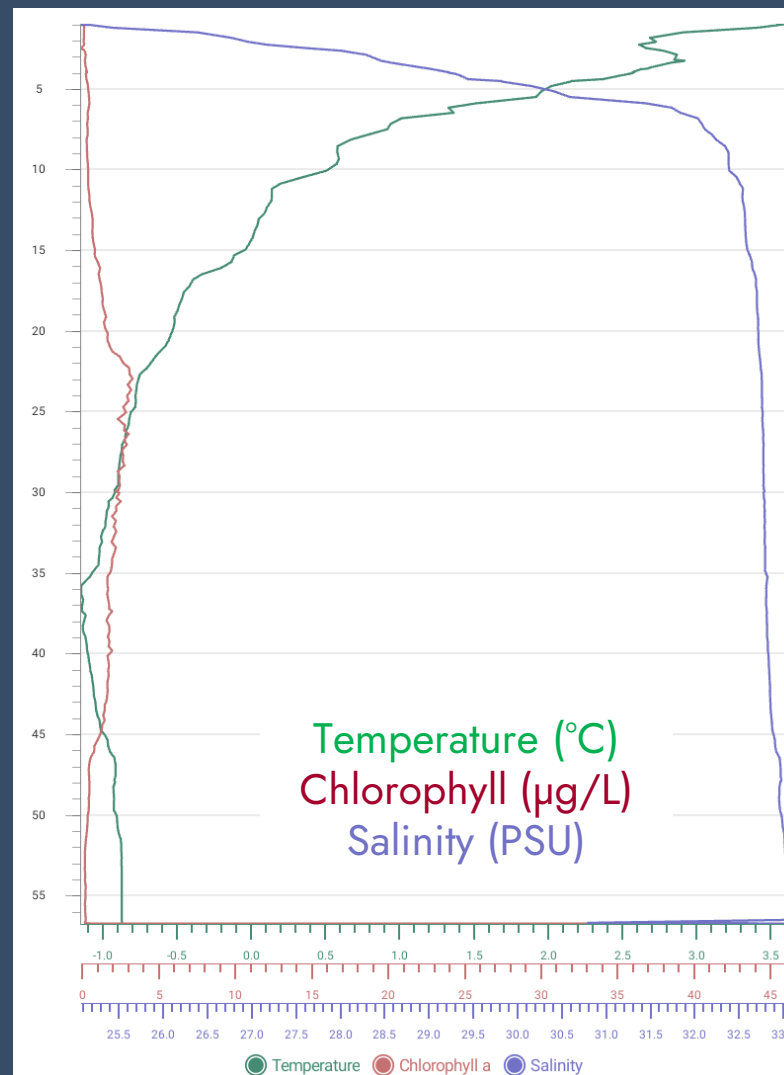


CTD

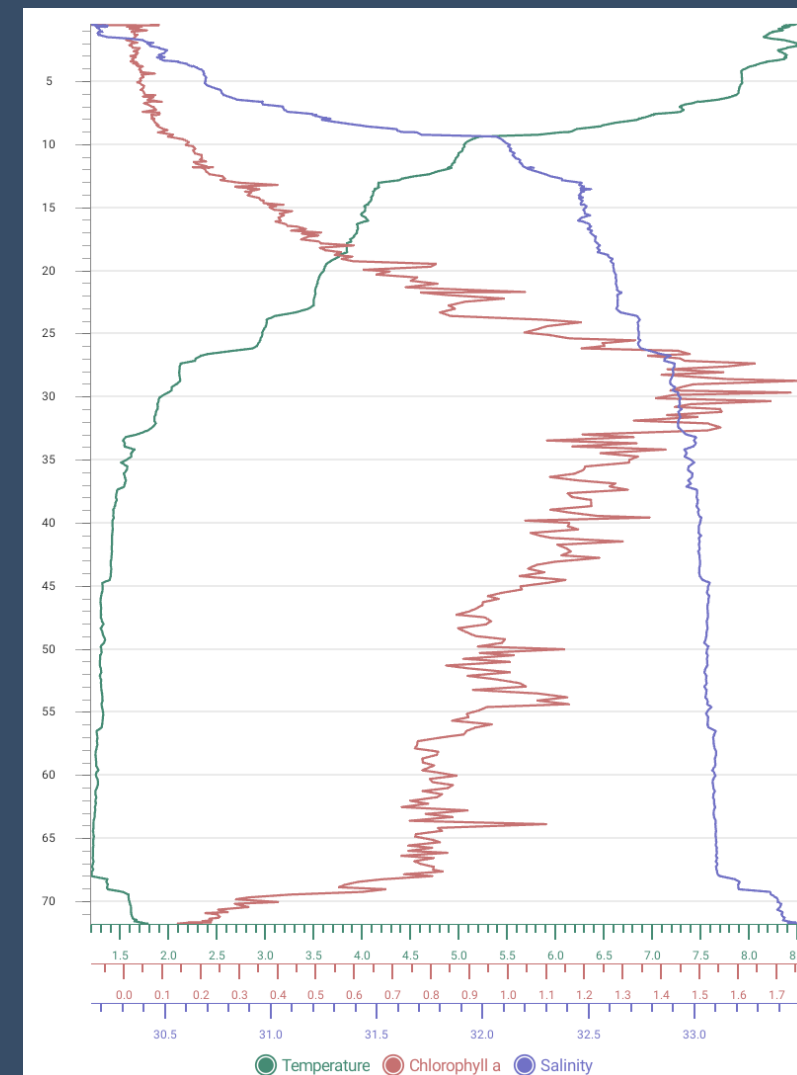
Etah



Qaanaaq



Qeqertarsuaq





Aglantha digitale



Ostracod



Pteropod



Amphipod

Plankton samples

Back in the Science Centre, we brought our samples into focus under the microscope, revealing a hidden world of plankton.

Using the main screen and smaller microscopes, you could explore each drop of water up close.

What appeared invisible to the naked eye quickly became a vivid reminder that these tiny organisms form the foundation of the rich ecosystems we had been travelling through.

Phytoplankton



Dinoflagellate



Diatom chain

Zooplankton



Calanus -Copepod



Zoea-Crab larvae

Zooplankton



Zooplankton



Guest Scientist

Dr Tammy Russell was aboard for the Iceberg Ecosystems project from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The project aims to understand how iceberg abundance and meltwater affect ecosystems in Greenland.

Over 10 science boat sessions, we collected together:

- Bird, ocean colour, and iceberg data.
- 20 meltwater samples (% freshwater)
- 40 phytoplankton samples (identification and abundance)
- 20 samples for nutrient analysis

Read more about the [IceECo project](#)

Visit our [Science & Education Hub](#) online to find out more



Wildlife List — Birds



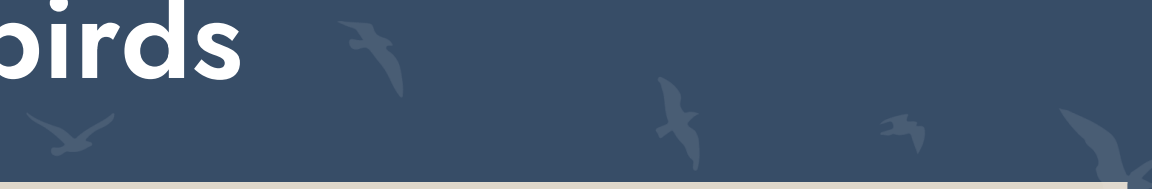
Wildlife List – Seabirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Anas acuta</i>	northern pintail	Spießente
<i>Anas crecca</i>	Eurasian teal	Krickente
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	mallard	Stockente
<i>Anser anser</i>	greylag goose	Graugans
<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	pink-footed goose	Kurzschnabelgans
<i>Anser caerulescens</i>	snow goose	Schneegans
<i>Aythya marila</i>	greater scaup	Bergente
<i>Branta bernicla</i>	brant goose	Ringelgans
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada goose	Kanadagans
<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	barnacle goose	Weißwangengans
<i>Bucephala islandica</i>	barrow's goldeneye	Spatelente
<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	long-tailed duck	Eisente
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	whooper swan	Singschwan
<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	harlequin duck	Kragenente
<i>Mareca penelope</i>	Eurasian wigeon	Pfeifente

Wildlife List — Seabirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	king eider	Prachteiderente
<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	long-tailed jaeger	Falkenraubmöwe
<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	parasitic jaeger	Schmarotzerraubmöwe
<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Arctic tern	Küstenseeschwalbe
<i>Uria lomvia</i>	thick-billed murre	Dickschnabellumme
<i>Xema sabini</i>	Sabine's gull	Schwalbenmöwe

Wildlife List — Water birds



SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	mallard	Stockente
<i>Anser caerulescens</i>	snow goose	Schneegans
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada goose	Kanadagans
<i>Mergus serrator</i>	red-breasted merganser	Mittelsäger
<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	red-necked phalarope	Odinshühnchen

Wildlife List — Land birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	redpoll	Birkenzeisig
<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	Lapland longspur	Spornammer
<i>Corvus corax</i>	common raven	Kolkrabe
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	northern wheatear	Steinschmätzer
<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	snow bunting	Schneeammer
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	redwing	Rotdrossel



Ebird

Birdwatching is more than a hobby — it is a powerful tool for science. eBird, a global Citizen Science platform, allows bird enthusiasts to record and share sightings, contributing valuable data for research and conservation.

During our voyage, our onboard Ornithologist completed 98 checklists, recording 32 bird species along the way. Every entry adds to a growing database that helps scientists track migration patterns, monitor populations, and understand bird behaviour in Greenland.

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

Wildlife List — Marine Mammals



Wildlife List – Marine Mammals

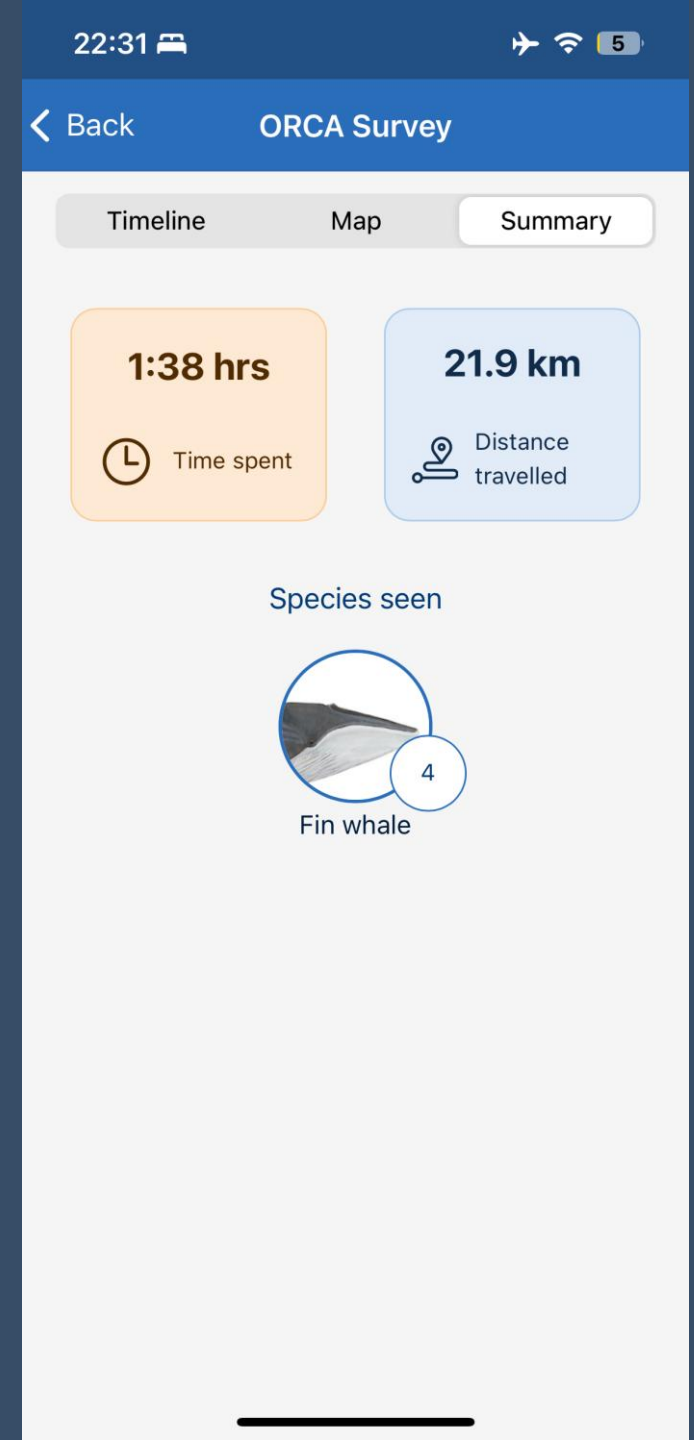


SCIENTIFIC NAME		ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>		fin whale	Finnwal
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>		humpback whale	Buckelwal
<i>Cystophora cristata</i>		hooded seal	Klappmützenrobbe
<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>		bearded seal	Bartrobbe
<i>Pagophilus groenlandicus</i>		harp/Greenland seal	Sattelrobbe
<i>Pusa hispida</i>		ringed seal	Ringelrobbe
		unidentified seal	
<i>Ursus maritimus</i>		polar bear	Eisbär

ORCA

While sailing around West and North Greenland, we were joined by ORCA Ocean Conservationist Taz, who collected data on whales, dolphins, and porpoises. Taz recorded sightings using the OceanWatchers App and sent the data back to ORCA, where it is shared with organisations working in cetacean conservation. It also appears on the ORCA website's interactive map, giving anyone an overview of what has been seen and where.

On this journey, we logged a total of **19 hours and 30 minutes** of survey effort, spanning **347.9 km**. **Four species of marine mammal** were recorded during these surveys, with a total of **147 individuals**.



Wildlife List — Land Mammals



Wildlife List – Land Mammals



SCIENTIFIC NAME		ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>	musk ox	Moschusochse	
<i>Leptus arcticus</i>	Arctic hare	Schneehase	



THX

**Thanks for your
participation!**