

Science & Education Report

Serene Greenland – To the World's Largest National Park

MS Fram
5 – 19.9.2026





Lectures & Discovery Sessions

13 Lectures
12 Discovery sessions
7 Citizen science projects
4 Science boats



Wildlife Watch

46 Species:
11 Mammals
35 Birds

History & Culture

North-East Greenland

Once in Greenland, we dived into the history of this massive island, and several waves of human migration that populated it, from the ancient Palaeo-Eskimos who crossed the Bering Strait during the last ice age, to the Norsemen and the Thule culture, who later became the Greenlandic Inuit that we know today. We visited Ittoqqortoormiit, one of the very few human settlements in East Greenland. We also visited an archaeological site of the late Thule period, and we concluded the voyage by learning about the stories of the explorers who boarded the original ship Fram, and their attempts to reach the North and the South Poles.



Science Boat

We took various measurements during the science boat sessions we had this trip. We collected plankton samples with the plankton net, launched the CTD to measure the parameters of the water, took turbidity measurements with the Secchi Disk, and launched our hydrophone to record the underwater soundscapes.

Together, these results will help us better understand the ongoing changes in the Arctic Ocean through the living platform and network of EMODnet, where we will submit our data at the end of this voyage.





Plankton Samples

Plankton

Some examples of plankton we found in the samples taken on the science boat.

- A bivalve (your muscles and clams)
- A dinoflagellate (your ‘spaceships of the ocean’)
- A copepod larva (might need another 7–9 casts to grow into an adult copepod)





NASA's GLOBE Cloud Observer

In total, 20 guests participated in three NASA's GLOBE Cloud observation sessions, and we made 10 submissions. Observations were timed with satellite flyovers, and we received matching reports for the early observations.

Please continue looking at the sky back home, since every contribution helps scientists.

View our data on the global map.

Aurorasaurus

During this voyage, we observed the Northern Lights, or Aurora Borealis, on at least six different nights. Expedition Team members have contributed photographs from five nights to Aurorasaurus, a Citizen Science project that helps researchers track auroral activity across the globe. While our team occasionally needed a few hours of sleep between sightings, the recorded observations now form part of a growing scientific dataset.

You can help complete the picture. Upload your own aurora photographs to Aurorasaurus.org and contribute your observations alongside ours. Once submitted, you can explore the website's archive to see where our records fit within the broader history of aurora sightings, and compare observations from around the world.



Picture from the night of 14 – 15 September



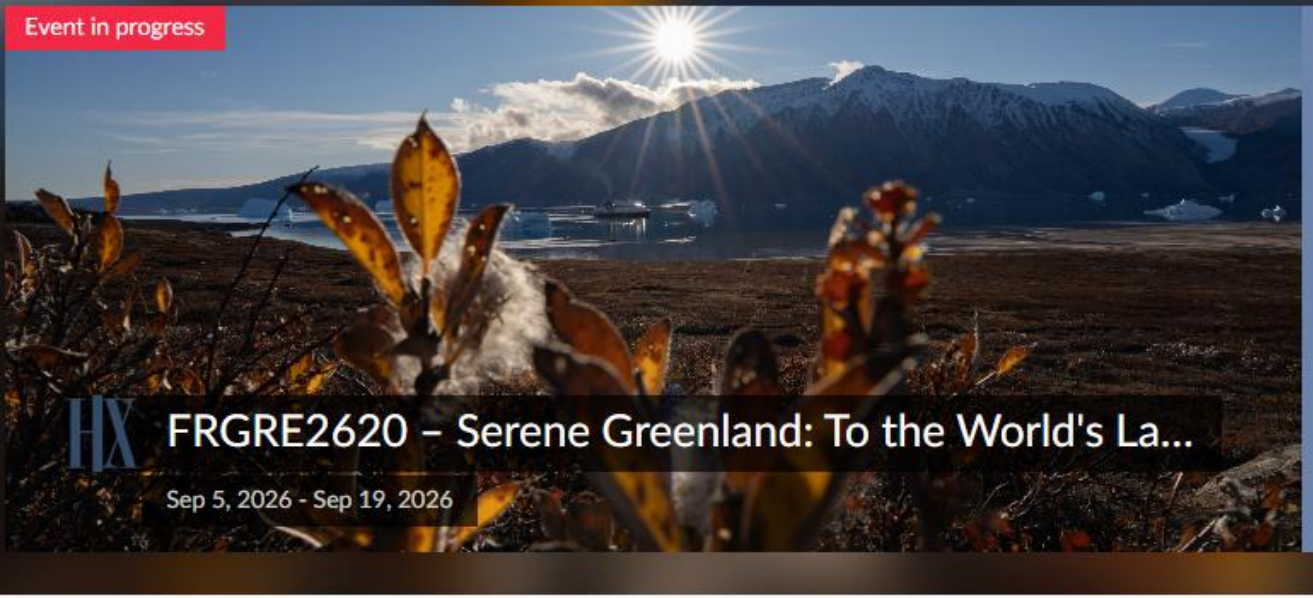
iNaturalist

Thanks to your efforts, we recorded 957 opportunistic observations representing nearly 140 species.

In the Arctic autumn, plants feature prominently. They represent around 48% of our observations, followed by fungi (mainly lichens), then birds and mammals.

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.



About

Leave 16

Summary of the wildlife observations from expedition team members and guests on-board MS FRAM during our autumnal navigation in East Greenland.

Read More ›

Your Membership

Project Members Only

Project Journal

Overview

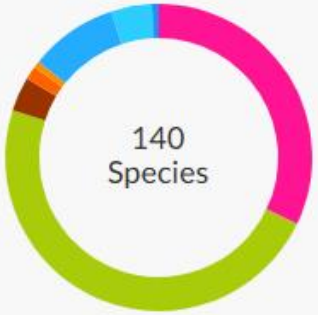
953	140	41	11
OBSERVATIONS	SPECIES	IDENTIFIERS	OBSERVERS

Stats

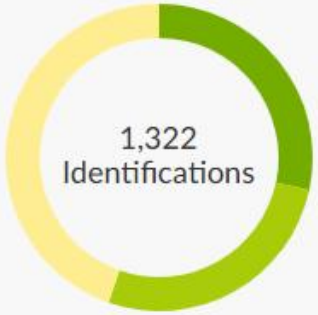
Stats



- Research Grade
- Needs ID
- Casual



- Unknown
- Protozoans
- Fungi
- Plants
- Chromista
- Mollusks
- Insects
- Arachnids
- Ray-Finned F...
- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Birds
- Mammals
- Other Animals



- Improving
- Supporting
- Leading
- Maverick

iNaturalist

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 114 participants who answered the survey (representing 64% of all 177 guests aboard). On our voyage, we found that 69% 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.

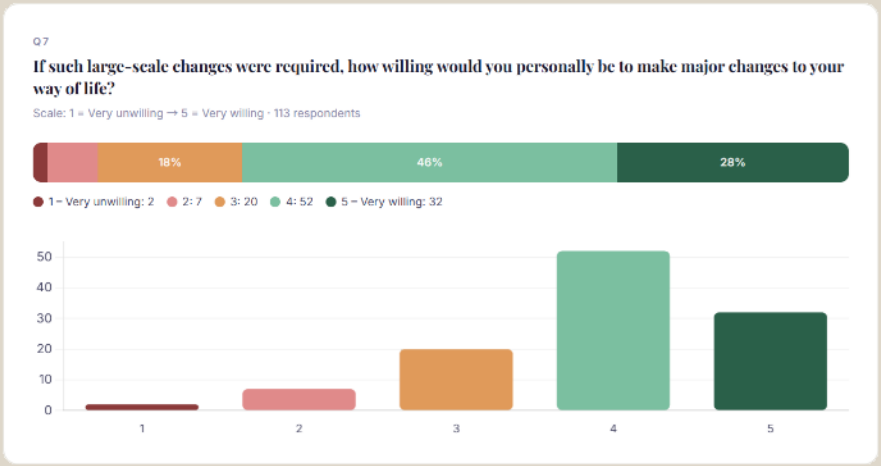
69.3%
believe climate change is a serious human-caused problem

50%
feel "concerned but hopeful" when hearing about climate change

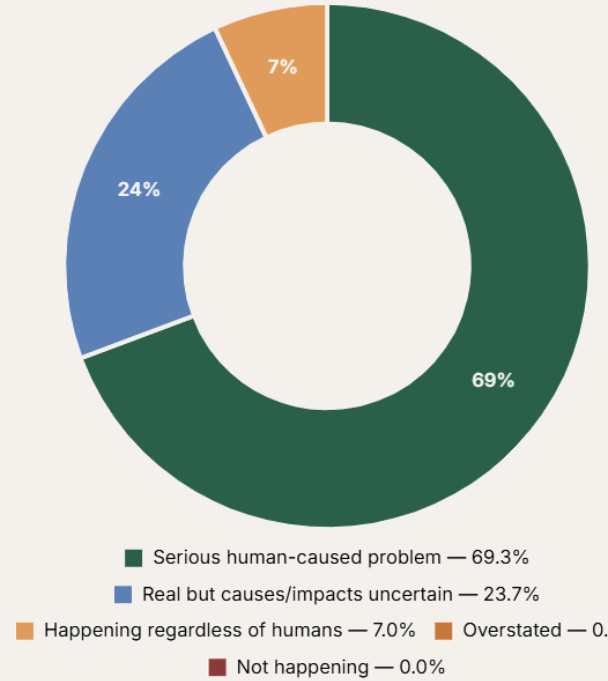
67%
see some damage as unavoidable but still believe meaningful action matters (Q3)

7.61
average personal worry score out of 10 — vs 4.55 perceived for the general public

74%
are willing or very willing to make major lifestyle changes (Q7 scores 4–5)



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



Visit the IPCC website

Climate Change IPCC FAQ

IPCC Summary report

Wildlife List – Land Mammals



Wildlife List – Land Mammals

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
Vulpes lagopus	Arctic fox	Polarfuchs
Ovibos moschatus	musk ox	Moschusochse
Lepus arcticus	Arctic hare	Polarhase
Mustela erminea	stoat or ermine	Hermine



Happywhale

We submitted four photos to the Happywhale project during this voyage. We were fortunate to spot several marine mammal species, including fin, humpback, minke, and narwhal whales, as well as ringed and harp seals. We also spotted a white-beaked dolphin while navigating through Greenland.

We hope you keep your eyes on the horizon for wildlife once you are back home. We may see you on board again soon. Thanks for travelling with HX.

Do not forget to visit MS Fram's profile on Happywhale by clicking here



Wildlife List — Marine Mammals

Wildlife List – Marine Mammals

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
Balaenoptera acutorostrata	common minke whale	Zwergwal
Balaenoptera physalus	fin whale	Finnwal
Megaptera novaeangliae	humpback whale	Buckelwal
Lagenorhynchus albirostris	white-beaked dolphin	Weißschnauzendelfin
Monodon monoceros	narwhal	Narwal
Pagophilus groenlandicus	harp seal	Sattelrobbe
Pusa hispida	ringed seal	Ringelrobbe



eBird

Our Ornithologist Simon, together with colleagues and guests, observed 35 bird species altogether. Of these, 29 species were recorded during 23 eBird surveys (checklists) on landings and wildlife watches.

The most numerous species was the northern fulmar with 417 individuals, followed by snow bunting with 203, and pink-footed goose with 158 individuals counted. The fulmars were counted on wildlife watches at sea, and the other two species were congregating before their autumn migrations.

You can review details of all the eBird observations by accessing our Trip Report for this voyage here: MS Fram: Iceland - East Greenland - Iceland 05.09.2026 - 19.09.2026 - eBird Trip Report

MS Fram: Iceland - East Greenland - Iceland 05.09.2026 - 19.09.2026

5 – 19 Sep 2026 (15 days) Public

Greenland | Iceland Subregions

Simon Delany

Share Edit



Narrative

Owners and editors of a Trip Report may write a narrative.

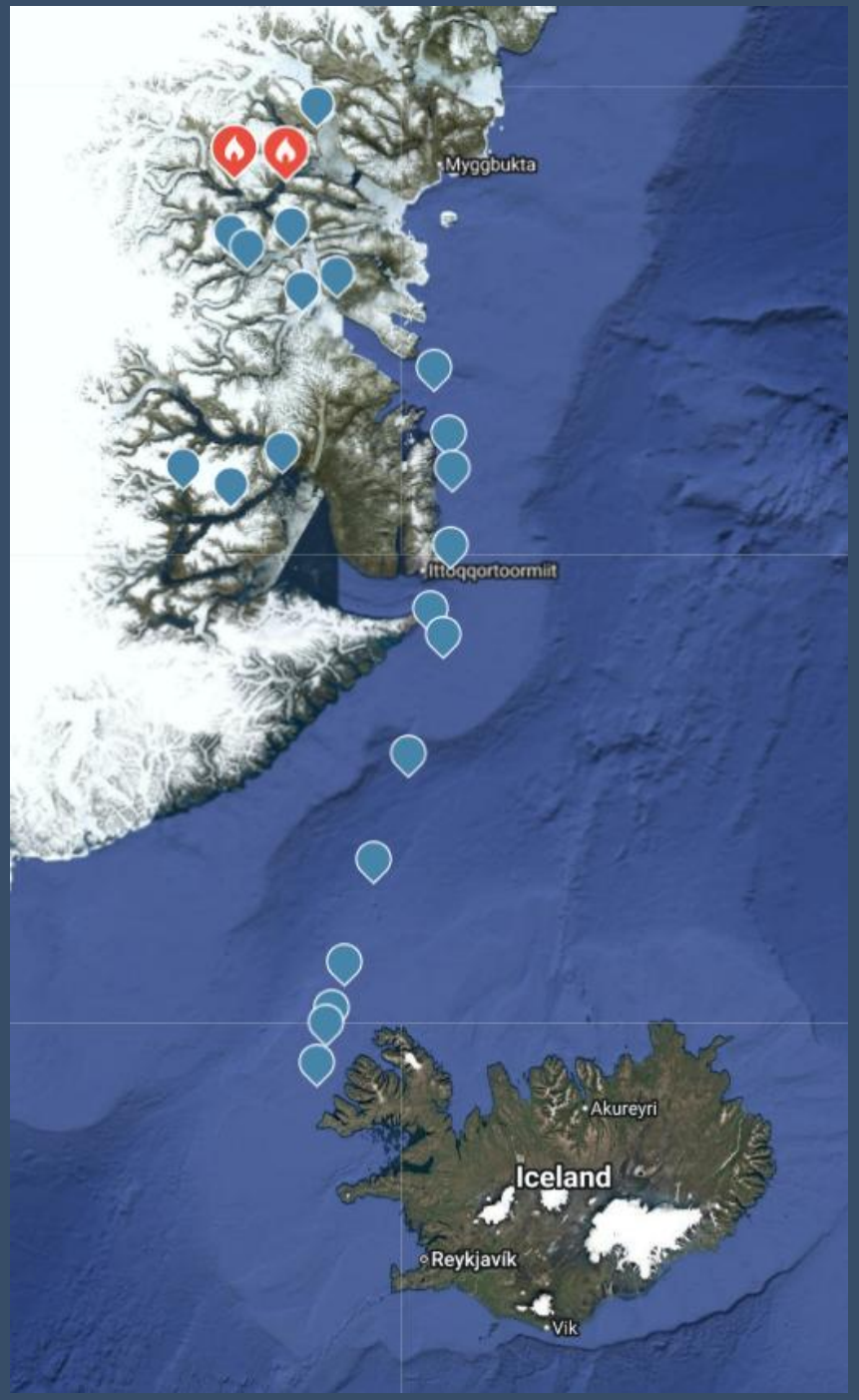
Add narrative

29
Species Observed
+2 other taxa

23
Checklists

LIFERS 1

eBird


Myggbukta
Ittoqqortoormiit
Akureyri
Iceland
Reykjavík
Vik

Species Observed

158	Pink-footed Goose
2	Long-tailed Duck
16	Rock Ptarmigan
3	Common Ringed Plover
5	Sanderling
3	Dunlin
1	Parasitic Jaeger
1	Pomarine Jaeger
1	Great Skua
26	Razorbill
15	Dovekie
3	Thick-billed Murre
57	Common Murre
92	Black-legged Kittiwake
2	Great Black-backed Gull
54	Glaucous Gull
11	Lesser Black-backed Gull
3	Arctic Tern
3	Red-throated Loon
417	Northern Fulmar
1	Great Shearwater
32	Sooty Shearwater
1	Manx Shearwater
13	Northern Gannet
1	Gyrfalcon Sensitive
8	Common Raven
3	Northern Wheatear
1	Redpoll
203	Snow Bunting

ADDITIONAL TAXA

2	jaeger/skua sp.
530	large alcid sp.

eBird

CornellLab

Wildlife List — Birds



Wildlife List – Seabirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
Phalacrocorax carbo	great cormorant	Kormoran
Morus bassanus	northern gannet	Baβtölpel
Fulmarus glacialis	northern fulmar	Eissturmvogel
Ardenna grisea	sooty shearwater	Dunkler sturmtaucher
Ardenna gravis	great shearwater	Groβer sturmtaucher
Puffinus puffinus	Manx shearwater	Atlanticsturmtaucher
Larus fuscus	lesser black-backed gull	Heringsmöwe
Larus argentatus	herring gull	Silbermöwe
Larus marinus	great black-backed gull	Mantelmöwe
Larus hyperboreus	glaucous gull	Eismöwe
Rissa tridactyla	black-legged kittiwake	Dreizehenmöwe
Sterna paradisaea	Arctic tern	Küstenseeschwalbe
Stercorarius skua	great skua	Skua
Stercorarius parasiticus	Arctic skua/ parasitic jaeger	Schmarotzerraubmöwe
Stercorarius pomarinus	pomarine skua/ jaeger	Spatelraubmöwe
Cepphus grylle	black guillemot	Grylllteiste
Uria aalge	common guillemot / murre	Trottellumme
Uria lomvia	Brünnich's guillemot / thick-billed murre	Dickschnabellumme
Alca torda	razorbill	Tordalke
Fratercula arctica	Atlantic puffin	Papageitaucher
Alle alle	little auk/dovekie	Krabbentaucher

Wildlife List – Waterbirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
Gavia stellata	red-throated diver/loon	Sterntaucher
Anser brachyrhynchus	pink-footed goose	Kurzschnabelgans
Somateria mollissima	common eider	Eiderente
Clangula hyemalis	long-tailed duck	Eisente
Calidris maritima	purple sandpiper	Meerstrandläufer
Calidris alpina	dunlin	Alpenstrandläufer
Calidris alba	sanderling	Sanderling
Charadrius hiaticula	common ringed plover	Sandregenpfeifer

Wildlife List – Landbirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH
Falco rusticolus	gyrfalcon	Gerfalke
Lagopus muta	rock ptarmigan	Alpenschneehuhn
Corvus corax	northern raven	Kolkrabe
Oenanthe oenanthe	northern wheatear	Steinschmätzer
Acanthis flammea	common redpoll	Taigabirkenzeisig
Plectrophenax nivalis	snow bunting	Schneeammer



In summary

Our expedition 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. Our science boat sessions were very 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	949 observations, 138 species
Nasa Cloud Globe Observer	3 observations
eBird	23 checklists, 29 species
HappyWhale	4 submissions
CTD profiles	4 submissions
Secchi Disk	2 submissions
Aurorasaurus	5 submissions

Thank you!

The Fram Science & Education Team extends heartfelt thanks for choosing HX Expeditions to explore the eastern part of Greenland. 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 deeply appreciative of your genuine 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 true joy to exchange ideas, reflect on history over coffee, and marvel together at the diverse ecosystems we encountered. We hope this journey will remain among your most treasured memories.




Thanks for your
participation!