

Arctic Council Side Event at the 2019 Our Ocean Conference

Oslo, 23 October

Breakfast briefing: A Cleaner Arctic Marine Environment – Battling Marine Debris in the Arctic

Location: Room Frognerparken, Clarion Hotel The Hub, Biskop Gunnerus' Gate 3

Time of event: 07:30-08:30 (breakfast will be served)

Each year, a staggering amount of marine litter enters our oceans. Accounting for over 70% of all marine litter in the world ocean, plastic marine litter is one of the most challenging problems affecting the marine environment globally.

The presence of litter in the oceans is felt world-wide. The Arctic is no exception. It has been recorded from coastal shallow waters to the seafloor of deepest oceanic trenches and basins. Plastics endanger wildlife, such as mammals and birds, found entangled in nylon nets or discovered dead with their digestive tracts full of plastics. There are also growing concerns about microplastics that have been found widely in the Arctic. But what are we doing about it, and can more be done?

Leading specialists and experts in the field of protection of the Arctic marine environment will pool together and share their most recent findings and what lies ahead in our efforts to battle the challenge of Arctic marine debris.

Draft agenda:

- 1) Iceland's Chairmanship of the Arctic Council: The Importance of Our Oceans. - [Stefán Skjaldarson, Chair of the Sustainable Development Working Group](#)
- 2) Key findings of the desktop study by PAME – [Katrine Nissen, Head of Department, Water and Marine Environment at Ministry of Environment and Food](#)
- 3) Combining efforts of the Arctic Council Working Groups and an International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic, #ArcticPlastics - [Magnús Jóhannesson, Arctic Council designated special coordinator on plastics, marine litter](#)
- 4) Development of a marine litter regional action plan for the Arctic – [Katrine Nissen, Head of Department, Water and Marine Environment at Ministry of Environment and Food](#)
- 5) Development of monitoring guidelines (AMAP) - [Eivind Farnen, Norwegian Environment Agency](#)
- 6) Questions and answers
- 7) Closing remarks

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