



2021



**IASC**

INTERNATIONAL  
ARCTIC SCIENCE  
COMMITTEE



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# JAN

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## THE INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SCIENCE COMMITTEE (IASC)

The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) is a non-governmental, international scientific organization. IASC encourages and facilitates cooperation in all aspects of Arctic research, in all countries engaged in Arctic research, and in all areas of the Arctic. IASC promotes and supports leading-edge interdisciplinary research in order to foster a greater scientific understanding of the Arctic and its role in the Earth system.

[\[iasc.info\]](http://iasc.info)

IASC 2021

PHOTO: FIEKE RADER

The Dutch research station in Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard, March 2020.



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# FEB

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**PHOTO: SUSAN CHRISTIANEN**

These remote field huts from local Nenets bring shelter from wind and extreme cold temperatures that dropped to ca. -55°C on some days. They are built on skies, and are used for migrating with reindeers during wintertime. This picture is taken ca.80km North of Tukhart, Taymyr peninsula, Russia, March 2018.



## INTERDISCIPLINARITY IASC

IASC promotes system-scale Arctic activities and encourages Arctic scientists to explore interdisciplinary questions, in particular across the natural and social sciences. This approach is emphasized by IASC "Cross-Cutting" activities, which are supported by at least two of the five IASC Working Groups.

**[[iasc.info/activities/cross-cutting](http://iasc.info/activities/cross-cutting)]**

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# MAR

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## **ARCTIC SCIENCE SUMMIT WEEK 2021, THE ARCTIC: REGIONAL CHANGES, GLOBAL IMPACTS**

The Arctic Science Summit Week will be hosted in Lisbon, Portugal and online from 20 to 26 of March. Framed by the overarching theme "The Arctic: Regional Changes, Global Impacts", ASSW2021 will report and discuss advances on the understanding of the "New Arctic" and on its impacts and interactions with the lower latitudes. The event will include the IASC Business & Arctic Community Meetings (20-22 March) and the Science Symposium (24-26 March).

**[[www.assw2021.pt](http://www.assw2021.pt)]**

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**PHOTO: CASSIA TOFANO**

Lisbon, Portugal.



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# APR

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PHOTO: LUCA BRACALI

View on Cape Knivskjellodden (71°11'08") from Cape North (71°10'21"), Magerøya island, Norway



## IASC ATMOSPHERE WORKING GROUP

The scientific scope of the AWG includes research towards understanding and predicting the Arctic climate system, its change, and impacts of this change. Priorities include Arctic air pollution, which influences Arctic climate and feedbacks through trace gas and aerosol forcing, and is harmful to Arctic communities and ecosystems. Other key priorities are atmosphere-ice and atmosphere-ocean coupling, Arctic paleoclimates, Arctic energy budget, and aerosol-cloud interactions in the Arctic.

**[[iasc.info/working-groups/atmosphere](https://iasc.info/working-groups/atmosphere)]**

*The scientific core elements of IASC are its five Working Groups, which facilitate and support international, science-led programs.*

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# MAY

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PHOTO: DIANE HIRSHBERG

Umiat on the shore ice in Utqiagvik, Alaska, during the spring whaling season in May 2019.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> ARCTIC SCIENCE MINISTERIAL (ASM3)

ASM3, co-hosted by Iceland and Japan, will take place on 08-09 May 2021 in Tokyo, Japan, after being postponed due to the pandemic. ASM3 aims to use the well-established foundation of the Ministerial as a means to take action on coordinated Arctic observing and research in an open, transparent format including all Arctic stakeholders. The involvement of international organizations such as IASC shows a broad recognition at the government level of the urgent response and action needed. The importance of coming together to develop and strengthen Arctic research cooperation and collaboration is essential. IASC contributes to ASM3 in consulting, convening, and representing the Arctic research community.

[<http://asm3.org>]

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# JUN

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PHOTO: GREGORY TRAN  
Glacier front of Lilliehöökreen.



## IASC CRYOSPHERE WORKING GROUP (CWG)

The CWG's research interests span all elements of the cryosphere - the frozen regions of our planet - including sea ice, mountain glaciers, ice caps, icebergs, the Greenland ice sheet, snow cover, permafrost and seasonally frozen ground, and lake and river-ice. The CWG helps promote activities that enhance our understanding of these cryospheric components of the Arctic/sub-Arctic and their interaction with the Earth's climate system.

[\[iasc.info/working-groups/cryosphere\]](https://iasc.info/working-groups/cryosphere)

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# JUL

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PHOTO: CHARLOTTE GEHRKE

Katla Ice-cave, Iceland.



## IASC TERRESTRIAL WORKING GROUP

The TWG fosters and supports a broad spectrum of activities, reflecting the geo-, bio-, and social diversity associated with the Arctic terrestrial and freshwater realms. Highlights include the launch of 'T-MOSAIC' (the Terrestrial Multidisciplinary distributed Observatories for the Study of Arctic Climate; <https://www.t-mosaic.com/>) as a circumpolar, land-based program that complements the IASC-supported ocean-atmosphere program, MOSAiC.

**[[iasc.info/working-groups/terrestrial](https://www.t-mosaic.com/)]**

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# AUG

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**PHOTO: FEDERICA SCARPA**

A view of the walk from the International airport to Kulusuk, a settlement of 241 inhabitants in East Greenland.



**IASC SOCIAL AND HUMAN WORKING GROUP (SHWG)**

The scientific scope of the SHWG includes all aspects of social sciences, humanities and health research in the Arctic, as well as their connections with other IASC Working Groups. A wide range of topics is therefore of interest to the SHWG, including human health and well-being; livelihoods and land use; geopolitics and peace in the Arctic; vulnerability and resilience in changing social-ecological systems; and perspectives of gender in Indigenous communities. As demonstrated by the supported activities SWHG members address these topics in various ways: by going into depth on core concepts, by bringing a global perspective to the Arctic, and by working closely with local stake-, rights- and knowledge holders.

**[[iasc.info/working-groups/social-human](http://iasc.info/working-groups/social-human)]**

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# SEP

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**PHOTO: FIEKE RADER**

Three seals trying to be together on the same rock.  
Thiisbukta, Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard, May 2020.



## IASC MEDAL

The IASC Medal is awarded each year in recognition of exceptional and sustained contributions to the understanding of the Arctic. The whole IASC community, from all countries, backgrounds, and career stages, is invited to submit nominations to the IASC Secretariat (until 31 December each year). IASC supports inclusivity and diversity and therefore particularly encourages nominations which take these values into consideration.

[\[iasc.info/medal\]](https://iasc.info/medal)

IASC awarded the **2020 IASC Medal** to **Dr. Sue E. Moore** for Outstanding Achievement in Understanding Marine Mammals as Ecosystem Sentinels and how Climate Change is Influencing the Phenology of Arctic Species

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# OCT

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**PHOTO: THEA SCHNEIDER**

Natalia Ribeira Santos and Lisa Crow setting up a windmill to power an ocean buoy at the distributed network around Polarstern at the first leg of the MOSAiC expedition.



### IASC CAPACITY-BUILDING

The IASC Fellowship Program engages early career scientists in the work of the IASC Working Groups. IASC Fellows are doctoral or postdoctoral researchers who are supported to participate in and help plan IASC activities and projects, as well as help with reporting to the IASC Secretariat. From 2020, following the recommendations of the IASC Action Group on Indigenous Involvement (AGII), IASC welcomes also at least one indigenous Fellow per year. A call for applications is released each year in October, managed by APECS. IASC also supports programs to increase Indigenous participation in IASC science and ASSW, as well as science communication and other training activities.

[\[iasc.info/capacity-building/fellowship\]](https://iasc.info/capacity-building/fellowship)

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# NOV

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## IASC MARINE WORKING GROUP (MWG)

The scientific scope of the MWG shall include but not be limited to any marine natural science or engineering research. It facilitates international coordination of research in the Arctic marine environment and supports cross-cutting objectives through face-to-face annual meetings. Scientific foci include predicting and understanding rapid changes to the Ocean system, understanding biological and ecosystem processes in the Arctic and sub-arctic seas, sea ice structure dynamics and the Arctic system, geochemical processes in the Arctic and sub-arctic seas and enhancing and improving access to the paleo record of the Arctic Ocean through scientific drilling.

[\[iasc.info/assw/marine\]](http://iasc.info/assw/marine)

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### PHOTO: GREGORY TRAN

View on Collethogda / Tre Kroner / Pretender from the sea ice in Kongfjorden  
Kongsfjorden, Svalbard - 2020.



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# DEC

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PHOTO: ANDRII GLADII

View from the IASC Secretariat Office in Akureyri, Iceland.



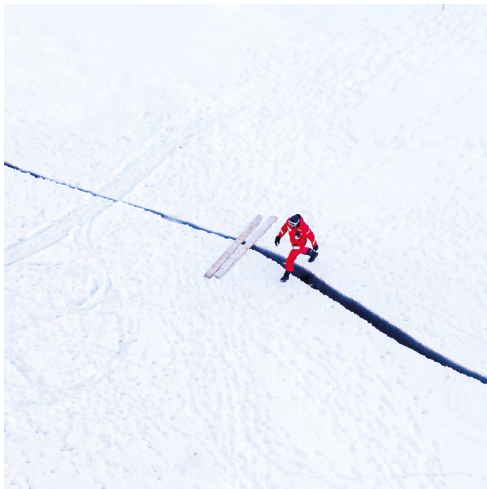
## IASC SECRETARIAT

The IASC Secretariat is responsible for the daily operations of IASC. Among its tasks, the Secretariat provides support for the IASC Working Groups, Council, and Executive Committee; is responsible for IASC communications, coordinates with IASC partners; and administers IASC finances. Currently the Secretariat is based in Akureyri, Iceland and is supported by Rannís, the Icelandic Centre for Research, through the end of 2026 .

Get in contact with the IASC Secretariat if you have any question regarding IASC or Arctic Science!

**[[info@iasc.info](mailto:info@iasc.info)]**

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**COVERPHOTO: THEA SCHNEIDER**

A crack in the ice opening at one of the sites of the distributed network around Polarstern at the first leg of the MOSAiC expedition.



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COMMITTEE (IASC)**

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Editors: Federica Scarpa and Gerlis Fugmann

Production and Layout: [www.redpear.de](http://www.redpear.de)

Printing: [www.arnoldgroup.de](http://www.arnoldgroup.de)

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