IASC

INTERNATIONAL
ARCTIC SCIENCE
COMMITTEE

JAN

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PHOTO: Evgenii Salganik / Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Adventtoppen mountain during courses and fieldwork at the University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS)

IASC 2026

IASC

THE INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SCIENCE COMMITTEE (IASC)

The **International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)** is a non-governmental, international scientific organization. The Founding Articles committed IASC to pursue a mission of encouraging and facilitating cooperation in all aspects of Arctic research, in all countries engaged in Arctic research and in all areas of the Arctic region. Overall, IASC promotes and supports leading-edge interdisciplinary research in order to foster a greater scientific understanding of the Arctic region and its role in the Earth system Rather than defining human and environmental boundaries, IASC tries to bridge those boundaries. IASC is also committed to recognizing that Traditional Knowledge, Indigenous Knowledge, and "Western" scientific knowledge are coequal and complementary knowledge systems, all of which can and should inform the work of IASC.

[iasc.info]

FEB

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PHOTO: JOÃO GOMES ILHA / INSTITUTE: ISTITUTO DI SCIENZE POLARI (ITALY)

The frozen road that leads to the gondola used to go to the Zeppelin Observatory (lights uphill), in Ny-Alesund, Svalbard.

IASC 2026

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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 2031. Get in contact with the IASC Secretariat if you have any questions regarding IASC or Arctic Science!

[info@iasc.info]

MAR

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PHOTO: LAURA HALBACH
Ice Camp, Greenland Ice Sheet.

IASC 2026

IASC

ARCTIC SCIENCE SUMMIT WEEK (ASSW2026) & ARCTIC OBSERVING SUMMIT (AOS)

The **Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) 2026** will be organised from **25 March–1 April 2026** in **Aarhus, Denmark** by the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and hosted by the University of Aarhus and the Forum for Arctic Research (FAF). The venue of ASSW 2026 will be the award-winning Campus of Aarhus University, located near the medieval city centre of Aarhus on the east coast of mainland Denmark, Jutland.

ASSW2026 includes three parts:

- ASSW 2026 Community Meetings and Workshop (25–29 March 2026)
- ASSW 2026 Science Day "Arctic Observations" (29 March 2026)
- Arctic Observing Summit 2026 (30 March–1 April 2026)

[assw.info]

APR

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PHOTO: JAKOB J. ASSMANN, UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

An Arctic mouse-ear (Cerastium arcticum) flowering in the tundra near Zackenberg. Taken during fieldwork for a project to speed up plant monitoring in remote regions using environmental DNA (eDNA) and drones. Zackenberg Valley, Northeast Greenland National Park, Greenland

IASC 2026

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ICARP IV FINAL REPORT

The ICARP IV Final Report presents the outcomes of ICARP IV process, and it will be presented at ASSW 2026. The report summarizes the Arctic Research Priorities for 2026–2035, based on the seven thematic Research Priority Team Areas and cross-cutting priorities. It will also include chapters on legacy-building and tracking, and an Implementation Map with Strategic Actions and infrastructure and funding needs. The results of the ICARP IV Final Report will form the foundation for the IASC Strategic Plan 2027–2036, the Work Plans of the IASC Working Groups and Standing Committees from 2027 onward, and preparations for the International Polar Year 2032/2033.

The report is available on the ICARP IV website from end of March 2026.

[icarp.iasc.info]

MAY

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PHOTO: MATTEO MONZALI

Fulmars (Fulmarus glacialis) are seabirds native to the North Atlantic. Often mistaken for gulls, they are strong flyers and spend most of their life at sea. Like many Arctic species, they are vulnerable to warming waters and plastic pollution.

IASC 2026

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5TH INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR (IPY)

IPY-5 in 2032-33 aims to address urgent global challenges by advancing polar research, focusing on the impacts of climate change in the Arctic and Antarctic. This coordinated effort will bring together scientists, Indigenous knowledge holders, and global stakeholders to produce actionable insights for mitigating and adapting to environmental changes, while promoting international collaboration and inclusivity.

Check on the IPY website to learn how to get involved!

[ipy5.info]

JUN

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PHOTO: ROMAN POHORSKY / EXTREME ENVIRONMENTS RESEARCH LABORATORY - EPFL

The newly designed Automated Vertical Aerosol sampling by Tethered-balloon for Atmospheric Research (AVATAR) beeing deployed from the Forel sailboat in southern Greenland as part of the GreenFjord project. GreenFjord aims to create process understanding of how climate change affects fjord ecosystems, and how this propagates to biodiversity and livelihoods. Here atmospheric measurements focused on new particle formation in two different Fjord systems. The tethered-balloon was used to explore the vertical extent of these events. Ikersuak Fjord, Southern Greenland.

IASC 2026

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IASC ATMOSPHERE WORKING GROUP

The scientific scope of the **Atmosphere Working Group (AWG)** includes scientific research towards understanding and prediction of Arctic change, and considering the fate of perennial sea ice and the global atmospheric consequences of its disappearance. This includes past climate states, investigation of Arctic processes across data sets and approaches, and climate model projections. The scope includes local and regional impacts of Arctic change.

[iasc.info/our-work/working-groups/atmosphere]

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

JUL

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PHOTO: MATTEO MONZALI

Seen from above, the sea ice appears solid, almost permanent. But this surface is thinning and breaking earlier each year. What was once a stable frozen barrier is now shifting and disappearing under the pressure of rising temperatures.

IASC 2026

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IASC CRYOSPHERE WORKING GROUP

The **Cryosphere Working Group (CWG)** supports and promotes all scientific or engineering research related to the Arctic and subarctic cryosphere, including glaciers, sea ice, snow, permafrost, seasonally frozen ground, and lake and river ice. It encompasses cryospheric interactions with the atmosphere, ocean, biosphere, and terrestrial systems in the past, present and future, and the cryosphere's role in climate and human society.

[iasc.info/working-groups/cryosphere]

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


POLARSTERN

AUG

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PHOTO: EVGENII SALGANIK / NORWEGIAN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Surface melt pond sampling by a researcher with a research vessel Polarstern in background during MOSAiC expedition on 27 July 2020. Central Arctic Ocean, Fram Strait

IASC 2026

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IASC MARINE WORKING GROUP

The IASC Marine Working Group (MWG) facilitates international coordination of research in the Arctic marine environment and supports cross-cutting objectives. Annual face-to-face meetings and online communication are used throughout the year, including interaction and collaboration with terrestrial, cryospheric, atmospheric, and social scientists as appropriate. An important goal is to support early career scientists and involve them in international research coordinated by IASC member countries, including an expanded role for IASC Fellows in MWG tasks. Starting in 2023, a network of IASC Alumni Fellows will support IASC and Working Group activities and their current Fellows, and maintain an active network of early to mid-career researchers and collaborators (IASC Fox).

[https://iasc.info/our-work/working-groups/marine]

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

SEP

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PHOTO: BENJAMIN RABE, AWI/GERMANY

Two engineers and scientists of the Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany are recovering devices released from the seafloor in the eastern Amundsen Basin, Arctic Ocean, where they were moored for a year from late summer 2023. It took the team on-board RV Polarstern 15 hours to recover the upper tube part of the mooring that somewhat resembles the mythical image of the Loch Ness monster. This ice-resistant mooring is part of an effort to observe the difficult-to-access upper Arctic Ocean year-round. difficult-to-access upper Arctic Ocean year-round.

IASC

IASC FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The IASC Fellowship Program was established in 2014 and is meant to engage early career researchers in the work of the IASC Working Groups (WGs). Each year, one Fellow per WG is chosen. In addition, at least one early career Arctic Indigenous Scholar or Knowledge Holder is selected per year, who can choose which IASC WG to engage in. The Fellowship Program provides the opportunity for ECSs to become involved in leading-edge scientific activities at a circumarctic and international level, to build an international network, and also to develop management skills.

[iasc.info/capacity-building/fellowship-program]

IASC MEDAL

The IASC Medal is awarded 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 October each year).

[iasc.info/capacity-building/medal]

OCT

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PHOTO: ANDRÉ MOREAU
A winter's day in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

IASC 2026

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IASC SOCIAL AND HUMAN WORKING GROUP

The scientific scope of the **Social and Human Sciences Working Group (SHWG)** shall include all aspects of social sciences and humanities research in the Arctic, as well as their connections with other IASC Working Groups. The actual work of the Social & Human Sciences WG is determined by a dynamic list of scientific focus areas.

The geographic scope of the Social and Human Sciences Working Group shall be the Arctic as defined in the map accompanying the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR). The geographic scope can be extended south where it is appropriate for an understanding of Arctic social and human processes.

[https://iasc.info/our-work/working-groups/social-human]

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

NOV

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IASC 2026

PHOTO: ANDRÉ MOREAU

Autumn hues along in the tundra, South Baffin Island, Nunavut.

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IASC TERRESTRIAL WORKING GROUP

The scientific scope of the **IASC Terrestrial Working Group (TWG)** shall include any scientific research on Arctic terrestrial and freshwater environments, landscapes and biota, and their responses to, and interactions with, other components of the Earth system. The remit encompasses the dynamics of the Arctic system; past, present and future

Geographically, the main area of interest of the IASC Terrestrial Working Group encompasses lands and fresh water within the area north of the latitudinal treeline with Arctic climate and Arctic vegetation. Several adjacent areas are included where highly relevant for certain disciplines and projects (a) boreal oceanic tundra (e.g. the Aleutian Islands, North Atlantic islands), (b) alpine tundra that is continuous with the Arctic tundra (e.g. the central highlands of Iceland, the Scandes Mountains, the Polar Urals), (c) the forest tundra, and (d) drainage basins to the south that connect with freshwater and marine areas of the Arctic

[https://iasc.info/our-work/working-groups/terrestrial]

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

DEC

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PHOTO: LUCA BRACALI

IASC 2026

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IASC CALL FOR IASC CROSS-CUTTING AND WORKING GROUPS PROPOSALS

Every year, the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) issues a call for proposals for projects to be considered for IASC funding.

The funding is provided by the five IASC Working Groups (WGs) (Atmosphere, Cryosphere, Marine, Social & Human, Terrestrial). It is aimed at encouraging and supporting science-led international programmes by offering opportunities for planning and coordination, and by facilitating communication and access to facilities.

[https://iasc.info/our-work/working-groups/call-for-proposals]

COVER PHOTO: NATALYA SAPRUNOVA / DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHER

Blanda Matzenbacher, a PhD Candidate at Stockholm University and part of FLO CHAR project, is taking notes after obtaining meters-long sediment cores on the sea ice to analyze organic matter being deposited on the Beaufort Sea bed. These cores are important to understand the impact of thawing permafrost and the transport of sediment into the Arctic Ocean. Tuktoyaktuk harbour, Northwest territories, Canada, 2024

IASC 2026

THE INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SCIENCE COMMITTEE (IASC)

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Editors: Federica Scarpa and Gerlis Fugmann
Production and Layout: www.redpear.de
Printing: XXXXX XXXXXX