

# Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO)

Managing responsible Arctic cruise tourism

Ilja Leo Lang, Assistant Director



## AECO's overall objectives

- Ensure environmentally friendly, responsible and safe cruise tourism in the Arctic
- Advocate for the expedition cruise industry, and AECO's members' interests

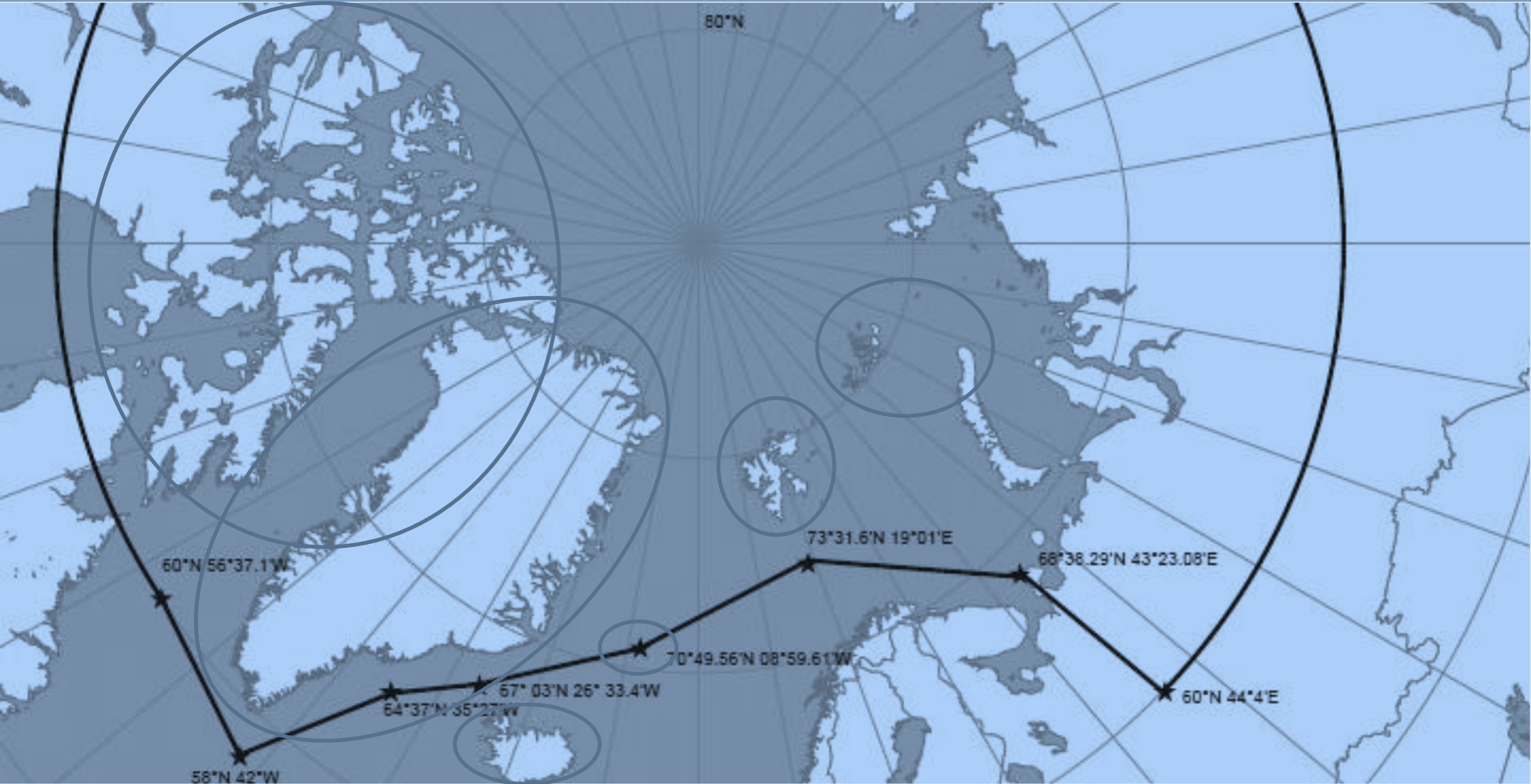


## AECO's members

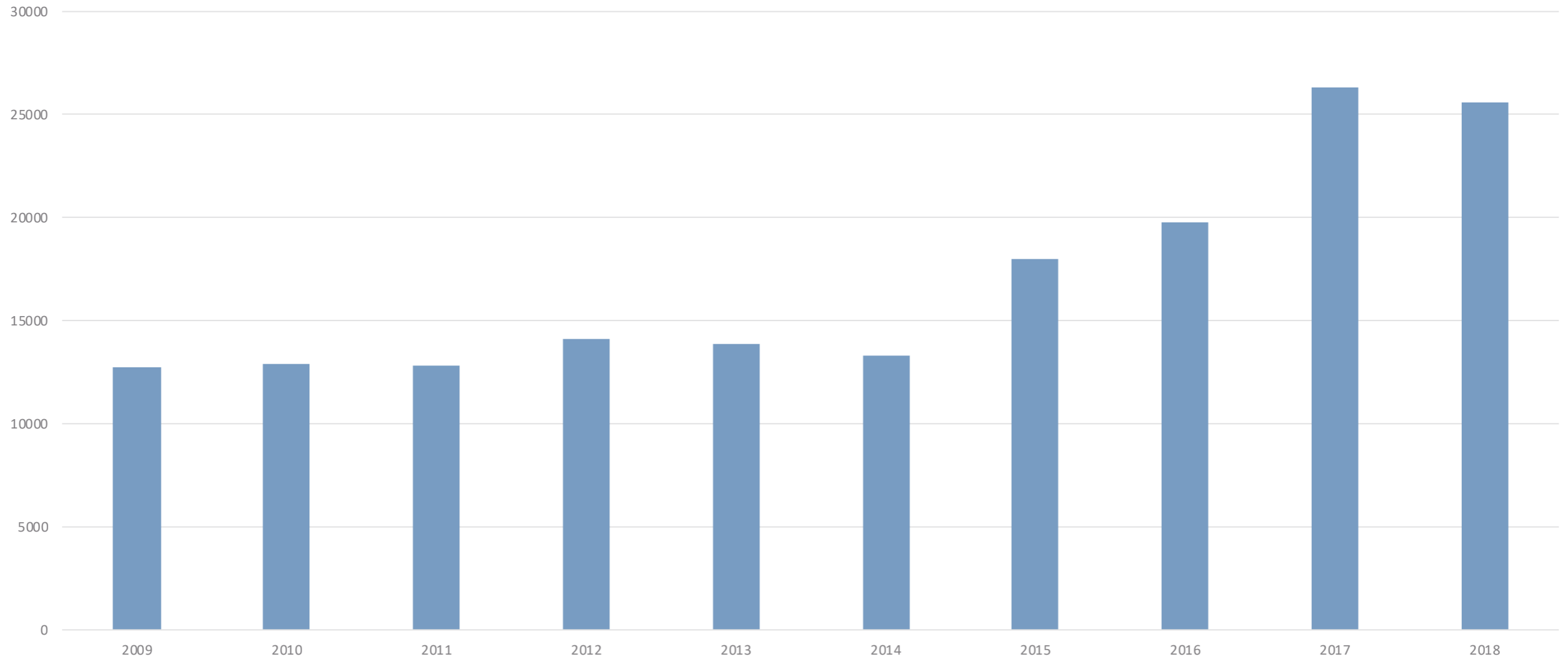
- more than 70 international members
- 42 operators/vessel owners
- more than 50 vessels
  - incl 14 yachts/Non-SOLAS



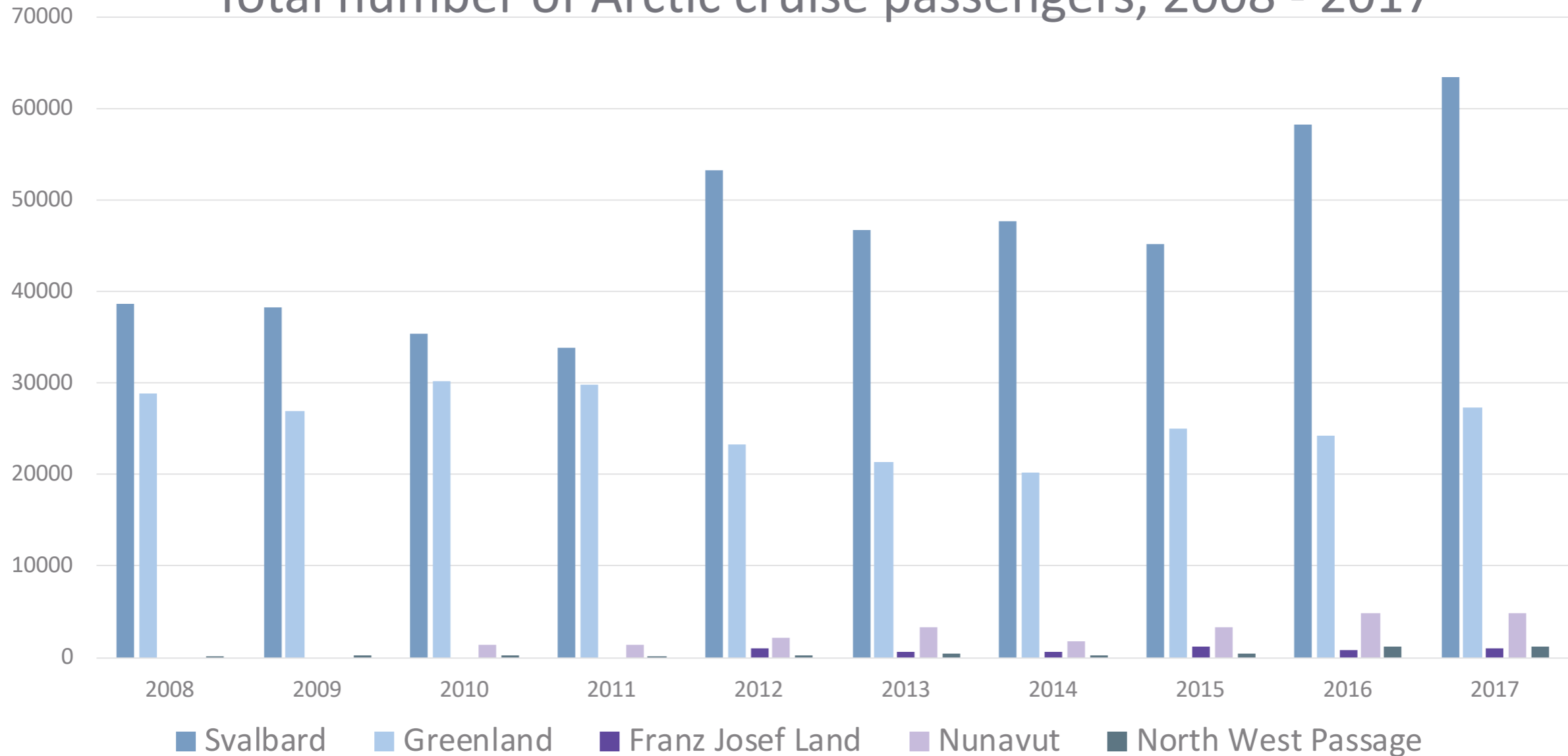




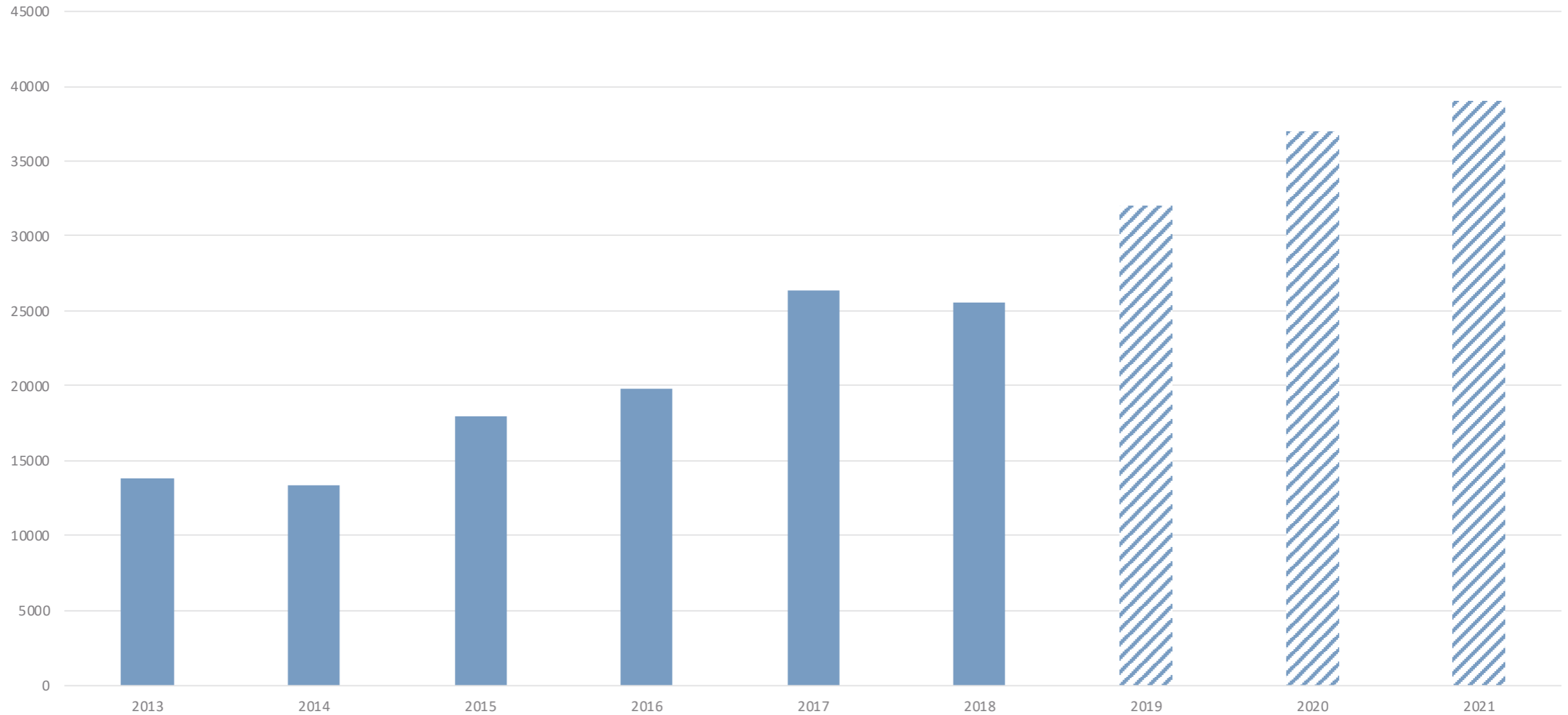
## AECO total expedition cruise passengers 2009 - 2018



# Total number of Arctic cruise passengers, 2008 - 2017



# AECO Arctic expedition cruise passengers projection





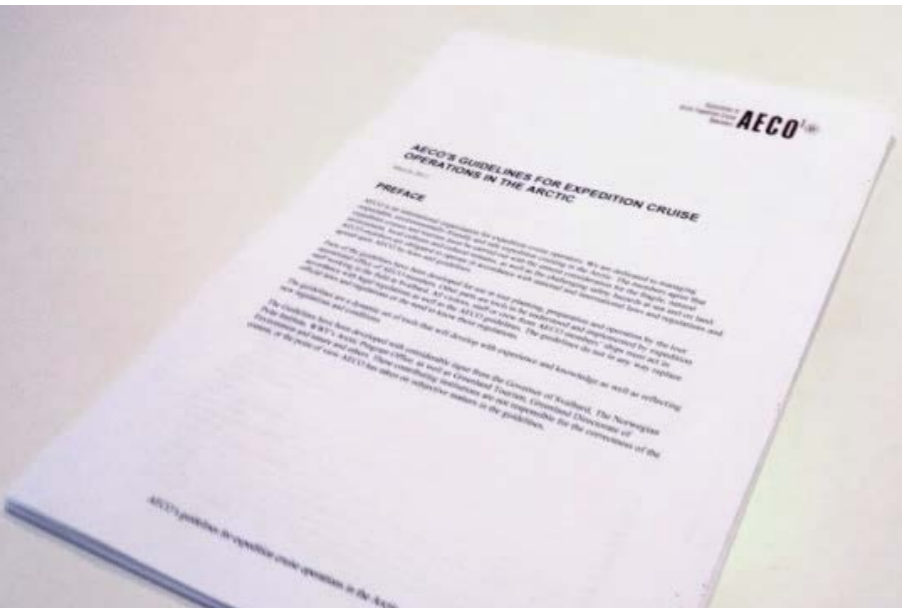
# On the horizon

30 new polar class expedition cruise vessels will launch in 2018-2023



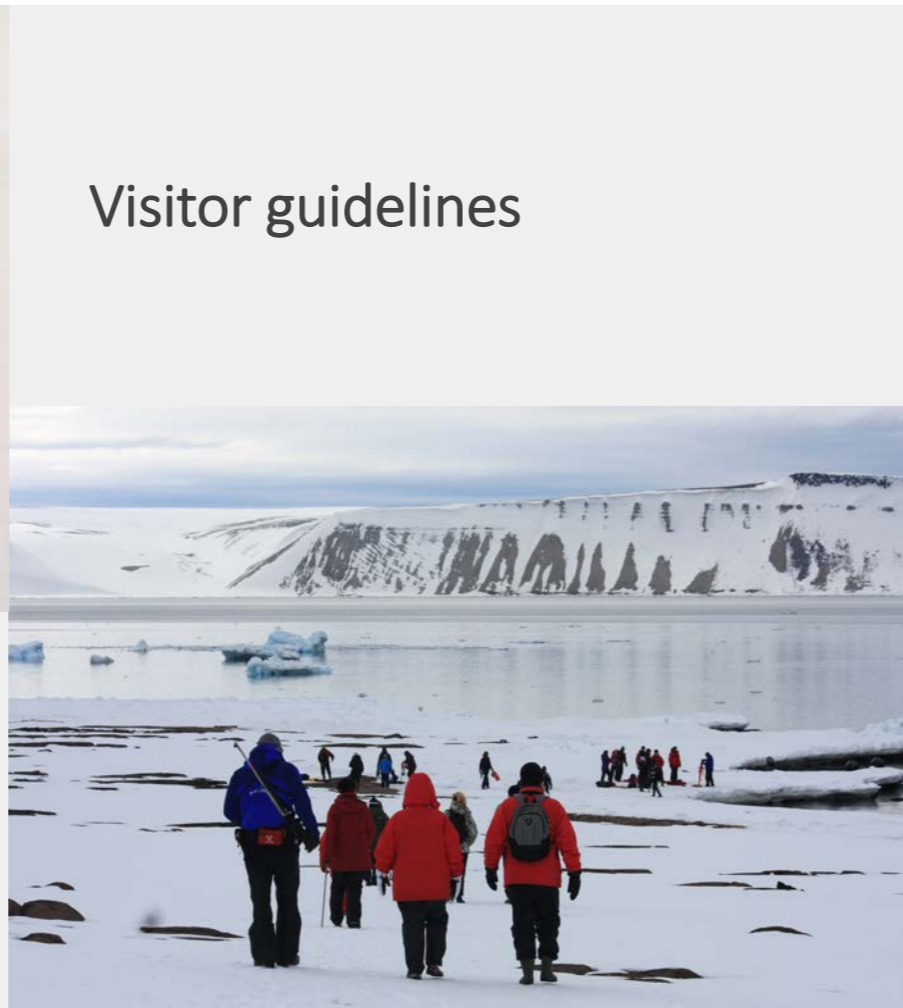


# AECO's Guidelines



Operational guidelines

Visitor guidelines



Animated guidelines

# AECO's Guidelines



Wildlife guidelines



Biosecurity guidelines

Cleanup guidelines



# AECO's Guidelines

## Community guidelines

COMMUNITY GUIDELINES **AECO**

# The Northerners

People and cultures shaped by nature




Part of travelling is learning about people and cultures you meet. Photo: Mats Pihl - Vail Greenland

COMMUNITY GUIDELINES **AECO**

### Guidelines

When visiting the North, remember that you have left home to gain new experiences and insight into the lives of others. It's important not to judge other cultures based on one's own sense of reality, norms and values. Make an effort to understand and respect the idea that cultures can be different.



Interact with the people you meet  
Photo: Mats Pihl - Vail Greenland



Part of travelling is learning about people and cultures you meet  
Photo: Magnus Skjott



Buy local souvenirs, but ensure that you can export them to your home country  
Photo: Trym van Bergema



Perhaps they do not appreciate you taking photos of their private ceremony?  
Photo: Kjetil Holstad Olsen



Talk to and not about the people you meet  
Photo: Mats Pihl - Vail Greenland



Tourists meet locals in a friendly game of soccer  
Photo: Mats Pihl - Vail Greenland

- Engage the people and cultures with respect; an open mind leads to the best experiences.
- Talk to, and not about, the people you meet.
- Think of yourself as an ambassador for your country and culture, as the locals are for theirs. Politeness and good manners are always appreciated.
- Please do not litter. In remote areas, please also consider the community's ability to handle waste. Perhaps you should bring some of it, and especially special category waste, back with you.
- You are encouraged to buy local souvenirs and products, to support and sustain the community you are visiting.
- In most settlements, supplies are regularly delivered and you should feel free to buy what is offered in stores and markets. In smaller, more remote settlements where new supplies do not come often, there might be limited access to some items, e.g. fresh food. In these places, it is recommended to ask advice from your guide or the locals before you buy products such as fresh fruits and vegetables.
- It is not customary to bargain in these parts of the world, not even in markets.
- Please always respect privacy and private property, and places of religious or cultural significance.
  - Never enter a private house without an invitation
  - Do not glance or photograph through windows
  - Ask before you take photographs of people – a hesitation means no
  - Never photograph or give presents to children without their superiors' permission
  - Do not disturb religious or cultural ceremonies and do not photograph such occasions without permission
  - Do not walk on graves
- A large group of visitors can easily impact everyday life in small communities, so please be aware of your surroundings. If you are part of such a group, consider how you can contribute to the best possible interaction, for example, by avoiding blocking roads, entrances and exits.
- If at all possible, use toilets for human waste. Please do not leave sanitary items in nature.

**Thank you for being a considerate visitor, and we hope you visit again.**

Funded by  **NORA**  
Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators

WWW.AECO.NO

Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators **AECO**



# AECO's Guidelines

## Site specific guidelines



SVALBARD SITE GUIDELINES **KROSSFJORDEN**

79°7.3'N 011°50.9'E  
**Fjortende Julibukta**  
 Nordvest Spitsbergen National Park  
 Named after the National Day of France

**The Hanging Gardens of Svalbard**

Very few places near 79° North can offer more opulent vegetation than this very special site. Here you can enjoy the rich diversity and colors of Arctic vegetation and nice smells at close range. The bay close to the glacier offers one of the most beautiful beaches in the Arctic. The water temperature may not be impressive but the view is!

**SIGNIFICATION** — This site offers very contrasting vegetation within a few hundred meters, from the barren gravel near the glacier to the most spectacular flowering meadows below the bird cliff. The high diversity of species and the size of individual plants make the site a vegetation hot spot. Species like the yellow polar dandelion and black erigeron have a restricted distribution at Svalbard, but are seen in large numbers under this bird cliff. These can be observed from below, without walking up the slope.

**FAUNA** — The bird cliff above the shore holds thousands of seabirds, including Brännich's guillemot, black legged kittiwake, northern fulmar, glaucous gull, black gullerott, little auk, Atlantic puffin and a few razorbill. A few pairs of Arctic skua breed close to the shore and barnacle and pink footed gulls breed on the slopes below the cliff. Reindeer also frequent these slopes. Good numbers of common eider and Arctic tern can be seen around the bay.

SVALBARD SITE GUIDELINES **FJORTENDE JULIBUKTA**

**MAP SYMBOLS**

- ← Landing area
- Recommended for zodiac cruising
- Ⓢ Hanging gardens
- ⚡ Vulnerable for trampling
- 🌿 Wet area with vegetation
- 👤 Nesting area for Brännich's guillemot, Atlantic puffin and razorbill
- Bird cliff

0 100 500 Meters

**Guidelines**

- Stay along the shore and the lower flat area to avoid disturbance of breeding and foraging geese and trampling on the loose vegetation on the slope.
- Walk around the wetland areas as they have very low-trampling tolerance.
- The breeding areas for Brännich's guillemot, Atlantic puffin and razorbill can be observed from the small ridge to the east of it. Avoid walking into the breeding area.
- This breeding area can also be observed from the water, but beware of shallow waters.

*Photo: Georg Berglund*

The Atlantic puffin is also known as the sea parrot.

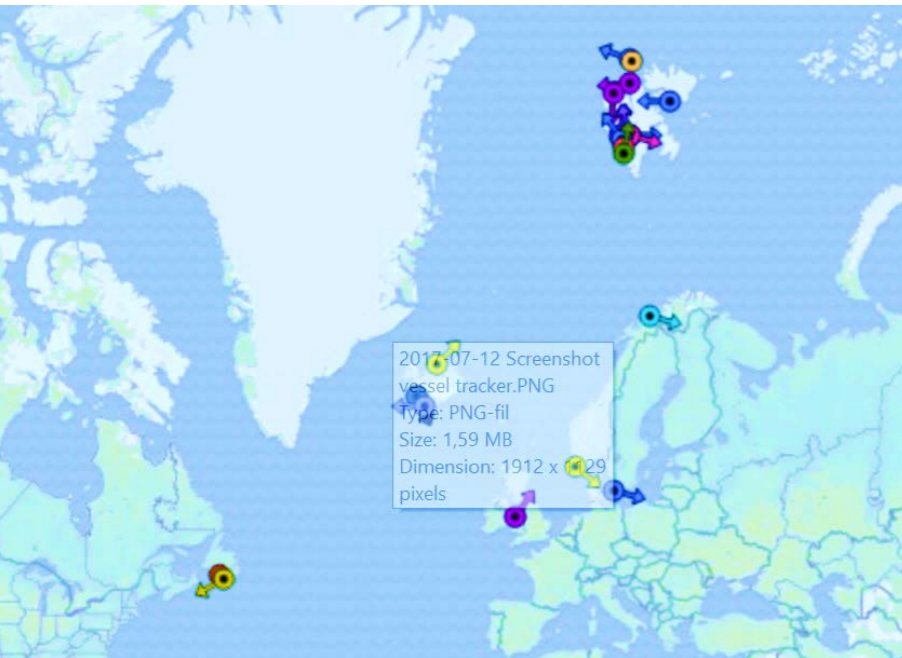
*Photo: Ole Magnus Rapp*

The cliffs like a botanic garden with high diversity of species, also in sizes rarely seen in Svalbard.

*Photo: David Agnes Rapp*

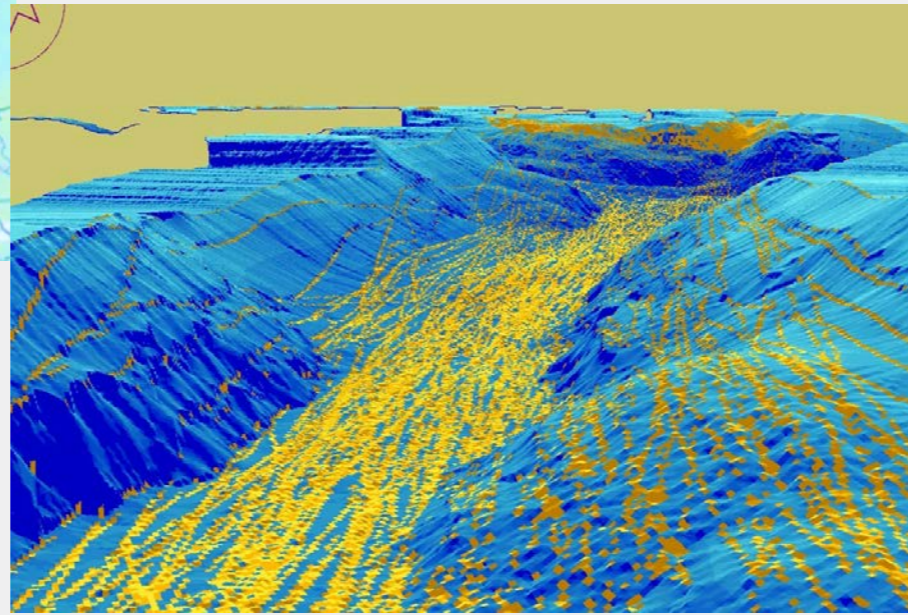
Go for a swim from one of Svalbard's finest beaches.


# Projects and measures



Vessel tracking

## Crowd sourcing



Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators **AECO**  AECO CRUISE DATABASE frigg@aeco.no

Vessels > List view [Add new vessel](#)

Front page

Contact information

- Sort multiple columns simultaneously by holding down the SHIFT key while clicking column headers.

Account

- Edit profile
- Change password
- Log out

Vessels

- List view
- Add/Edit

Sailing plan

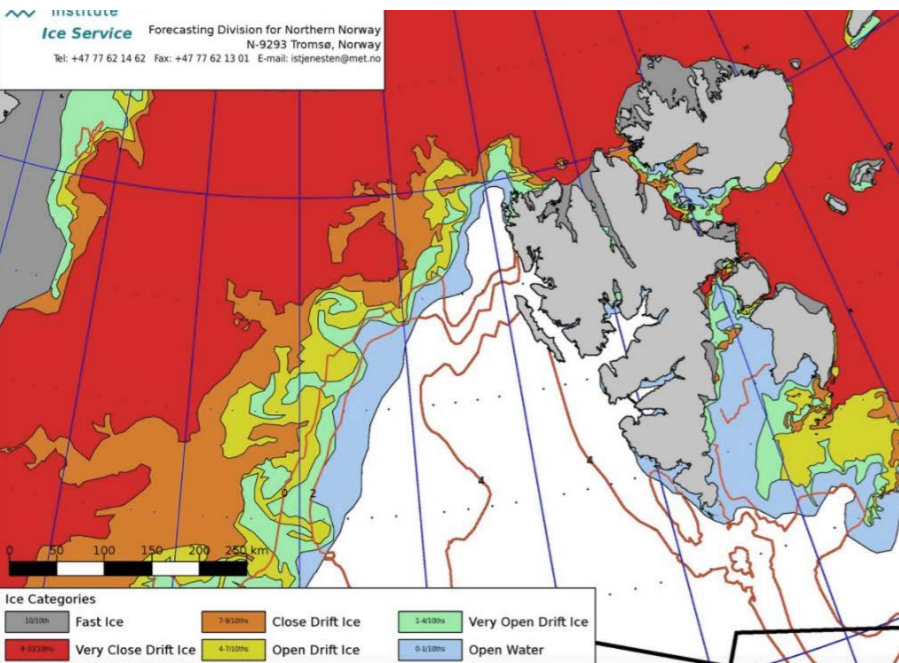
- List view
- Add/Edit
- Collective report
- Operator report

Vessel	Country	IMO	Call Sign	Built	# CO	My Vessel
50 Years of Victory	Russian Federation	9152959	UGYU	2007	1	
Akademik Sergey Vavilov	Russian Federation	8507729	UAUO	1988	1	
Algol	France		FW7763	1980	1	
Hanse Explorer	Antigua and Barbuda	9346110	V2E14	2006	1	
Kapitan Khlebnikov	Russian Federation	7824417	UGSE	1981	1	
M/S Expedition	Liberia	7211074	A8QL4	1972	1	
M/S Sea Explorer	Marshall Islands	8802882	V7WD8	1991	2	
M/S Stockholm	Sweden	8226612	SMYP	1953	2	

Cruise database



# Projects and measures



## Piloting



## Met- and ice

Reykjavík, April 9–10, 2019

## Fourth Arctic SAR Workshop & TTX

### Program

Venue: IÐNÓ, Vonarstæti 3, 101 Reykjavík  
Dress code: Smart casual/service dress

April 9

<b>08:30</b>	<b>Registrations opens</b>	<b>13:10</b>	<b>Cruise vessel incident from the SAR entity's perspective</b> Chris Armour, Regional Supervisor Maritime SAR, Canadian Coast Guard
<b>09:00</b>	<b>WELCOME AND UPDATES</b> <b>Welcome and opening remarks</b> Þórdís Kolbrún R. Gylfadóttir, Minister of Tourism, Industry and Innovation	<b>13:30</b>	<b>Q&amp;A Incident I</b>
<b>09:10</b>	<b>Sponsors' welcome</b>	<b>13:40</b>	<b>Passenger vessel incident from the SAR helicopter doctor's perspective</b>
<b>09:20</b>	<b>Arctic Cruise tourism update</b> Frigg Jørgensen, Executive Director, Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO)	<b>14:00</b>	<b>Q&amp;A Incident II</b>
<b>09:35</b>	<b>Arctic SAR update and Arctic Coast Guard Forum</b>		

## Search & rescue efforts



# Projects and measures



CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

## AECO & Greenland

This is to certify that **John Smith** has successfully passed the **Certified Professional Exam**

On date: 01-Jun-2014  
Score: 80%  
Certificate Id: 42345

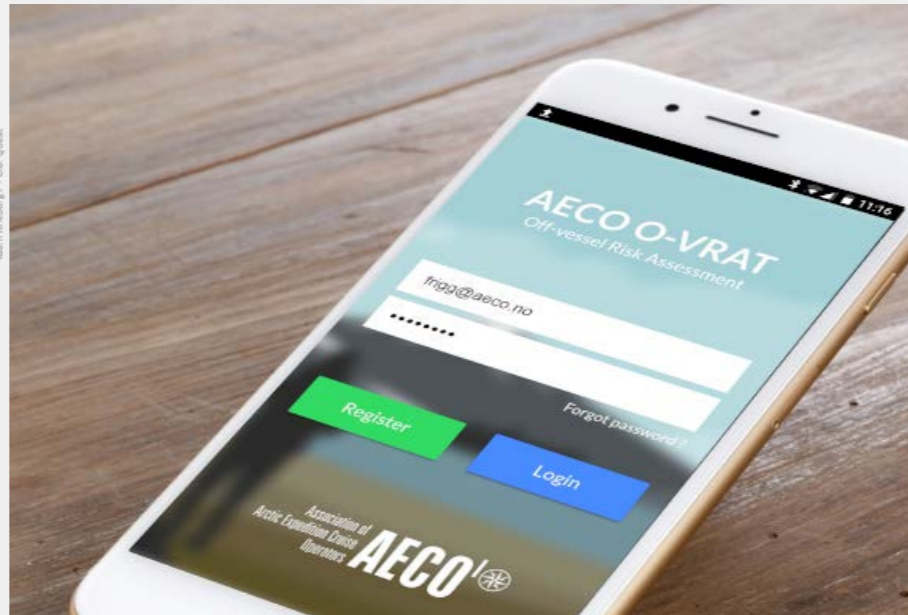
The certificate holder has demonstrated their knowledge of the rules and regulations that govern Arctic field operations, as well as AECO's principles and guidelines. The holder commits to using this knowledge to conduct responsible, environmentally friendly and safe activities in the Arctic.

Frigg Jørgensen  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators **AECO!**

AECO (Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators) is an international association dedicated to promoting responsible, environmentally friendly and safe tourism in the Arctic and strive to set the highest possible operational standards for expedition cruise

## Off-vessel risk assessment tool (in the making)



Field Staff Online Assessment



Several annual thematic conferences

# Contributions



Beach cleaning

Sightings & citizen science



Community Engagement



# Positions



Yes to HFO ban in the Arctic



No to recreational use of drones



AECO CleanSeas Campaign





Association of  
Arctic Expedition Cruise  
Operators

# AECO



[www.aeco.no](http://www.aeco.no)

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