

CALL FOR PAPERS

October 2023

Dear colleague,

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and [ICES Journal of Marine Science](#) (ICES JMS) strive to advance marine science by publishing Symposium Issues (SIs). SIs are a series of coordinated contributions that were presented at an ICES co-sponsored symposium. These collected articles are introduced by a synthetic overview of the symposium objectives and its outcomes.

The [Second International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic and the Sub-Arctic Region](#) takes place 22-23 November 2023 at the Harpa Conference Hall in Reykjavík, Iceland. The Symposium is hosted by the Government of Iceland and sponsored by the Nordic Council of Ministers. Main partners are the Centre for the Ocean and the Arctic, UiT Arctic University of Norway, and the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources in collaboration with ICES, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), GRID Arendal, OSPAR, UNESCO IOC, PAME, the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), the UArctic, and the Polar Institute, Wilson Centre.

The Symposium will bring together experts from around the world to gather scientific, Indigenous, and local knowledge on plastic pollution and discuss ways and means to reduce the impact of plastics on Arctic ecosystems. This will include evaluating the present extent and nature of plastic pollution in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic regions as well as its impact on ecosystems and communities. The origin of plastic litter, how it is transported to or in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic region and how breakdown processes affect the status of pollution will also be on the agenda. Finally, the symposium will focus on possible mitigation methods and how they can be implemented, providing useful input for the ongoing negotiations towards an international agreement on plastic pollution, as well as for other ongoing relevant international work to support protection of the marine environment.

We are grateful for your contribution to the Symposium and would welcome your submission to be a part of the Special Issue of ICES JMS.

In this context, we invite contributions for the Symposium Special Issue on the following themes:

1. Monitoring and assessment of plastic pollution in the Arctic.
2. Methodological developments to determine macro, micro and nano plastics.
3. Sources and transport of plastic in the Arctic and sub-Arctic.
4. Impacts of marine litter in the Arctic (environmental, economic and social).
5. Arctic challenges and solutions for improved waste management.
6. Tackling plastic pollution: international collaboration, policies, best practices and novel developments from around the world.

In addition to original research articles, contributions can take the form of a review, a “Food for Thought” essay which deals with a thought-provoking or controversial issue, a “Quo Vadimus” essay which describes what you see as the future of the field or a “Stories from the front lines” essay in which you provide a substantive account of challenges, wins and losses on any aspect relating to the Symposium topic and themes, written as a narrative and drawing at least partly on the author(s) experience.

Manuscripts should be prepared following the technical guidelines that can be found on the ICES JMS web site and should be submitted following the standard procedure. Please state in your cover letter that the article is intended for inclusion in this SI.

Manuscripts will be subjected to the standard ICES JMS review process. For insight into the Journal's editorial criteria, click [HERE](#).

Note that ICES JMS is a fully open access journal. See [HERE](#) for details. Publication of SIs occurs on a "build as it goes" basis and accepted articles will normally appear online within 2-4 weeks of their acceptance in final form. That means that publication of the first article accepted will not be delayed by the last article accepted.

Deadline for submission of papers is 31st of January 2024.

You can also submit at any time before the deadline - your article will be published online as soon as it is finalized.

We would appreciate receiving an indication of your interest in contributing at your earliest convenience (by email to any of the symposium organizers listed below). We hope that you will accept this invitation and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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