

# The Arctic Marine Litter Project

*“Knowing the sources to find solutions”*

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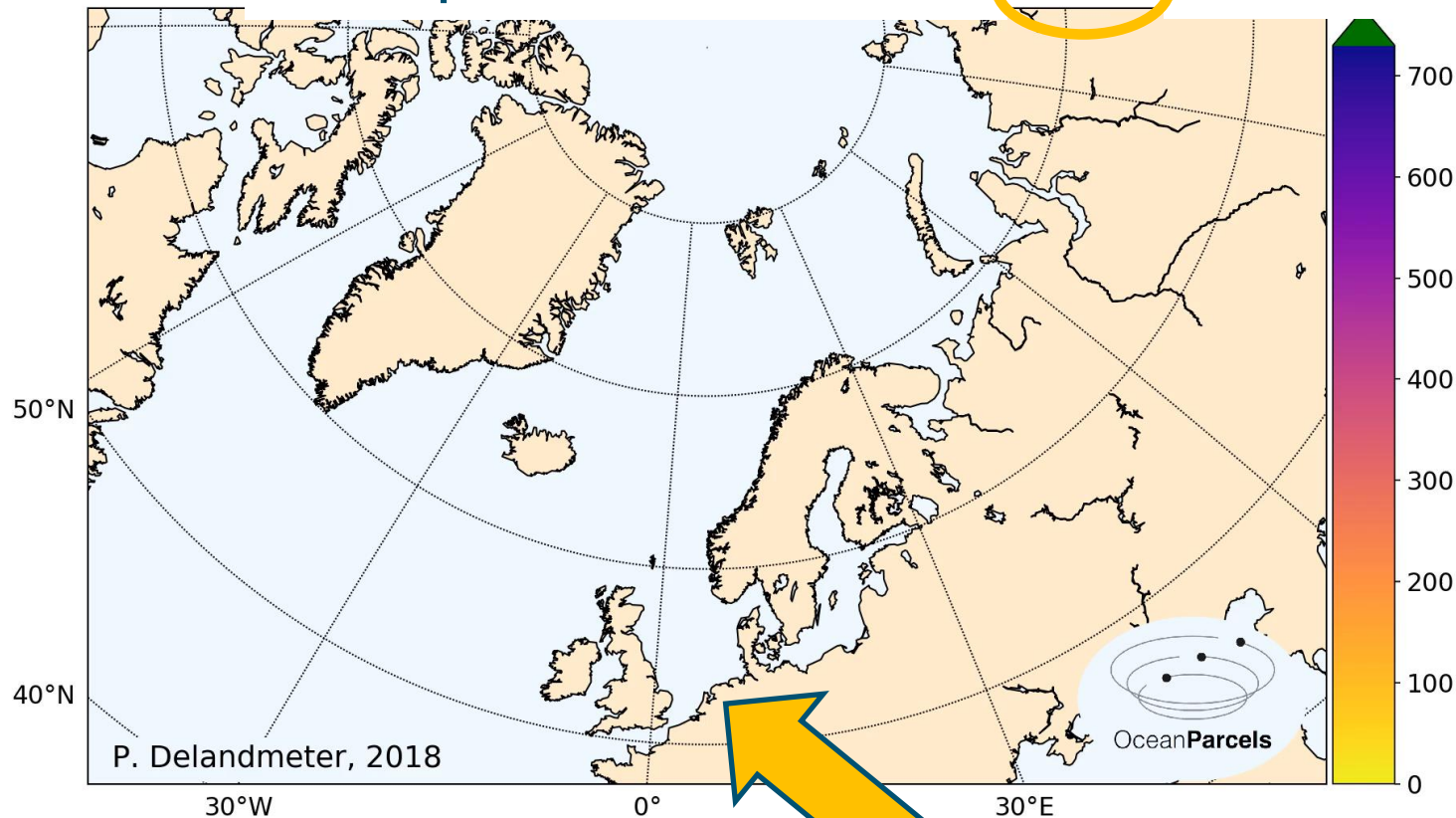




# Where does our plastic travel to?

00-01-02

→ Year, months, days





# Plastics end up in the Arctic and stay there...

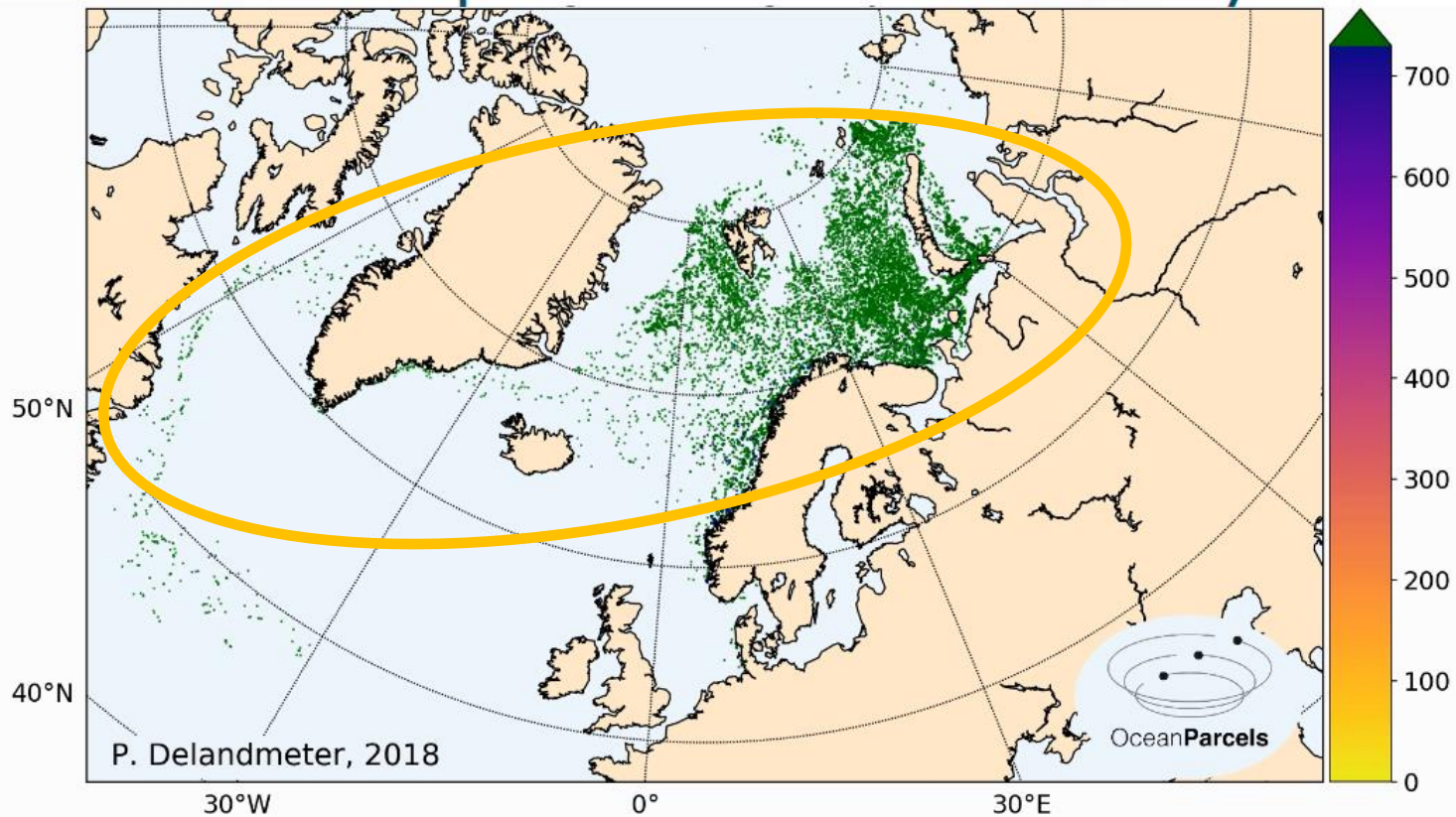






Photo: Sysselmannen



Photo: WJ Strietman



Photo: Sysselmannen



Photo: WJ Strietman



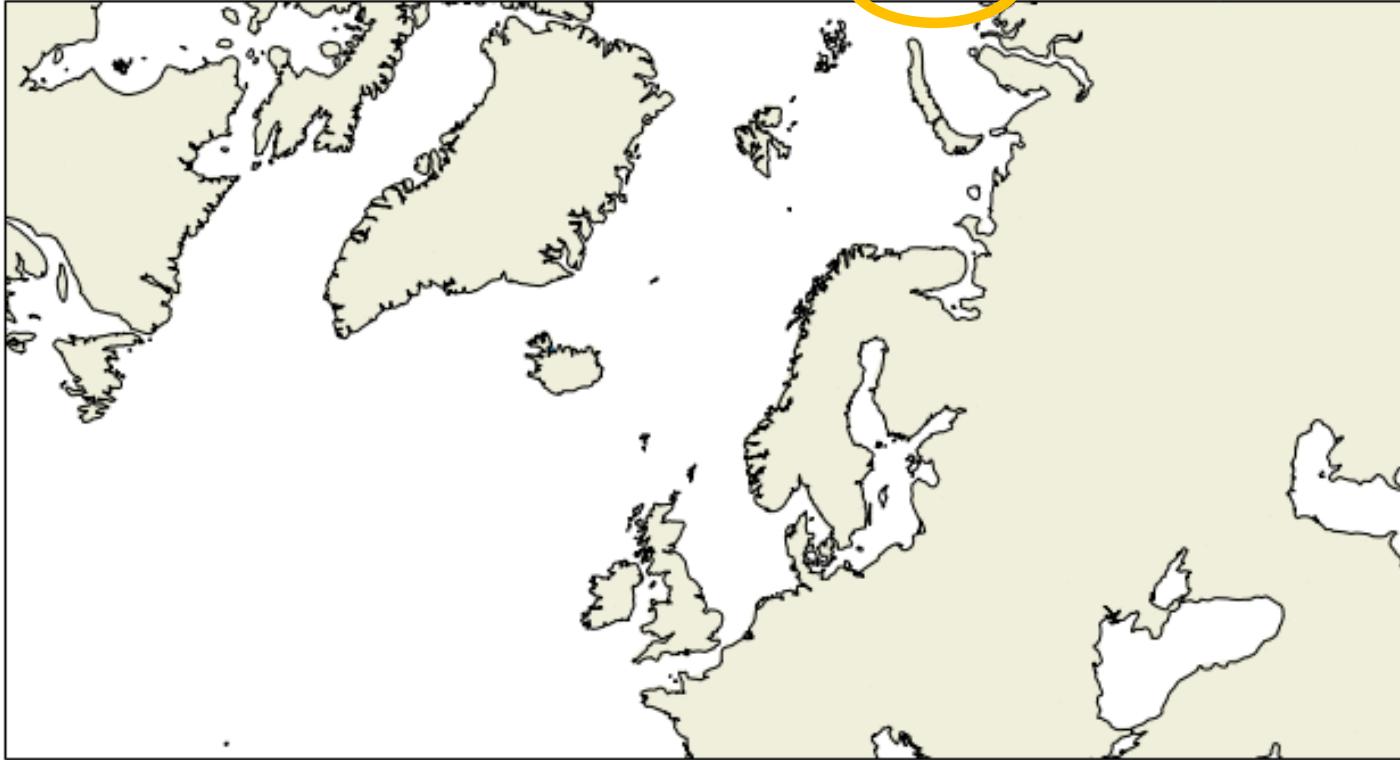




Where does Iceland's litter travel to?

2006-01-03

→ Year, months, days



Source: E. van Sebille, 2019



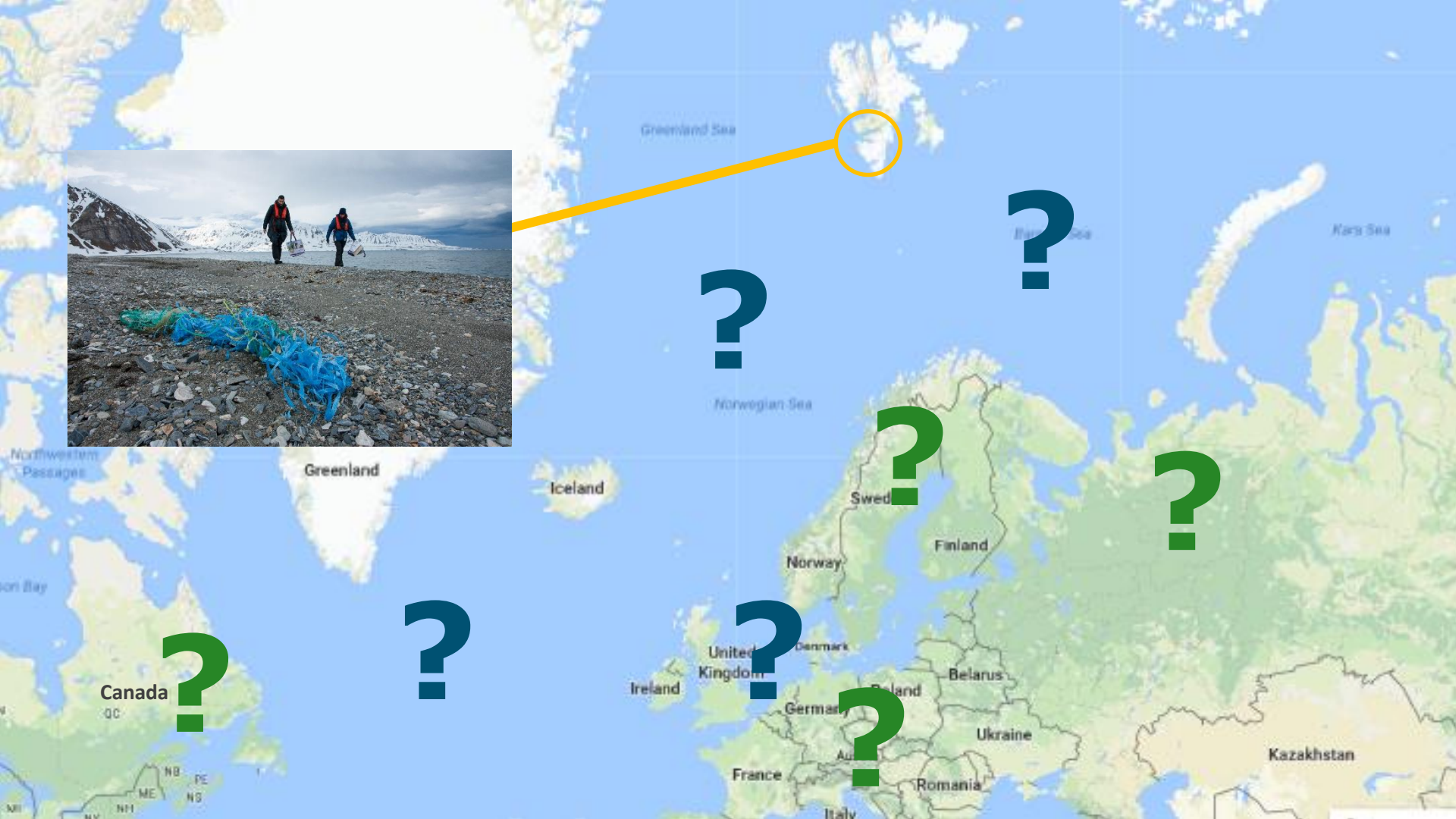
**Through ocean currents  
(and plastics...)  
we are all connected**



# What can we do to **STOP** the inflow of **plastics** into the **Arctic?**

**In the Arctic, the  
most effective  
solution is  
prevention**







# How can we work on prevention?

What?

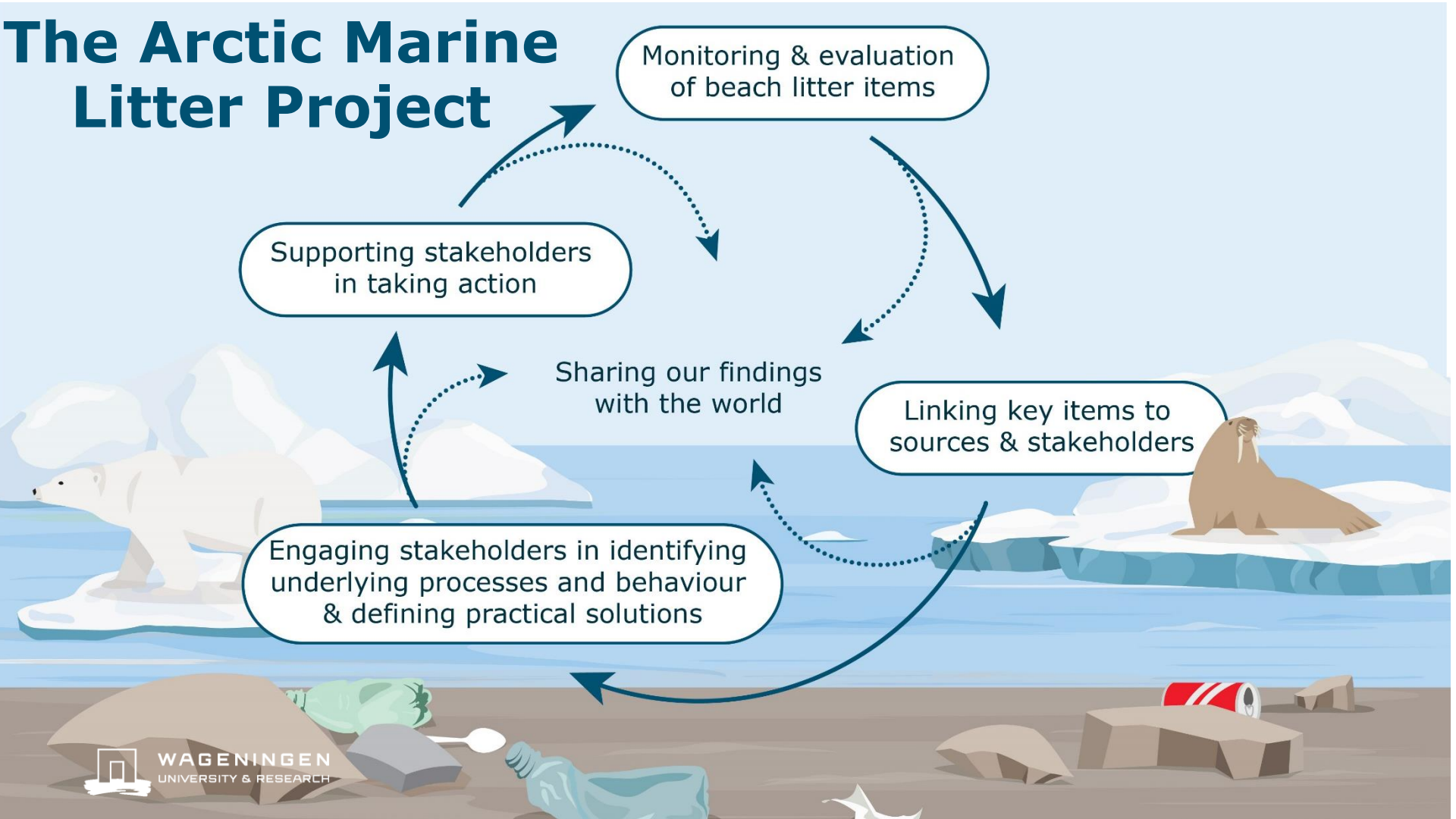
Who?

Why?

Where?

Solutions?

# The Arctic Marine Litter Project





# Project collaboration & funding since 2017



AKTIV I FRILUFT  
SVALBARD TURN



SVALBARD ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION FUND



Greenland



Iceland



Norway

Finland





**Focus in  
2020-2022**

**Focus in  
2019-2022**

**Focus in  
2017-2021**

**Focus in  
2020-2022**



# 300 kilos of litter collected at Hól mavík by students of the University Centre of the Westfjords





# 'Litter-ID workshop' to define sources, causes and solutions





# Step 1: sorting and (sub)categorising





## Step 2: define key litter items

- Key litter items are based on:
1. Numbers and weight
  2. Threat to biodiversity



# Define key litter items (2)



## # Top 4 Holmavik Litter-ID Workshop Share

### Based on numbers (6.800 items)

1	Net cuttings/clippings	32%
2	Unidentifiable pieces of plastic	26%
3	Caps and lids	11%
4	Shotgun cartridges	7%

### Based on weight (300 kilos)

1	Fishing nets >50cm	26%
2	Ropes	16%
3	Tangled nets and ropes	14%
4	Floats and buoys	8%



# Detailed analysis to determine the sources of key categories

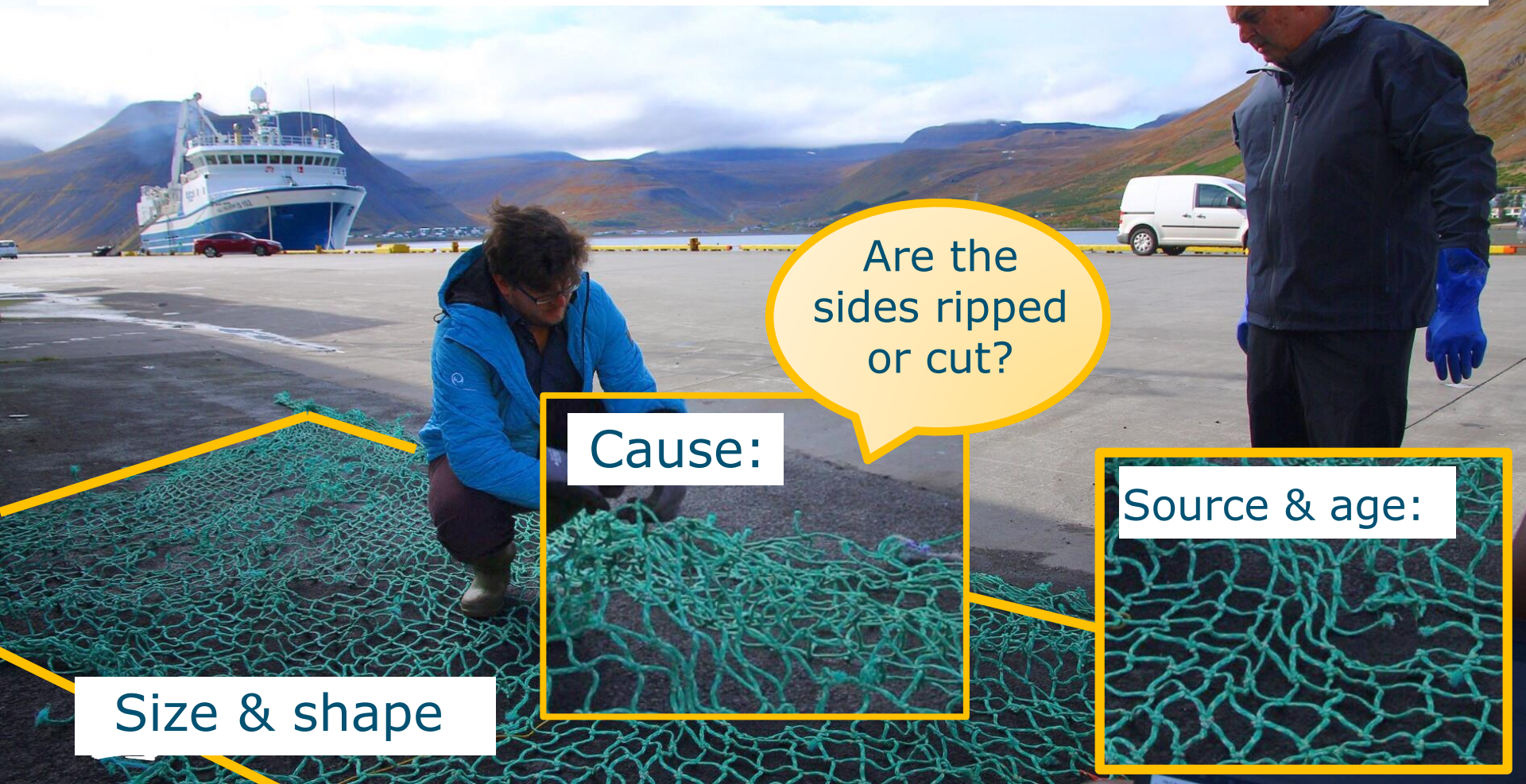
Icelandic products

Norwegian products





# Detailed analysis of key item category 'fishing nets >50cm'



Are the sides ripped or cut?

Cause:

Source & age:

Size & shape



# Step 4: Inform and support stakeholders in taking action





Our vision: in 2030, the only ones littering the beaches would be...





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## Final thoughts

1. In the North-Atlantic we are all connected... through ocean currents... and plastics...
2. Every litter item tells a story: detailed analysis reveals management relevant information
3. We are committed to share the knowledge coming out of this project with stakeholders



# Thank you for your attention!



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