



# **Clean up Svalbard**

Information for Expedition and Tour leaders

2021



## Background

Large amounts of waste are being washed ashore on many of the beaches in Svalbard. Much of the waste comes from shipping, especially from the fishing fleet in the Barents Sea and in the waters around Svalbard. Plastic waste is very persistent. Large plastic objects eventually break down into microplastics after enduring UV-radiation, wind, and waves. It is obvious that this litter does not belong on the beaches in Svalbard. The garbage is a threat to the wildlife in Svalbard. Reindeers who get their antlers stuck in fishing nets and scrap metal suffer a long and painful death. The colours of the garbage are also glaring in contrast with the nature's mellow colours and are representing a considerable esthetical littering.

The Governor has collected waste around the islands for many years, but we welcome more assistance to maintain a cleaner environment. The Governor has therefore invited inhabitants in Svalbard to participate in yearly trips, where cleaning up beaches is the main purpose. The response has been high, and many people want to take part in this.

Still, there are infinite amounts of waste and there are many areas that we are not able to reach. It is therefore with great pleasure that we are getting help from tour operators and their guests in this work. We have a simple ambition: a cleaner Svalbard! With many dedicated hands helping, we hope we will be able to reach our goal.

*Thank you for helping us!*

# Practical information

## Folder and patches

We have a small information folder available [online](#) that the Expedition Leaders can use when they inform about the project, and ask if they would like to participate. We have also made patches for guests who have participated. Please give the patches as a reward to the guests that actually made an effort. Maybe a competition would be a nice activity for some of the guests?

## Contact the Governor's office

The expedition leader must contact the Governor's office ahead of the season, or when the ship arrives in Longyearbyen for the first time this season. We will then hand out:

- Reusable bags in two different sizes
- Patches for guests who have participated properly

If you need more of these items during the season, please contact the Governor's office.

## Bags and garbage

The garbage delivered to the Clean up Svalbard-container will be grinded and sent to the mainland for further treatment there.

- Please separate metal (wires, metal trawl floats), big thick hawsers/ropes and plastic trawl floats from the burnable garbage, as this can damage the grinding mill at the waste disposal plant. In addition, chemicals must be separated, as this can be dangerous for the people working there. If you can put such objects in the orange bags in the Clean up Svalbard-container, they can see them easily among the other garbage that is loose in the container and avoid getting them in the grinding mill.
- Except for the separation of metal and chemicals, do not throw neither small nor big polyethylene bags in the bin/container. **Both small and big bags can be used for storage aboard ships but must be emptied in the bin/container and used over again.**
- You may throw plastic bags in the container/bin.

You will probably find many hard plastics trawl balls. It will be more convenient to tread the balls on a rope as you can see, they have done in the picture to the right.

Do not pick up wood, driftwood, etc. Do not burn garbage.

## Be aware of cultural remains

As you are aware of, there are many cultural remains all over Svalbard. It is important to inform the participants about the cultural remains and the regulations concerning cultural heritage, so that they do not throw valuable items in the bags. Glass can be cultural remains. If you are in doubt, leave it where it is, take the GPS position and a picture and send this to us.



Photo 1: Possible organization of trawl floats

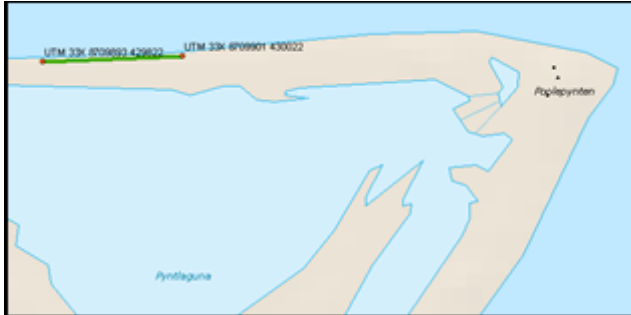


Photo 2: Cultural heritage objects!

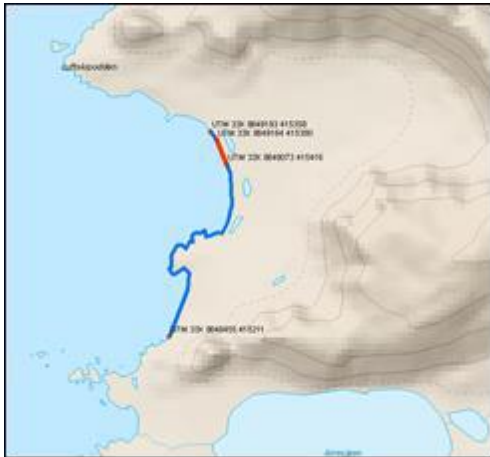
## The Governor's registration areas

Please **do not pick garbage** in the following areas as the Governor is doing registrations of amounts and type of beach garbage for [MOSJ](#) and OSPAR:

**Poolepynten**, Brucebukta between the positions UTM 33X 8709893 0429822 (WGS 84) and UTM 33X 8709901 0430022



**Luftskipodden** between the positions UTM 33X 8849261 0415272 (WGS 84) and UTM 33X 8848556 0415262



## Reporting to the Governor

Please use the Excel report form “*Clean up Svalbard Report 2021*” to register when, where and approximately how much garbage has been picked. Please e-mail it to us in excel format (not pdf or handwriting). We have very good statistics from the Governor’s beach cleaning cruises, and we would like to have statistics showing the effort of the guides and guests.

## How to deposit the garbage

There will be a special container at Bykaia, at Gamlekaia and at Kullkaia at Hotellneset where you can empty the bags. The container is yellow and will be marked with the Clean up Svalbard and the Governor’s logos. Please use this container for the Clean Up Svalbard beach-garbage and avoid mixing it with the ship’s garbage. By doing this, we can get the weight of the garbage picked every year and hopefully better statistics. **Only garbage from Clean up Svalbard can be thrown in these containers.** Remember to separate metal and chemicals by putting this in the orange bags. If the bin/container is full or there are other problems, please contact us. Please do not leave anything outside the bin/container or at the dock. The locks are now code locks and the code is **1408**.

The Governor recommend that you bring all the garbage to Longyearbyen in your ship. If there are places where you observe a lot more than you can bring, then please leave it and report the location to the contact persons below.

## Contact persons at the Governor’s office



Thomas Haavik  
tourism adviser, thomas.haavik[at]sysselmannen.no, +47 79024348

Håkon E. Larsen,  
environmental adviser, hakon.larsen[at]sysselmannen.no. +47  
79024355

## SYSSELMANNEN PÅ SVALBARD

GOVERNOR OF SVALBARD  
ГУБЕРНАТОР СВАЛЪБАРДА

In addition, the Governor has three field inspector teams in the area between Hornsund and Woodfjorden during summer who may be contacted by radio (VHF).

Sysselmannen på Svalbard, Vei 309-6, 9170 Longyearbyen, Phone: +47 79 02 43 00.