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**Arctic Frontiers 2026: Turning of the Tide**  
**February 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

In the Arctic, as across the globe, tides are shifting. Geopolitical landscapes are evolving, climate systems are accelerating, and economic structures are being reshaped. From rising temperatures and economic recalibration to cultural resurgence, the Arctic is both a witness to and a driver of transformation. This year's theme underscores the ebb and flow of the world. At next year's conference, we invite participants to reflect on the rhythms of global change and their implications for the pan-Arctic region.

In 2026 we will bring together leading voices to examine the state of Arctic collaboration, economic transitions, infrastructure needs, technological frontiers, and the health of the ocean that unites the region. And as the world turns and tides shift, we will explore how the Arctic can influence, adapt to, and help shape the global future.

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For the Arctic Frontiers 2026 conference, five priority topics have been identified which will guide the formation of the Science and Big Picture sessions. We welcome both basic and applied research, and aim for interdisciplinary sessions along the themes of:

**Observations from Seabed to Space:** remote sensing of the cryosphere, oceans, land and ecology, space weather, autonomous observations, earth observation developments, governance of space, data sharing, ocean governance, infrastructure developments, space for security.

**Extremes and their consequences:** Extreme weathers and storms, impacts on critical infrastructure, landslides and avalanches, Arctic marine heatwaves, permafrost melting, wildfires, multiple stressors, extreme opinions and conflict, cultural preservation in the face of climate change.

**The Connections Between Science and Politics:** How geopolitical trends impact science and research, Arctic security, demographic changes and trends, science diplomacy and governance, hybrid threats, role of technology for geopolitics.

**Future Economies:** Blue/ocean/circular economies, fisheries and aquaculture developments, food security and safety, deep sea mining, green energy transition, sustainable shipping, valuing traditional livelihoods, Arctic and foreign investments, role of supply chains.

**Alive Arctic:** biodiversity in extreme environments (glaciers, sea-ice, deep ocean), impacts of seasons, darkness and remoteness on biodiversity and ecosystems, diversity of the Arctic, impacts of human activities on ecosystems, cultural importance and impact.

To submit a session idea, email [jenny@arcticfrontiers.com](mailto:jenny@arcticfrontiers.com) by 10<sup>th</sup> June, 23:59 CEST.

### Proposed planning timeline:

<b>10 June 2025</b>	<b>Deadline to collect science session ideas</b>
<b>16 June 2025</b>	Session ideas evaluated by the AF team and the Strategic Science Committee; recommendations are given.
<b>End of June 2025</b>	Development of session committees and finalization of science sessions
<b>4 August 2025</b>	Release of science session descriptions on the website and open call-for-abstracts
<b>30 September 2025</b>	Abstract submission deadline – No extension possible
<b>Early-October 2025</b>	Abstract reviewing
<b>Mid-October 2025</b>	Notify scientists of accepted abstracts and tentative science program
<b>3 November 2025</b>	Finalized program released, registration open
<b>1 December 2025</b>	Deadline for registration of presenters
<b>2-5 February 2026</b>	Arctic Frontiers 2026: Turn of the Tide

### Guidelines

- Keep your title short and concise.
- Include international collaborators within the science committee.
  - Experience shows the highest quality abstracts and audience engagement are during science sessions with an international committee.
- Include a policy or industry expert within the science committee.
  - This could include a private research company, research infrastructure and facilitation company, knowledge-based start-up, someone working within the Arctic Council Working Groups, at the European Commission, county council or coast guard.
- Give a clear description of the research/science/Indigenous knowledge you wish to see in the submitted abstracts.
- Consider panel discussions or more interactive formats.
  - Experience shows greater engagement from policy makers, journalists and industry partners when the format allows for more discussion and questions.
- The session should not be specific to one project – sessions must be open to abstracts for both poster and presentations from any institution.
- **This is a proposal for a session.** We usually receive many more proposals than can be accommodated. Please be open to merging with a similar session proposal, hosting a side event rather than a science session, or adapting your title and description to better fit the theme of the conference.

**Please send a 1-page word document with the following information:**

**Session title** (*No more than 100 characters – short, concise, informative*)

**Name of session leader and their affiliation** (*must be affiliated with an Arctic Frontiers Partner institution*). Find our partners here: <https://arcticfrontiers.com/our-partners/>

**Members of the Science Committee** (*Maximum 4 Names – They should have confirmed their interest. Please include international collaborators and those from non-academic backgrounds (e.g policy, business, Arctic Council Working Groups). The committee can increase to 6 people maximum, but should a session have to merge, the limit is still 6.*)

**The relevance of the topic for the Arctic Frontiers 2026 conference** (*see themes above*)

**Which formats you are considering** (*Oral talks and posters, keynotes, panel discussions, interactive content, workshops*)

**Brief description of the proposed session** (*max. 150-200 words; descriptions will be extended and refined at a later stage after discussions*)

## **Commitments**

Session Organiser Commitments:

- Spreading the word to receive high quality abstracts from August to October.
- We use a blind reviewing system, meaning that names and affiliations of the abstract submitter is not known.
- Review the abstracts between October 1<sup>st</sup> and October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Have 2-3 short online meetings with Jenny from Arctic Frontiers, to finalise the program and discuss logistics.
- At least one committee member should be present in Tromsø to chair the sessions. Ideally more than one, as experience shows that each science session has 2-3 time blocks, depending on the number of abstracts.
- Convene the session and attend the poster session.

Arctic Frontiers Commitments:

- Communication of sessions through website, newsletter, social media and networks.
- Complimentary conference registration for the main session organizer.
- 25% discount for conference registration for the co-organisers.
- Administration of abstracts, program and communication with presenters, to reduce workload for session organisers.
- Flexible to keynotes, oral talks, posters and panel discussions to suit your interests.
- A technician in each session to operate presentations, zoom, video and microphones.
- One-two volunteers in the sessions to assist with time keeping and questions.