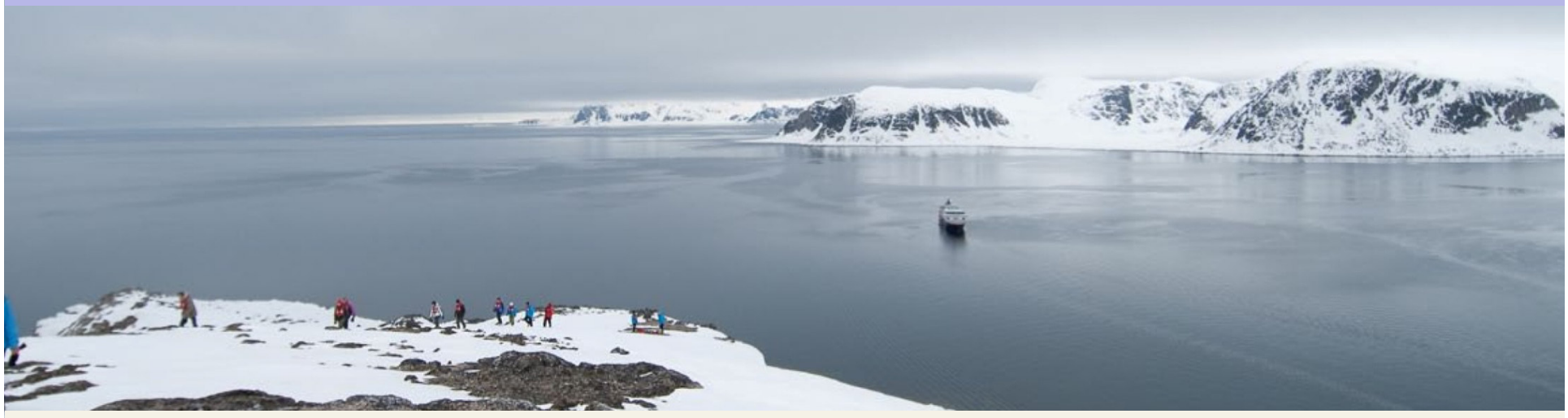
Brussels, March 2015



Sustainable Arctic Cruise Tourism

Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO)

'Pan European Dialogue', Brussels, March 6th 2015

Ilja Leo Lang, Office Manager Denmark

Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators AECO

Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators AECO

- Association of Arctic expedition cruise operators and associates
- 45 members. 26 of which operate approximately 30 expedition cruise vessels all over the Arctic

Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators AECO

- AECO's objectives is to Ensure that expedition cruises and tourism in the Arctic is carried out with the utmost consideration for the fragile, natural environment, local cultures and cultural remains, as well as the challenging safety hazards at sea and on land.

Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators AECO

- AECO members have an obligation not only to operate in accordance with local, national and international laws and regulations, but also to comply with AECO's guidelines.

Geographic area = the IMO definition of the Arctic

- 60 degree north, with some exceptions

- AECO's core areas are Svalbard, Jan Mayen, Greenland, Canada and the national park "Russian Arctic" (Franz Josef Land and northern Novaya Zemlya)

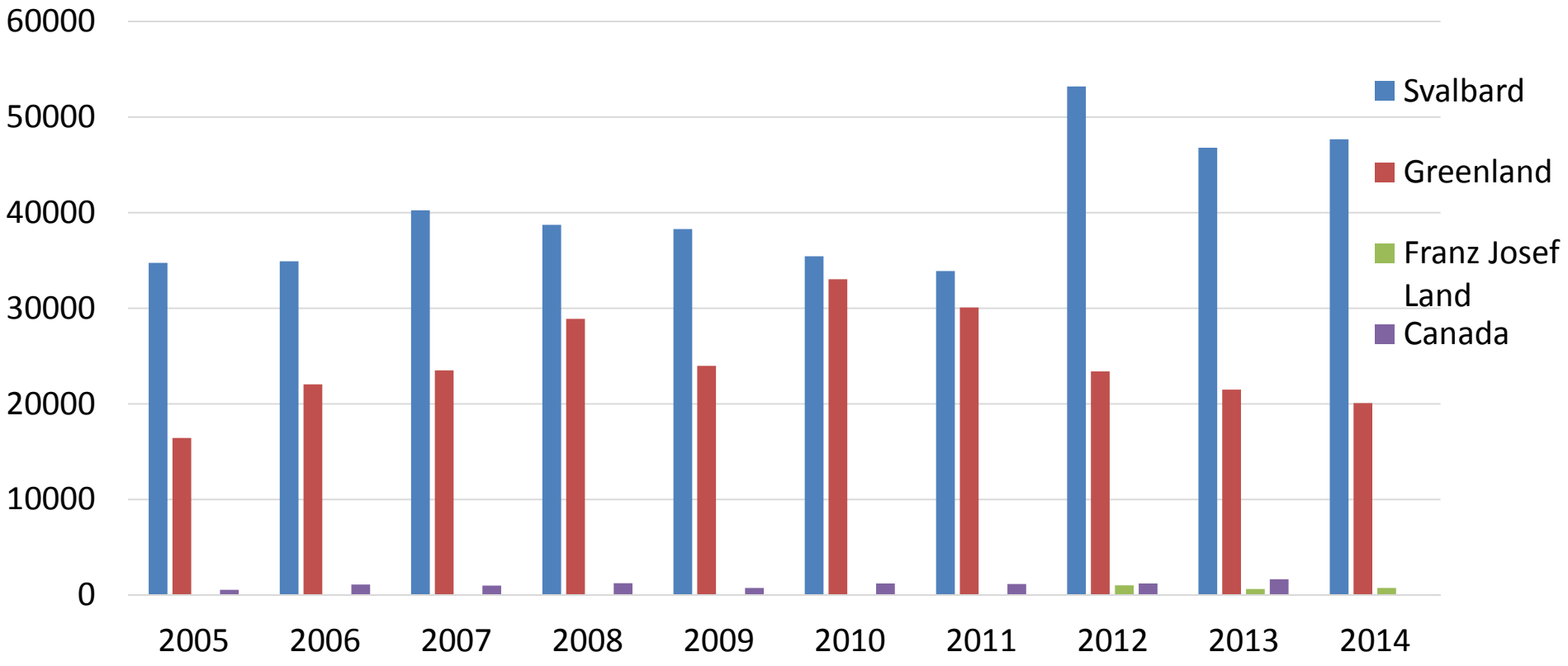
Conventional cruise traffic

Expedition cruise traffic

Cruise passengers

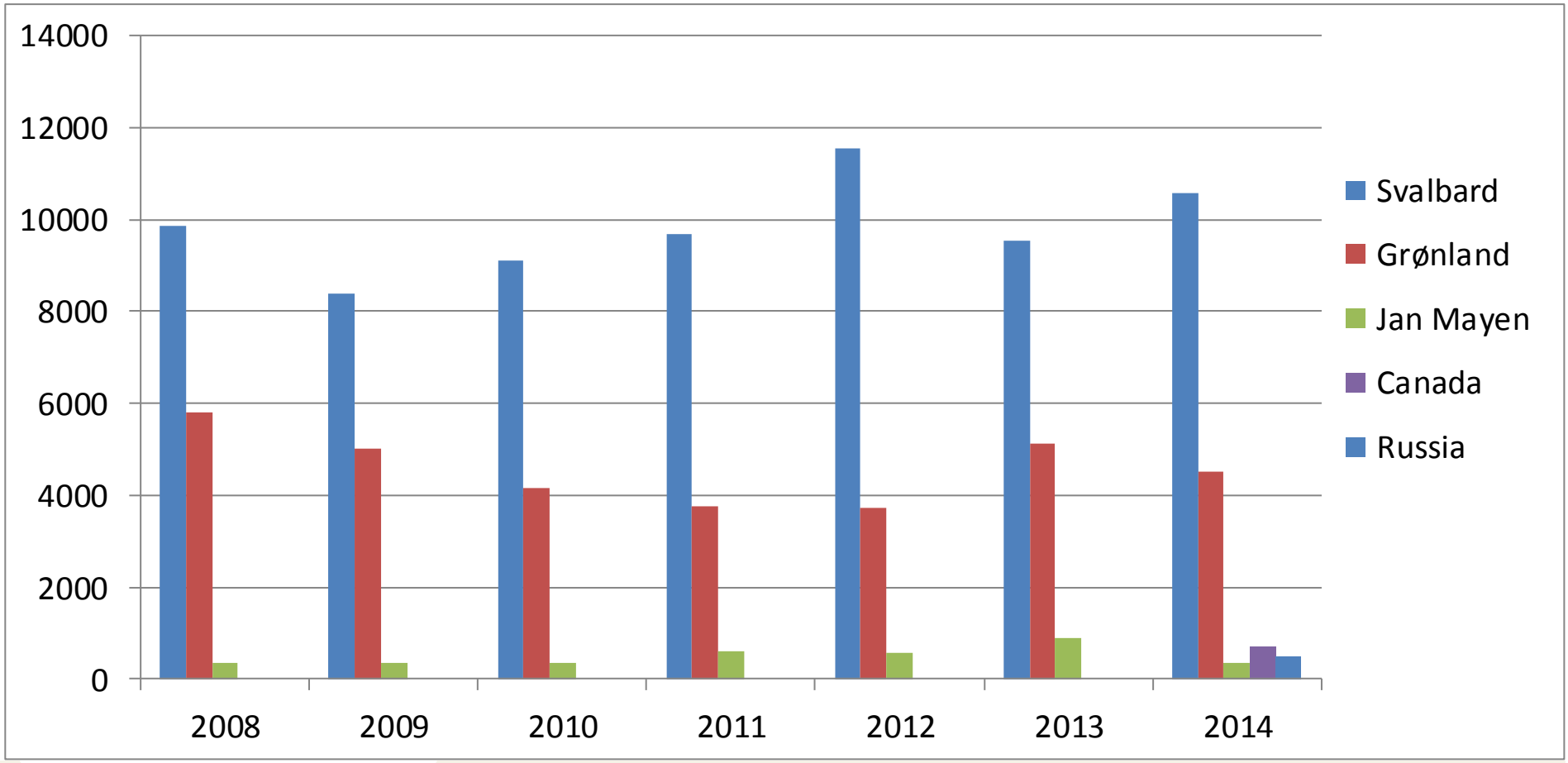
Svalbard, Greenland, Franz Josef Land, Canada

Conventional cruise vessels and expedition cruise vessels

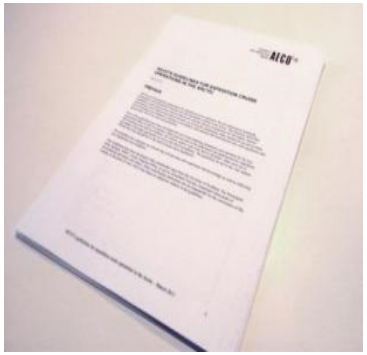


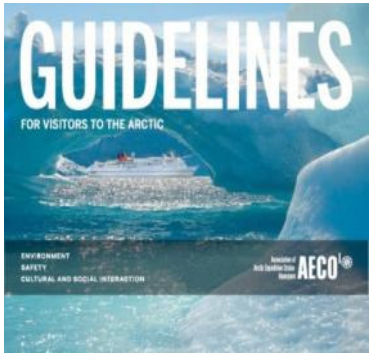
AECO passengers

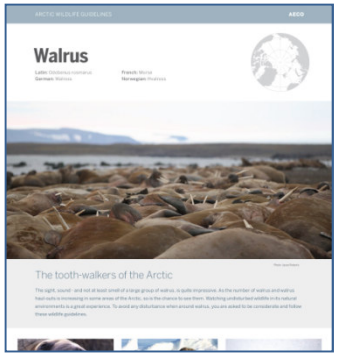
Svalbard, Greenland, Jan Mayen, Canada & Russia



AECO guidelines & standards







Operational guidelines

AECO's comprehensive guidelines for cruise operators in the Arctic

Visitors guidelines

AECO's guidelines for visitors to the Arctic
New animated guidelines!

Wildlife guidelines

Considerations to prevent disturbance of wildlife

Biosecurity guidelines

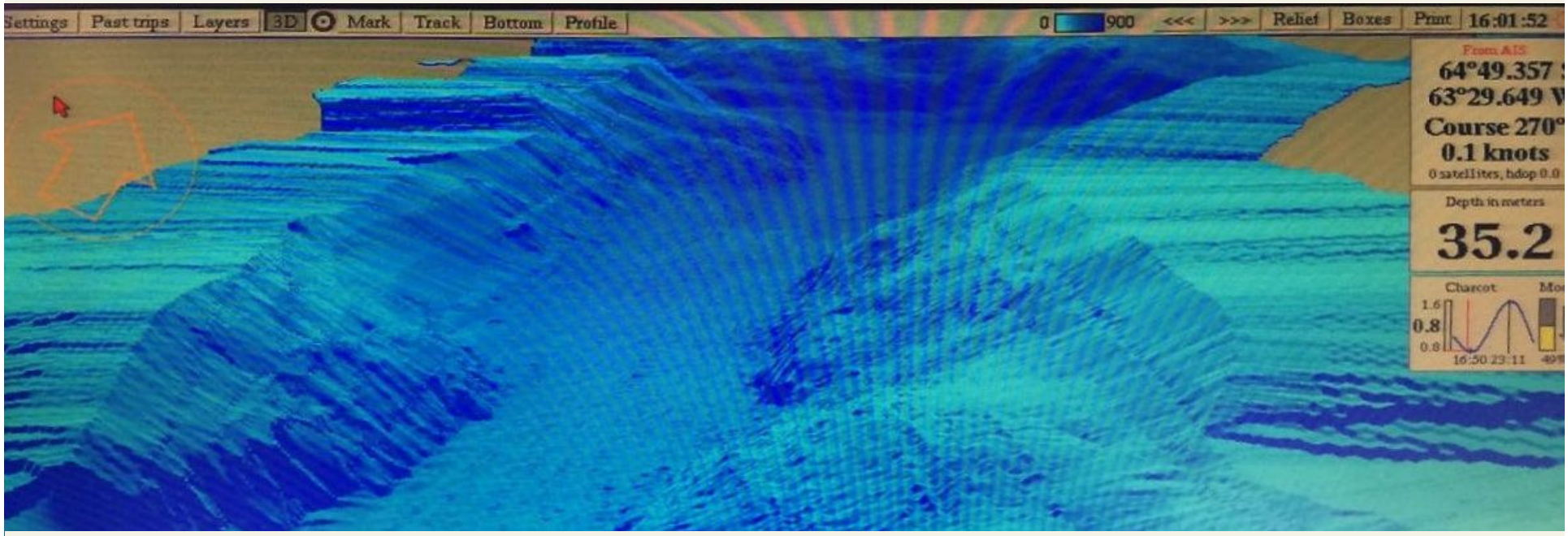
Research-based measures to prevent the introduction of alien species

Site specific guidelines

Site specific guidelines for sites in Svalbard (ongoing work on additional sites/areas)

Other AECO/industry practices

- The Clean Up Svalbard Campaign
- AECO's Vessel Tracking system
- AECO's Cruise Database
- Crowd sourcing of data
- Conferences and Training
- Fauna registration



Regulation & hearing processes

Greenland Sea Safety Act.

Pilotage Norway/Svalbard

Management plan national parks, Svalbard

General permitting issues, Canada

Permitting issues Russia

Longyearbyen Harbor plan.

Regulation related to tourism in Svalbard

Project partners

Kongsberg Sat Service
National Park Russian Arctic
Telespazio Vega
No. Meteorological Institute
No. Institute for Nature Res.
Nordlandsforskning
Danish Maritime Authorities
Hydro C3 (8 Universities)
Visit Svalbard
Longyearbyen Council
Visit Greenland
Cruise Iceland
Torshavn Harbor
IAATO
CLIA

Other activities

SAR exercises
Arctic Council workshop participation (PAME/CAFF)
Polarcode Workshops
Arctic Command dialogue
The Economist Conference
IMO hosted workhop
House of Lords meeting
UK's Embassy meeting
ZEPHYR, SAR table-top conference
Field Staff Conference
Staff education seminars
National Park meetings

and much more …

Thank you for listening!