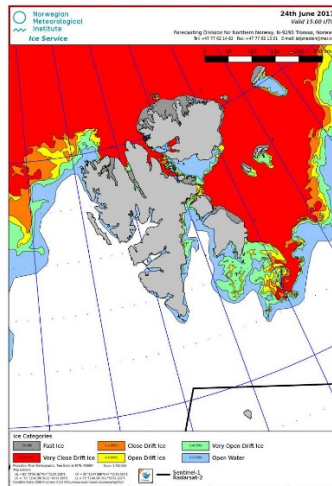




Plancius 07 Dive Log 22nd June to 29th June 2017.

Svalbard Norwegian Arctic.



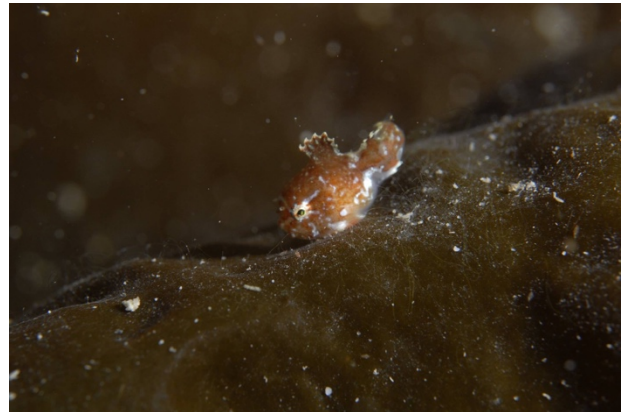
Dive Team Leader Henrik Enckell, Dive Guide Yolly Bossiger, Dive Guide Tanja Bayer, Dive Guide Michael Green, Dive Team, Faith A Ortins, Michael Lang, Kevin Friend, John Feehan, Valerie Feehan, Ryan King, Olga V Torrey, Alice K Duong, Leah Potts, Lawrence E Cohen, Karen Hoesen Velazquez, John P Ganson JR Annie Crawley, Leah Potts, Brooks MCCArthur Snorkelers Teresa Hoffman, Diane Hoffman, Leslie Ganson and Terry O'Rourke.



After making long flights to Svalbard we were soon underway. The first evening and morning were filled with mandatory briefings. But as soon as these were complete we started the dive program.

Dive One 23rd June 2017. Svalbard Arctic Norway Rouielfjorden 79 48.3N 11 54.4E.

This was our check dive where the team checked their buoyancy and equipment. There were the usual kit repairs needed after travel but these didn't stop the team having a good dive. Nudibranc were seen on the bottom along with a Lump sucker anemones, Sea Butterflies, Juvenile Hake, Comb Jelly, Skeleton Shrimp, Scallops and Urchins spawning. The visibility was good we enjoyed a dive in a Kelp forest. Soon the 40 minutes passed and it was time to return to ship. Some of the team enjoyed a Zodiac cruise through the ice to admire the beautiful scenery ashore. Now we are ready for the adventure to begin.ŷ



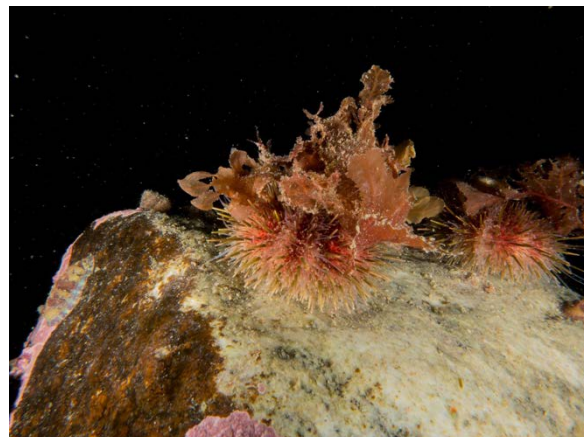
Dive Two 25th June 2017. Svalbard Arctic Norway Danskegattet Likholmen Rock Smeeremberg. 79 43.709N 10 54.185E.

The team made a dive on this historic site on an island in the bay. Once they got through the top couple of meters of water the visibility opened up to 3 or 4m. The topography underwater was shelving from shallow to very deep according to the soundings the dive guides took. The dive lasted for 40 minutes. We saw more lump suckers, Brittle Stars, Nudibranc with little protusions on their backs, Shrimps, Crabs, Scallops, Jellyfish and Sea Butterflies amongst the rocks and the vegetation. When we surfaced we went ashore to see the Walrus laid on the beach. The Blubber Kilns were interesting they have been on the beach since the 1700s and were used to render the blubber down into oil. Too soon it was time to return to the ship for lunch.



Dive Three 25th June 2017 Svalbard Arctic Norway Flugeholmen 79 34.553N 10 55.345E.

Mid-afternoon, we entered Magdalena Fjord in beautiful light. Soon after lunch we kitted up and were ready for our dive in good time. We left the ship which was at anchor and motored across to the larger islands near the fjord entrance. The light made for great visibility. On the dive we saw Fields of Skeleton Shrimps amongst the kelp forest, Crabs, Hermit Crabs, Sculpins and Spider Crabs. After the dive we went for a long zodiac cruise by the glacier venturing to 350m from the leading edge. This was a superb end to a great day.



Dive Four 27th June 2017 Svalbard Arctic Norway Nyllonden. 78 57.397N 12 12.033E

Our morning dive was in a beautiful fjord. The weather had changed and was now a little gloomy. We went to the dive site here where there are several huts from the old mining days. We dived into 10m of water and proceeded south and east into deeper water. As we kitted up Blue whale swam by the ship. On our dive we saw crabs in and amongst the Kelp and a different type of Algae which is being studied by the local scientists. After 40 minutes we returned to the surface. We had a quick lunch and were ready to go again.

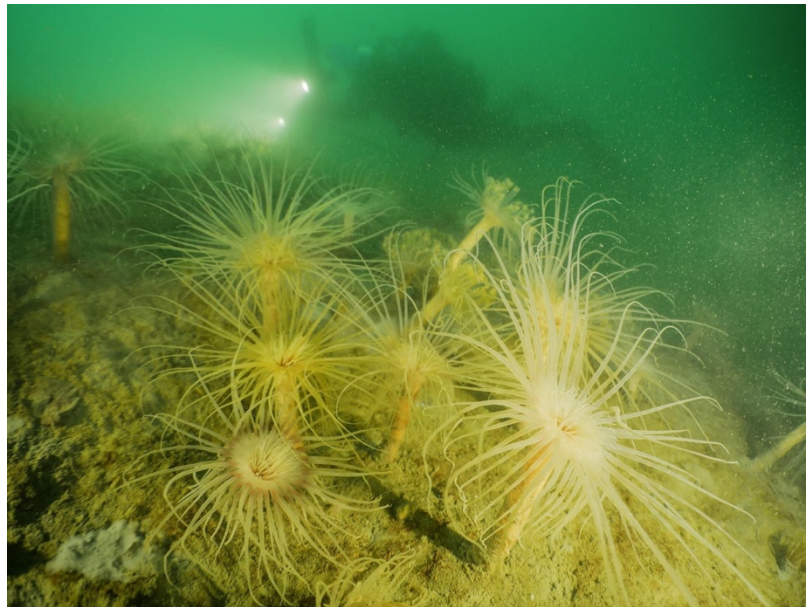
Dive Five 27th June 2017 Svalbard Arctic Norway, 14th of July Bukta. 79 07.508N 11 492E

This place is called 14th of July which is a strange name for a place. It is named after Bastille Day by the French people who lived there. The Fjord has a beautiful glacier at the end of it. We set out to dive with a short visit to a small iceberg for everyone to snorkel on. So much enjoyment was had photographing the ice and people on it that we decided to visit a second piece of ice to get more fun shots. Then we ventured closer to the glacier and safely watched the ice calving. Followed by a short Zodiac cruise on which we saw cliffs with thousands of seabirds and Reindeer eating the lichen on the shore.



Dive Six 28th June 2017 Svalbard Arctic Norway St Jonsfjord 78 30038N 12 50.78 5E

After Breakfast we kitted up in proper Arctic weather. Gloom and light drizzle. We decided to try to make a dive on the south coast of the fjord but the water was too milky. After getting detail of the distance from the ship to the north coast (1m) we headed across to try to find clearer water. Success! We found lees milky water and kitted up. The terrain was very steep and sandy mixed with debris from the glacier. We saw lots of Anemones on the wall which shot back into their body as we approached. They all were faced into the current feeding. There was also a fish eating another fish its same size which looked kind of strange. After 40 minutes we returned to the ship to get warm.



Dive Six 28th June 2017 Svalbard Arctic Norway Fraggie Rock 78 15.045N 12 45.8E

This afternoon's dive was plan B as the plan A was not suitable for a dive. This turned out to be great as the visibility was fantastic 10m+. The site was along a spit of tundra with beach and rocks. The seabed was undulating between 15m and 20m with a rocky bottom. The rock was covered by a beautiful kelp garden. The kelp had all the usual creatures on it. Crabs, Brittle Stars urchins underneath the stalks. The team played for almost an hour in the frigid Arctic water. Then it was time to Isurface and end a perfect diving holiday."



