



DIVELOG

North Spitsbergen Explorer: Arctic Ocean: Versatile Landscapes, Sea Ice and Wildlife

23 June – 30 June, 2025

On board m/v Hondius



DIVE TEAM LEADER:

Tanja Bayer

DIVE GUIDE:

Sid Dewfall

DIVERS:

Alvise Calamai, Bernie Mc Carrick, Brian Murphy, Catherine Redmond, Colette McCann, Jacqueline McLoughlin, Gerry Walsh, Russell Keenan

DIVE 1 – Tuesday 24 June, Morning, Magdalena Fjord

GPS Position: 79°34.599' N, 011°01.258'E

Watertemperature: 4°C



After the last mandatory briefings in the morning, we assembled or kit and got ready for the first dive. In the morning, we navigated into Magdalena Fjord, which is the northernmost fjord on the west coast. Our dive site was at the northern side of the Fjord. The water looked very clear, and the depth was around 3-13 m. A perfect site to check out gear and buoyancy. Just the pair of Glaucous gulls did not like us to stay there. Everybody felt comfortable on that dive and lots of small stuff was seen. Pteropods in the water column, anemones, little fish, sea fans, crabs and more. As we limited the checkout dive to 20min, we just had enough time to have a look at the walrus on the shallow beach at the entrance of Gullyfjord.



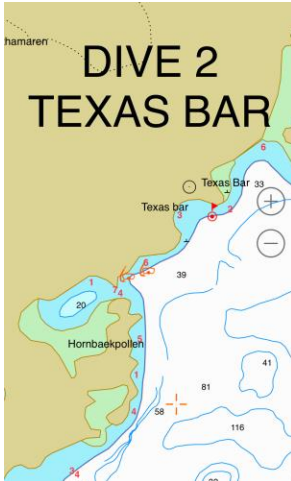
While feeling tanks on the back deck we spotted a polar bear just walking along the fjord, passing our former dive site. Afterwards he swam to the southern shore of the fjord, looking for harbor seals and eggs in a small bay. Another bear was spotted, also swimming towards the Sysselmester Hut. Our afternoon dive was cancelled, but we had great fun following the 2 bears in and out of the water.

DIVE 2 – Wednesday 25 June, Morning, Texas Bar

GPS Position: 79°36.459' N, 012°40.199'E

Watertemperature: 2°C

In the morning we sailed into Liefdefjord and down to Texas Bar. This spot offers a wonderful landscape and a rocky slope under water at the cliffs. Visibility was 2-4m and the rocks were partly covered with kelp. On the kelp there were little crabs, snails, amphipods and copepods. On the bottom we found anemones and sea stars in different



colours. In the silky bottom also a sting ray was found. After the dive we went to the landing site. We had a look at the hut and learned about the story of the trapper hut and how she got her name.

Some of the divers then went for a Polar Plunge and enjoyed it very much jumping into the cold arctic water without a dry suit.



DIVE 3 – Wednesday 25 June, Afternoon, Iceberg/Monacobreen

GPS Position: 79°32.840' N, 012°33.473'E

Watertemperature: 1°C



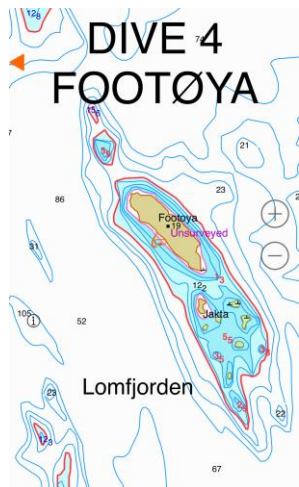
In the afternoon 5 divers took the opportunity to dive. We did not expect great visibility in front of the Monacobreen, but we looked for a piece of ice. We found a nice blue iceberg, not too close to the glacier front. After driving around it with the zodiac several times, it seemed to be stable enough to dive on. Just visibility was very poor. So the divers liked the clear ice under water, but could hardly see it. It was a challenging dive and buddy teams got separated. In the end all divers were back in the Zodiac and we headed to the „special zodiac“ near the glacier front. Warmed up by the Chai latte, we continued a little zodiac cruise along the glacier and had fun watching hundreds of kittiwakes and 2 bearded seals.



DIVE 4 – Thursday 26 June, Morning, Lomford/Footoya

GPS Position: 79°32.133' N, 017°55.621' E

Watertemperature: 2°C

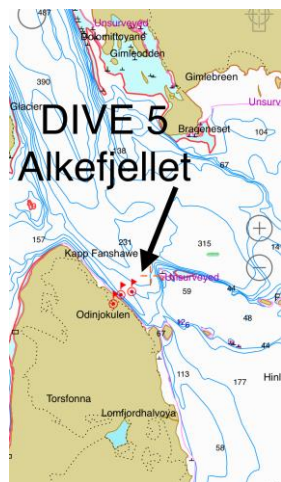


Time for a real exploration dive! We left the little fjord of Faksewagen and drove to the east into the Lomfjorden. 2 small islands are in the middle of the fjord and we first did a good scout around. Some bear tracks on the southern side seemed to be older and we decided to do a dive on the western side of the big island. Visibility looked ok and the divers went in. In 3m depth suddenly a strange white layer appeared. After diving through this layer, the water was crystal clear and the bottom covered by kelp. Between the kelp a lot of anemones, crabs, sea stars and small fish have their home. Ascending back to the surface the white layer was very clear and seemed to have some algae growing on it. We will send a video of this layer to some specialists and will try to find out what made it. After the dive we went back to the ship after stopping for a puffin on the water and a walrus on an ice float

DIVE 5 – Thursday 26 June, Afternoon, Alkefjellet

GPS Position: 79°34.503' N, 018°29.100' E

Watertemperature: 2°C



After we arrived at the wonderful bird cliff of Alkefjellet, the wind picked up a bit. But it was still possible to do a dive at the bird cliff. Visibility was good and the wall underwater was covered with anemones of different colours. There were also a lot of sponges, sea stars, kelp, pink algae on the rocks and different crabs moving around on this colorful ground. Some also saw Brünnich's Guillemot swimming underwater! What a great experience.



The wind picked up after 20min. of the dive and the divers were called back and had to come back to the surface. But everybody enjoyed this 30 min. dive and we returned safely to the ship.

DIVE 6 – Sunday 29 June, Morning, Trygghamna

GPS Position: 78°13.589' N, 013°54.073' E

Watertemperature: 4-6°C

Our sixth dive took us to the sheltered waters of Trygghamna, a fjord known for its dramatic scenery and calm conditions. The water column was alive with movement — countless jellies and ctenophores drifted gracefully in the cold blue, creating an ethereal atmosphere for the team. Visibility was good, and divers described the experience as magical. Along the way, a small group of puffins made a surprise appearance, flying low over the water or resting on the surface. A peaceful yet vibrant Arctic dive to remember.



DIVE 7 – Sunday 29 June, Afternoon, Sagaskjeret/Alkhornet

GPS Position: 78°12.800' N, 013°56.361' E

Watertemperature: 4-8°C



Our final dive of the expedition took us to the base of Alkhornet, a striking coastal mountain known for its towering cliffs and nesting seabirds. Entering the water near Sagaskjeret, divers descended through swarms of jellies and comb jellies, gliding above a lush kelp forest. As the descent continued along the rocky cliff walls, the seafloor came alive with anemones, sea urchins, crabs, and a rich variety of sessile invertebrates. One diver even had a close encounter with a curious walrus, receiving a gentle nudge before it disappeared into the deep. A thrilling and unforgettable dive to conclude the Arctic adventure. With fins packed and memories full, we say goodbye to the icy wonders of Svalbard. Until the next descent beneath Arctic waters!



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From the whole team at Oceanwide Expeditions, we hope you read back and reminisce on the trip, it truly was one for our books! Thank you for joining us on this fantastic adventure, we hope to see you back on board soon!