

ARCTIC POLICY OF THE FAROE ISLANDS 2024



UTTANRÍKIS- OG VINNUMÁLARÁÐIÐ
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Industry and Trade

THE FAROE ISLANDS IN THE ARCTIC

Major changes are taking place in the Arctic. The political and economic significance of the Arctic in the international arena is ever growing, bringing the region under greater influence from global trends than ever before.

The Arctic is experiencing climate change at an accelerated rate compared to the rest of the world, with its clear and tangible consequences being felt more keenly with every passing day. As an Arctic country, the Faroe Islands, alongside the other countries in the region, play a vital role in collaborative efforts to mitigate climate change and build a solid knowledge base for necessary adaptation.

This is also why it is necessary for the Faroe Islands to have an Arctic policy that outlines the role of the Faroe Islands in the Arctic and North Atlantic, both in the near future and in the long term.

The Arctic policy of the Faroe Islands prioritises democratic sustainability, underlining that the people in the Arctic and North Atlantic should hold decision-making authority and responsibility for what happens in their

region, and that the people in the Arctic and the North Atlantic have direct and independent representation in relevant collaboration and agreements.

The people and natural environment of the Arctic are at the core of the policy. We thrive on nature, particularly the ocean. By strengthening the basis of existence for those of us who live in the Arctic, we bolster resilience across the entire Arctic region in the face of challenges like climate change, economic fluctuations, and security issues. It is crucial that we see the opportunities in the challenges that lie ahead, while, as ever, keeping sustainability and democracy as our guiding principles.

THE PURPOSE OF THE FAROESE ARCTIC POLICY IS:

- > to define the Faroe Islands as a partner in the Arctic,
- > to strengthen the role of the Faroe Islands in international cooperation and relevant fora, including Arctic Council,
- > to lay the foundations for decision-making processes that help foster development, knowledge, and progress in the Faroe Islands and throughout the Arctic.

THIS POLICY IS COMPOSED OF EIGHT THEMATIC AREAS:

- > Stability and Security
- > International Cooperation
- > Environment, Nature, and Climate
- > Research, Knowledge Advancement and Education
- > Preparedness and Response
- > Marine Resources
- > Economic Opportunities and Sustainable Development
- > Culture and Society





THE FAROE ISLANDS IN THE ARCTIC

- > The Faroese continental shelf extends beyond the Arctic Circle.
- > Conservation and management of straddling fish stocks with migratory paths that approximate the Central Arctic Ocean is incumbent upon the Faroe Islands.
- > The Faroe Islands have been an active partner in Arctic cooperation since its inception as environmental collaboration in the early 1990s. In 1996 the Arctic Council was established, and the Faroe Islands have taken part in a joint delegation with Denmark and

Greenland since. Faroese authorities, researchers and other Faroese stakeholders have played an active role in the Arctic Council. The Faroe Islands are also party to three agreements between the countries in the Arctic Council.

- > In addition to the Arctic as a geographical area, the Arctic is a geopolitical arena, which sets the stage for intergovernmental cooperation in several areas that are of strategic importance to the Faroe Islands and the rest of the world. It serves Faroese interests to remain visible and active in this arena.

THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AS A FRAMEWORK FOR FAROESE ENGAGEMENT IN THE ARCTIC

The UN Sustainable Development Goals provide a natural framework for shaping Arctic policy. The 17 goals, which collectively form a progressive global vision for a sustainable future, align with the priorities, values, and objectives the Faroe Islands pursue in the international context, also in relation to Arctic affairs.

SDGS OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO THE FAROE ISLANDS AND THE ARCTIC:

No. 7 Affordable and Clean Energy

No. 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth

No. 9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

No. 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities

No. 12 Responsible Consumption and Production

No. 13 Climate Action

No. 14 Life below Water

No. 15 Life on Land

No. 16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

No. 17 Partnerships for the Goals



SECURITY AND STABILITY IN A MORE UNCERTAIN WORLD

The Faroe Islands work to ensure that security and stability continue to prevail in the Arctic

Democracy, human rights, and transparency are the absolute guiding lights of the Faroe Islands in all intergovernmental contexts, including in the Arctic. Cooperation between countries must be based on international law, as well as mutual recognition and respect.

The chief objective to maintain low tension in the Arctic is under pressure following the Russian attack on Ukraine on 24 February 2022. Consequently, with Finland and Sweden becoming NATO members, all the Arctic countries, except Russia, will be part of the alliance. This opens up valuable cooperation opportunities between the allies, who should continue to have as their main goal to preserve the Arctic as a region of peace and stability.

The Faroe Islands support measures that reduce the likelihood of misunderstandings, as well as efforts to mitigate unintended escalation. At the same time, the evolving geopolitical landscape necessitates Arctic nations to navi-

gate a heightened sense of uncertainty in security dynamics, marked by Russia's assertive stance challenging the existing order.

In line with NATO's priorities - as set out in e.g. the 2030 Strategic Concept and recent Summit Communiqués - the Faroe Islands support a focus on defense posture, freedom of navigation and critical infrastructure.

It is imperative for the Faroe Islands to engage in effective communication and collaboration with the other allies in the Arctic and the broader North Atlantic to actively contribute to the preservation of security and stability. In this context, the USA has a prominent role, alongside the UK, Canada, and the other Nordic countries as well as other strong naval allies, each playing a key part in shaping the security landscape of the region.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The rule of law, human rights and a rules based order of international affairs anchored in international law are at the core of Faroese foreign policy.

International cooperation through organisations and collaboration between countries is of vital importance to meet the many challenges facing the international community, both in the Arctic and the world at large.

For the Faroe Islands to contribute to international cooperation, it is essential to engage with relevant organisations and collaborate directly with other countries. Not only in terms of Arctic cooperation, but also other international organisations and fora that provide the Faroe Islands with opportunities to exert influence and present its perspectives. Almost all the areas of cooperation within the Arctic Council are under the exclusive competence of the Faroese authorities. These areas are important for advancing sustainable development in the Faroe Islands and in the Arctic as a whole. Consequently, the Faroe Islands aspire to obtain an independent voice in all relevant organisations and areas of cooperation.

COOPERATION IN THE ARCTIC

The Arctic Council is the primary forum for intergovernmental cooperation in the Arctic. The members of the Arctic Council work in close collaboration with the permanent participants, observers, and other organisations to promote cooperation in the Arctic, addressing issues such as climate change, pollution of the sea and land, and overall living conditions in the region. The Faroe Islands have ratified three international agreements between the countries represented in the Arctic Council, focusing on search and rescue operations, preparedness for oil spills, and research.

The Faroe Islands participate in the Kingdom of Denmark delegation alongside Greenland and Denmark.

The Arctic Council's activities have been significantly reduced in the wake of Russia's war on Ukraine.

Nordic cooperation is important in the Arctic context. The Faroe Islands prioritise Nordic cooperation and play an active role in most areas. The framework for Nordic cooperation presents multiple opportunities for development, including in the Arctic context.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is the foundation for some of the most important aspects of international affairs, that are strategically valuable for the Faroe Islands. UNCLOS sets out contracting parties' rights and obligations, including delimitation and jurisdiction of coastal states, freedom of navigation, environment, and pollution, as well as natural resources in the ocean and on the continental shelf.

The Faroe Islands prioritise international cooperation for the sustainable management of fish stocks in the north. This commitment is evident through active engagement in multilateral coastal states consultations, bilateral agreements, and regional fisheries management organisations, particularly the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). NEAFC's convention area extends to the North Pole.

UN COOPERATION.

Through associate membership, the Faroe Islands prioritises an active participation in the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Educa-

tional, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

In addition to participation in international organisations, it is important for the Faroe Islands to further enhance relations with the other countries in the Arctic area, notably Norway, Iceland, Greenland, Denmark, United States of America, and Canada. Additionally, continuous efforts should be made to cultivate ties with countries which have a particular proximity to and strong interest in the Arctic, such as the United Kingdom, including Scotland, Ireland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, China, and the EU as well as its member states.



ENVIRONMENT, NATURE, AND CLIMATE

Climate change is the paramount challenge of our time, demanding a unified global response. The Faroe Islands actively participate in Arctic, Nordic, and global climate initiatives.

The Arctic region, where the impacts of climate change manifest at an accelerated pace, serves as a poignant example of the urgency to act. Climate change affects the people of the Arctic and their living conditions, as well as biodiversity, nature, and the overall environment of the region.

Faroese researchers have contributed to building knowledge about nature, the environment and climate conditions in the Arctic, with a notable emphasis on ocean-related studies. In order to optimise preparedness and enhance resilience of those living in the region, the Faroe Islands are committed to prioritising research and knowledge development mapping the scope of climate change, assess its rate of occurrence, to better understand and predict its impacts.

The Faroe Islands are fully committed to climate cooperation within the Arctic Council and actively engage on the international stage to find solutions to climate issues.

Alongside the other Nordic countries, the Faroe Islands have endorsed the Nordic Vision 2030, aiming to be-

In May 2022 the Faroese Parliament adopted a new Energy and Climate Policy, targeting a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 2010. The Energy and Climate Policy contains an action plan with a set schedule, outlining 25 concrete measures to be implemented over the coming years.

come the most sustainable and integrated region globally by 2030. This vision includes adhering to the Declaration on Nordic Carbon Neutrality and setting ambitious targets aligned with the Paris Agreement.



The government of the Faroes is updating the energy and climate policy, with a short-term goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2023. The long-term objective is to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, aligning with the latest recommendations from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

THE TEMPERATURE IN THE ARCTIC REGION MUST NOT INCREASE.

This goal is of direct for the rate of change in ice levels that consequently effects regional terrestrial and marine ecosystems, including those surrounding the Faroe Islands.

The biological diversity of the Arctic region requires effective management and responsible conservation.

- > Ongoing stock estimate exercises, initially focused on commercial fish species and cetaceans, must broaden to encompass other living resources. Especially sensitive areas or animal and plant species must be suitably protected. A coordinated approach between the national scientific institutions and local experts must constitute the foundation for a dedicated effort to establish a robust knowledge base on our natural diversity. This would enable the expansion and development of economic opportunities on a sustainable basis and without compromising the natural environment.
- > The identification, assessment, and utilisation of biological diversity will serve as a foundation for

administrative and political decision-making when granting permission or licenses to take measures that will impact the land or sea.

Emissions of harmful substances must be reduced, be these substances with ozone-depleting, cumulative, endocrine-disruptive, or other negative characteristics for humans, animals, plants, or ecosystems on land or in the ocean. Harmful substances travel long-distances with ocean currents and air currents around the globe and pollute the environment in the Arctic, including the Faroe Islands, affecting its flora, fauna, and inhabitants. Soot particulate emissions further accelerate Arctic ice melt.

- > The ocean must not serve as a dumping ground for waste. The Faroese waste handling system will undergo comprehensive updates, emphasising the promotion of reuse and recycling in a sustainable circular economy. The Faroe Islands will also focus on reducing marine pollution at sea from fisheries and other maritime activities.
- > Monitoring of polluting activities on land and at sea must be prioritised. Study results must also be publicly accessible and used broadly in environmental management and relevant cross-border cooperation.

The Faroe Islands are committed to fostering collaboration among researchers, administrators, and others with specialised knowledge of nature and the environment.

This collaborative effort aims to enhance understanding about nature and the environment while actively participating in Arctic, Nordic, and international cooperation. Specialist institutions, including the Meteorological Institute, Environment Agency, Faroe Marine Research Institute, Faroese Geological Survey, Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority and the University of the Faroe Islands should facilitate short and long-term subject-specific cooperation by engaging with international colleagues and experts.

Specialist institutions should also encourage public participation in measures that enhance and expand knowledge in the area of nature and the environment.

- > Specialised institutions and relevant commercial entities should organise collaborative initiatives between experts and laypersons to improve and increase knowledge in the field of nature and the environment.



RESEARCH, KNOWLEDGE ADVANCEMENT, AND EDUCATION

Research is a recurring strand in most policy areas related to the Arctic and therefore a mainstay for the Faroese Arctic Policy.

Research-based knowledge is a critical for making informed decisions to ensure sustainable development in the Arctic

The Faroe Islands seek to strengthen cooperation between Faroese institutions and international counterparts, in order to promote the Faroe Islands as a centre of excellence. In order to achieve this objective, it is important to:

- > Collect, organise, and regularly update information on all projects relevant to the Arctic.
- > Draw up an overview of all sources and databases containing research data from the Faroe Islands of Arctic relevance. Procedures for data quality assurance will be reinforced and data monitoring, data collection and data handling will be organised more clearly.

In 2017, the Faroe Islands committed to enhancing Arctic research cooperation under the Arctic Council

- > Publicise opportunities and conditions for research, education, and studies in the Faroe Islands.

The Faroese Council for Research, Development and Innovation was established to advise the government and industry on overarching policies and visions in these areas. The Council will also draw up objectives, both in the Faroe Islands and for international cooperation, as well as advise on how research, development and innovation can benefit society through both the public and private sector. The Council has a key role in mapping out strategic priorities and providing advice aimed ensuring



mutually beneficial collaboration between private and public sectors that strengthen the profile Faroe Islands as an competitive partner in international research.

Amongst the many areas in research and knowledge advancement which the Faroe Islands will prioritise in relation to the Arctic are:

- > Oceanography
- > Living marine resources
- > Meteorology and climate change impacts
- > Geology
- > Energy
- > Technology and communications
- > Nature and environment, both marine and terrestrial
- > Public health and identity
- > Economics, labour market relations, integration, and equality
- > Culture

The Faroe Islands are working to take active part in Arctic education cooperation, striving to prepare graduates with relevant skills for sustainable development in the region. To achieve this, the Faroe Islands must focus on creating appealing conditions to attract international researchers and students for both short and long-term engagements.

OCEAN RESEARCH ON THE AGENDA: THE OCEAN DECADE 2021-2030

The Ocean Decade is the Vision of the IOC, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, to establish a shared framework for oceanography, which can support countries in their efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As an ocean and coastal nation in the Arctic Region, heavily dependent on the sea, the Faroe Islands fully support the Ocean Decade vision and will work within the field of oceanography for clean, sustainable, and resilient oceans. The Faroe Islands, with a strategic position, will contribute to the generation of new data, information, and knowledge necessary to realise the aims of the Ocean Decade vision.

THE OCEAN CURRENTS AROUND THE FAROE ISLANDS ARE DECISIVE FOR ARCTIC ECOSYSTEMS

Through decades of monitoring hydrographic conditions, flow, and thermal exchanges of Arctic inflow and outflow, the Faroe Islands play a critical role in understanding the impact on climate and marine ecosystems. The flow of heat and nutrients into the Atlantic Arctic region is of critical importance to the climate and marine ecosystems in the area. The Faroe Islands also actively participate in international research on the ocean environment in Atlantic Arctic seawater.

Key focal points include the monitoring of ecosystems in the southern segment of the Atlantic Arctic marine area and active engagement in the international research on migratory pelagic fish stocks. The Faroe Islands are an active partner in international cooperation with neighbouring nations on marine science and fisheries management.

HORIZON EUROPE

In 2022, an agreement between the Faroe Islands and the EU on the association and participation of the Faroe Islands in the latest iteration of the EU research cooperation framework »Horizon Europe« was signed. In addition to research partnerships, this Agreement also allows for the development of separate agreements on education cooperation under the »Erasmus+« programme and cultural cooperation under the umbrella of »Creative Europe«. Horizon Europe, as a framework agenda, prioritises interdisciplinary solutions and international cooperation. Furthermore, it functions as a support mechanism for free research, researcher mobility, strategic research, and innovation.

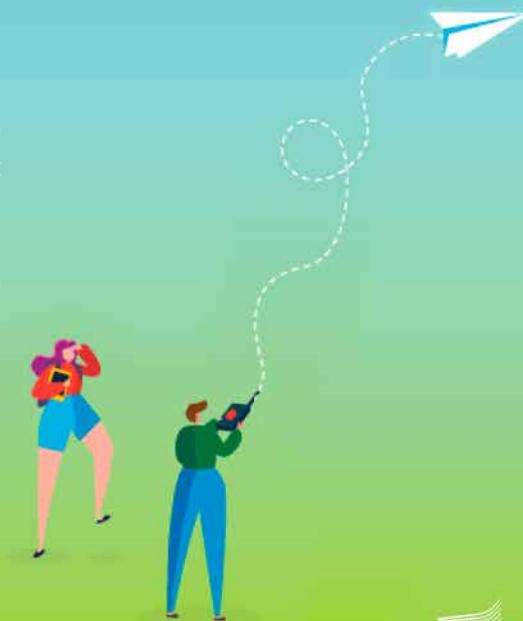
Cooperation between the Faroe Islands and the European Union on research and development is a pillar of the Faroese role in international research partnerships. Given the EU's growing interest in the Arctic, Horizon Europe becomes an

important framework for research and knowledge advancement in the Arctic context.

Research and innovation have remained a key component of the cooperation between the Faroe Islands and the EU since the Faroe.

ERASMUS+

Erasmus+ is the program of the European Union that provides support for cooperation and mobility within the fields of education, training, youth, and sports. The Faroe Islands have initiated the process for becoming a part of Erasmus+.



Vælkomin á Fróðskaparsetrið



FRÓÐSKAPARSETUR
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PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Maritime activity will increase in the High North and Arctic due to melting ice, creating both opportunities and risks for the Faroe Islands and the rest of the region.

New sea routes provide new and greater opportunities for fisheries, maritime supply industries and the tourist sector, while also increasing the risk of maritime accidents and pollution of surrounding waters.

Increased maritime traffic in the area heightens the urgency of international cooperation on air-sea rescue and

The Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic was signed in 2011 and the Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic was signed in 2013

pollution preparedness and response. The area is vast, the routes remote, and preparedness resources limited. The strongest preparedness instruments are informa-

tion and prevention, as well as clearly defined rules for maritime traffic in Faroese and Arctic waters.

The Faroe Islands actively participate in international cooperation on preparedness and rescue in the Arctic, and are represented, alongside Greenland and Denmark, in both Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Response Working Group and Arctic Coast Guard Forum.

The Faroe Islands will prioritise the further development of oil and chemical spill preparedness and response in Faroese waters.

Advanced national preparedness is key for the Faroe Islands to participate in Arctic preparedness and response cooperation on an equal footing with other participating countries. This coordination actively contributes to agreements like the Arctic MOSPA and the Nordic Copenhagen Agreement.

The Faroe Islands have assumed competence for nautical charting of maritime areas under the jurisdiction of





the Faroe Islands. Nautical charts are continually updated and will, over time, provide even greater detail with precise depth contours near land where depth decreases rapidly and in marine areas where commercial activity takes place. This improves nautical safety and is one of many measures that prevent accidents at sea. It is also desirable that the nautical information on port entry and exit routes, harbour atlases and services, information on pilots and other relevant details are updated and notified

The Faroe Islands support and promote increased international cooperation on safety at sea in the IMO, where the Faroe Islands are associate member. In 2017 the IMO Polar Code entered into force. It lays down a series of requirements for vessels and crews sailing and working in the Polar regions. Since 2019 IMO has had observer status in the Arctic Council, providing direct cooperation opportunities between IMO and the countries in the Arctic Council.

to ships and boats in need of such information. Ships and boats are to be encouraged to report discrepancies in nautical chart data to ensure accurate updates.

With more precise weather forecasts in the area under Faroese responsibility, the newly established Faroese meteorological institute, Veðurstovan, will also play a role in ensuring safe navigation in the High North.

The Faroe Islands will be consistent with applicable procedures under the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and where relevant, give effect to generally accepted international rules or standards, and establish sea lanes and traffic separation schemes in the territorial sea of the Faroe Islands applicable for vessels over a certain size and to vessels carrying hazardous freight, which do not intend to enter Faroese ports. This is one of many measures to prevent accidents in the territorial sea and internal waters of the Faroe Islands.

The Faroe Islands will reinforce vessel controls to ensure strict compliance with Faroese and international standards for emissions, safety, and legal fisheries. On-board vessel inspections will be prioritised by the Faroese Maritime Authority and the Faroese Coast Guard in order to ensure that notified conditions correspond to actual conditions on board.

LIVING MARINE RESOURCES

Living marine resources are vital to the economy of the Arctic. For the Faroe Islands, fisheries have critical economic and social importance.

The Faroe Islands are committed to sustainable harvesting, fully utilising catches, and actively participating in intergovernmental cooperation for managing some of the world's largest straddling fish stocks.

Fisheries in the Arctic context provide countless opportunities for sustainable economic development as well as cooperation on research and knowledge exchange. The objective of international fisheries cooperation must be to ensure sustainable management, with due consideration of the need to protect the marine environment and marine biodiversity.

The Faroe Islands actively cooperate to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, including through NEAFC, NAFO, and SPRFMO.

Having fished in some of the world's northernmost grounds for decades, the Faroe Islands aim to be a proactive partner for potential new fishing grounds in the Arctic.

In 2018, the Faroe Islands and Greenland, along with the

EU, Iceland, Japan, Canada, China, Norway, Russia, and the US, signed an Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in International Waters in the Central Arctic Ocean (an area equivalent to approximately 2.8 million square kilometres). The 16-year agreement involves cooperation on scientific research and monitoring, in which the Faroe Islands actively participate. This approach is of significance should circumstances in time allow for organised and sustainable fisheries in high seas areas in the Central Arctic Ocean. Under such circumstances, the Faroe Islands will take on an active role in establishing a regional fisheries management organisation to manage fisheries in the region or work towards the inclusion of such management under one of the existing fisheries management organisations in which the Faroe Islands are a member.

The waters of the Faroe Islands are abundant in fisheries resources, including large transboundary fish stocks, such as mackerel, blue-whiting, and Atlanto-Scandian herring. While these stocks have not yet straddled into the Central Arctic Ocean, their migratory pattern ex-



tends to the maritime zones of neighbouring coastal States and to high seas areas north of the Faroe Islands. Relevant authorities of the Faroe Islands participate and intend to remain a strong participant in scientific research in the Arctic region, including in the Arctic Ocean, and actively work to build up expertise and knowledge relevant to fisheries and other activities in the Arctic.

The Faroe Islands continue consistent with the 1920 Svalbard Agreement to maintain their right to harvest living marine resources in maritime areas beyond the territorial sea of Svalbard.

Marine Mammals are utilised for food and other products in all the Arctic countries, including in the Faroe Islands, where pilot whales and other cetaceans have been harvested since the first settlement.

With a shared commitment to the sustainable utilisation of marine mammals, the Faroe Islands together with Norway, Iceland, and Greenland founded the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) in 1992. NAMMCO provides a forum for regional cooperation on the conservation, sustainable use, and scientific study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic. NAMMCO is an IGO observer in the Arctic Council.





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ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



The prosperity of life in the Arctic relies on diverse economic opportunities and jobs that attract and sustain people.

Faced with rapid changes in natural conditions, it is important to transform challenges into opportunities. Faroese businesses are active around the globe and are innovative, with a forward-thinking approach, excelling in developing solutions tailored to island nations. These solutions, uniquely Faroese, can also cater to larger markets.

- > Encouraging investment in local, safe, and sustainable development is imperative for future development.

TOURISM

The Faroe Islands cooperate on sustainable tourism development in the Arctic. New sea routes and enhanced aviation infrastructure create prospects for increased tourism. To ensure sustainability in the face of fierce competition, the Arctic must establish standards for the tourist industry. This includes fostering conditions for

positive contributions to economic development and the positive reputation of the Arctic as a premier travel destination.

- > Business tourism could grow to constitute a significant contribution to the overall tourist industry in the Faroe Islands.

AQUACULTURE

The world's population is growing and governments, researchers, and industry in all corners of the globe are looking for new sustainable solutions to ensure that everyone has enough food on their plate. The ocean holds enormous, unharnessed opportunities to farm fish and seaweed for human consumption, as well as to harness what is not directly used for food to produce proteins and other high-quality derivatives.

Faroese salmon farming companies have been best-in-class for years with the highest yields and low mortality.

Faroese experience and know-how can also benefit other countries that are starting to develop their aquaculture industry.

Faroese seaweed farming companies are also at the vanguard. Seaweed cultivation as an industry is still relatively new, but the results so far have attracted attention from around the globe. In research, development and best practice solutions, ground-breaking Faroese seaweed farming is poised to lead the way in expanding an innovative industry in the Arctic. The Faroe Islands, and the rest of the Arctic, with its clean Arctic seawater, is poised to become a hub for seaweed cultivation and its value-added products.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION

Cooperation between the research sector and aquaculture industry is crucial for unlocking the vast opportunities within aquaculture. Growth in aquaculture relies on a sustainable approach that fully respects the knowledge gained about ecosystems in fjords and oceans.

Faroese industry and the Faroese research and innovation environment are in a position to jointly enrich any Arctic cooperation on aquaculture and, more broadly, on the sustainable harnessing of the ocean. Alongside Faroese industry, Faroese institutions and collaborations such as Firum, Faroe Marine Research Institute, Environment Agency, Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority, Department of Occupational and Public Health, and iNOVA, position the Faroe Islands, in the Arctic and globally, as a knowledge hub for ocean-related sustainable development.

GEAR AND TECHNOLOGY FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Faroese companies produce advanced gear and technology for the maritime industry, fisheries, and aquaculture, which are in use around the globe. These companies have managed to adapt quickly to changed and more stringent requirements, and produce world-class equipment, gear, and technology, such as trawl doors, trawls and aquaculture nets and aquaculture cages, as well as high tech solutions for steering instruments and equipment used in production and transport.

CONSTRUCTION

A number of Faroese companies have experience undertaking construction projects in the Arctic. Their experience working in tough Faroese weather conditions, coupled with the highly educated and flexible Faroese workforce, is eminently suited to the challenges of the Arctic.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

The Faroese ICT sector participates actively in developing ‘Talgildu Føroyum’, the National Digitalisation Programme of the Faroe Islands, which provides the people and industry of the Faroe Islands with access to a series of public and private services. Faroese telecommunications solutions have also for many years been supplied to both ships and the offshore industry. The Faroe Islands have developed valuable experience and tangible solutions that can be shared with other small and remote societies, contributing expertise in both technological social development and telecommunications.







Satellite and space technology are of steadily growing importance. In the Arctic context space and satellite technology could play a significant role in several areas including digitalisation, monitoring, and research. The Faroe Islands are monitoring these trends, with the view to identifying opportunities for collaboration.

- > The Faroe Islands wish to promote increased Arctic cooperation, including jointly developing ICT skills and creating the best possible conditions for entrepreneurs and for growth in the ICT industry.

SHIPPING

With a diverse merchant fleet and a competitive ship register, the Faroe Islands International Ship Register (FAS), the Faroe Islands are well-positioned as an attractive Arctic service and port hub for the maritime industry.



SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS

Sustainable Business is an organisation of twelve Faroese companies dedicated to developing sustainable processes, focusing on climate change, ocean health, and biodiversity challenges. Through collaboration, the organisation aims to accelerate achievement of UN SDGs 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life below Water), and 15 (Life on Land). In January 2021, the companies committed to working together for at least three years, focusing on enhancing capabilities, fostering sustainable processes, promoting cooperation, active participation, and inspiring others to prioritise these goals.

GROWTH FORUM

Growth Forum, launched in February 2021, aimed to promote added value in key sectors sustainably. Involving the Prime Minister, government ministers, and experts from different industry sectors, Vakstrarforum has completed its work, producing 6 reports on the ocean, ICT, business tourism, maritime services, education and the labour market, and a greener Faroe Islands. These reports include a total of 164 specific recommendations for sustainable growth initiatives.



CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Culture shapes both identity and social development in the Arctic. Greater attention to the diversity of cultures around the Arctic and stronger cross-border cultural exchange can play a key role in the well-being and development in Arctic communities.

Culture, heritage, the arts, and creative industries should be given high priority in the Arctic context.

Key institutions such as libraries and archives play a crucial role in disseminating and safeguarding knowledge and sustainable culture. They serve as vital knowledge bases for researching and preserving the Arctic's natural and cultural heritage. Other cultural institutions, such as music and theatre houses, and notably the Nordic cultural houses, contribute to creating a vibrant and connected Arctic community.

In a November 2021 declaration, the Nordic Ministers of Culture highlighted the foundational role of arts and culture in sustainable development and international environmental cooperation. This fundamental role of culture is equally emphasised by UNESCO. The Faroese Parliament approved in May 2023 the implementation of the UNESCO convention from October 2005, to protect and promote cultural diversity. Fulfilling UNESCO commitments is also essential for participation in the EU's Creative Europe programme, providing support for cul-

tural projects and initiatives within creative industries. The Faroe Islands are actively pursuing inclusion in the EU programme.

The Faroe Islands are dedicated to advancing cultural cooperation in the Arctic region. Educational and cultural exchange programmes that encompass all levels of education, from elementary schools to universities, are vital in this commitment.



THE FAROE ISLANDS IN THE ARCTIC 2024 · UTTANRÍKIS- OG VINNUMÁLARÁÐIÐ