

The Atlantic Arctic Agora: Building a lighthouse to co-create nature-based solutions around an Arctic Archipelago

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The Arctic Archipelago in Karlsøy municipality consists of around 600 islands that are surrounded by a rich sea and a diverse coastal culture. Over time, the coastal population has built up local knowledge based on their own observations and experiences of their nearby nature and ecosystems. Through this unique connection to the sea, there are rich opportunities and good conditions for building a society based on sustainable - and nature-based solutions.

- solutions that are inspired and supported by nature.

This area has been identified to be a lighthouse and an inspiration and sustainability model for other communities in other coastal areas in the Arctic and the Atlantic, under EUs social mission “Restore Our Ocean and Waters by 2030”.

In this presentation we wish to explore how using a living lab approach can create knowledge, solutions and measures being developed in collaboration between researchers, business, administration, organizations and citizens. How it on a collaboratively plan can, test, monitor and evaluate the solutions to manage the marine ecosystems and to create new opportunities for the local community. An important part of this work is to build capacity for local monitoring of the ecosystems, including through folk research where we engage local communities, young people, researchers, students and visitors in the development of knowledge and identify opportunities that the sea around the archipelago holds.

Our starting point is that the commitment of the coastal population can contribute to creating innovative nature-based solutions that are adapted to values, the local conditions, and which bring about positive and sustainable opportunities for the local community.

Together we want to create a space for interaction, learning and knowledge exchange!