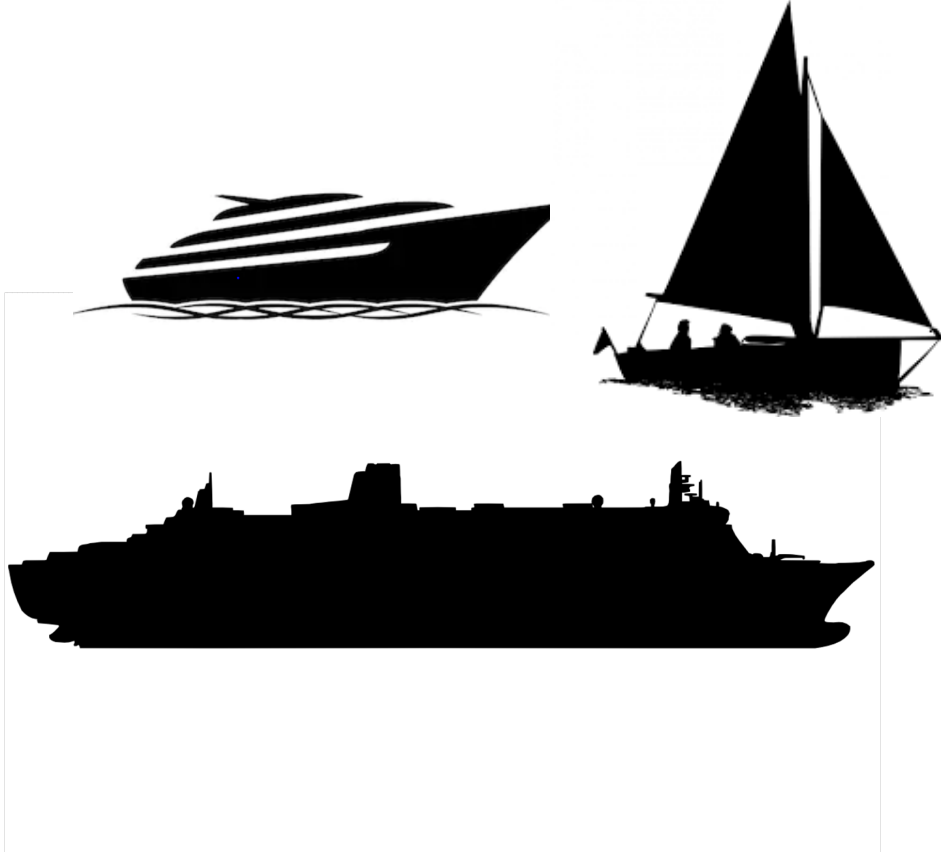




AECO's Clean Seas Project

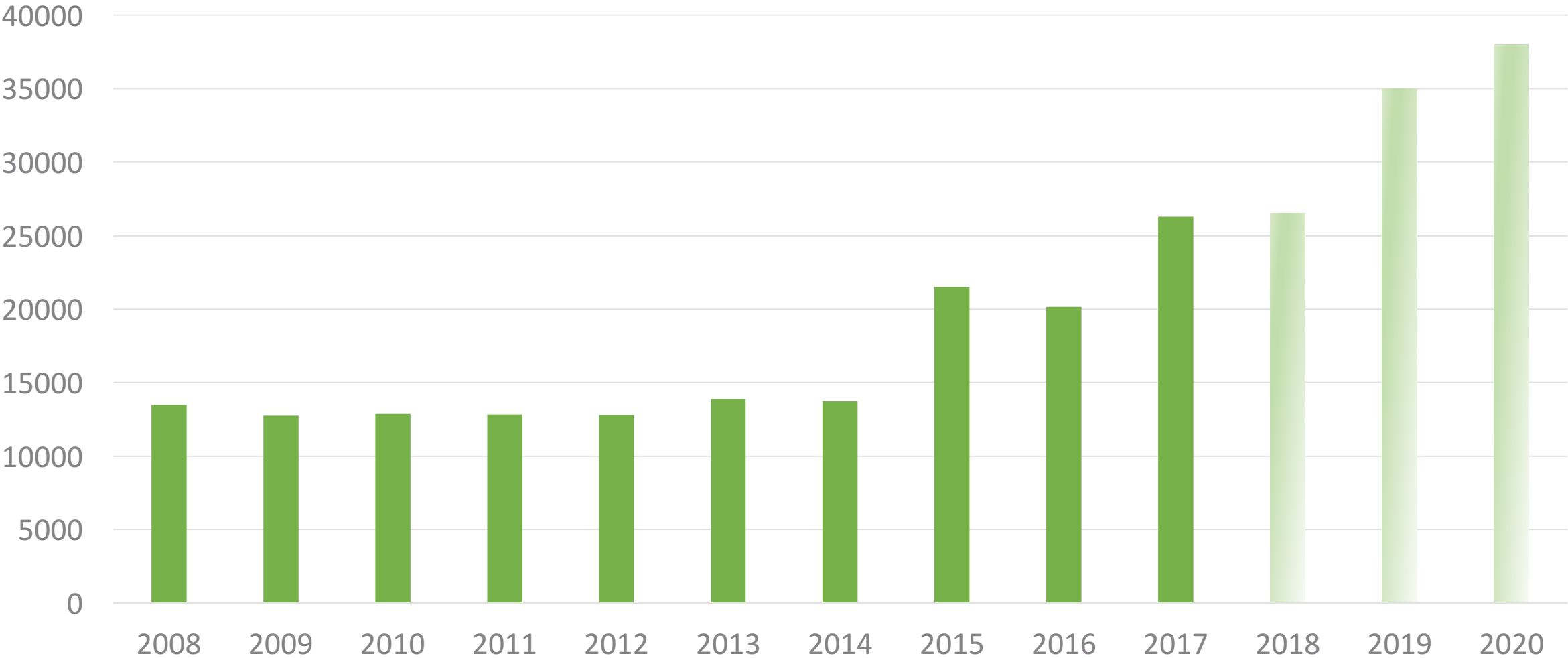
An Expedition Cruise industry perspective

AECO members

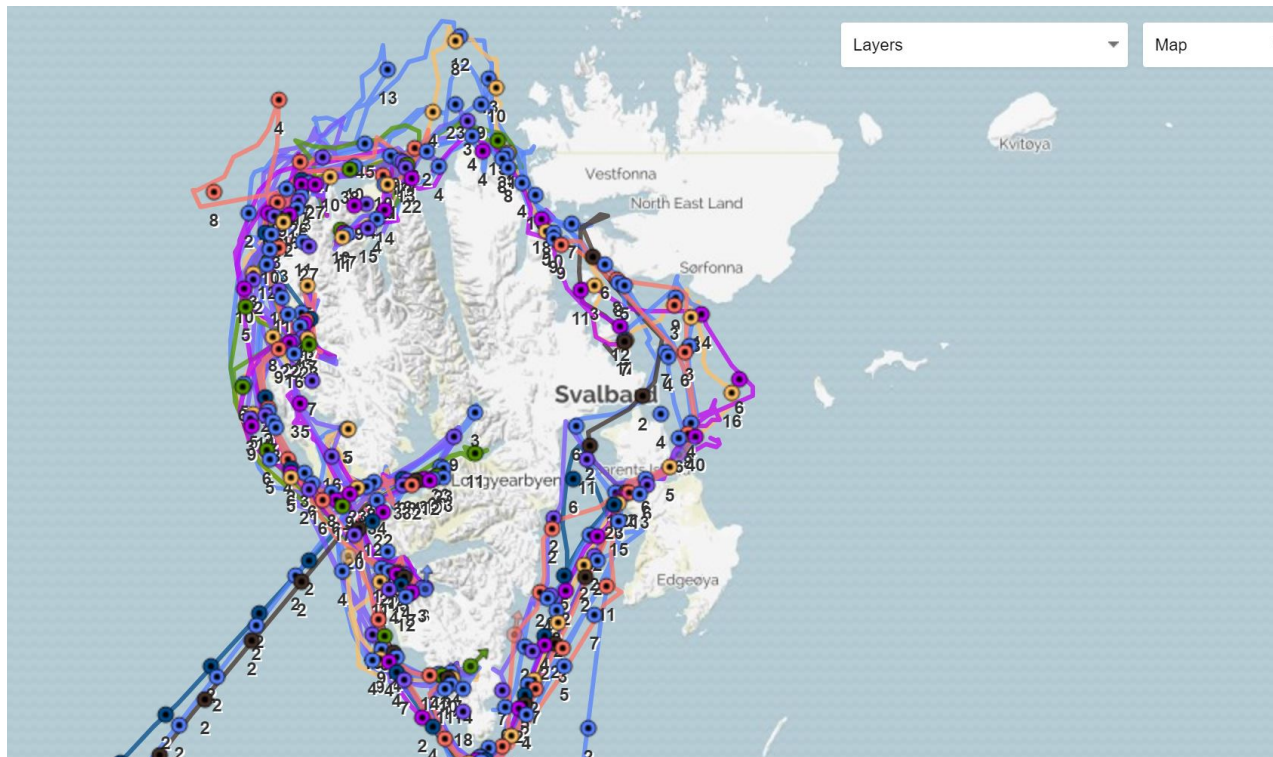


- 69 members
- 36 ship operators and 5 vessels owners/managements
- 51 ships

AECO passengers to the Arctic 2008-2020



Close to nature in remote areas



- Frequent landings
- Itineraries include remote regions
- Cleanups of otherwise inaccessible beaches



With objectives to ensure sustainable tourism



Environment

People, cultures and
communities



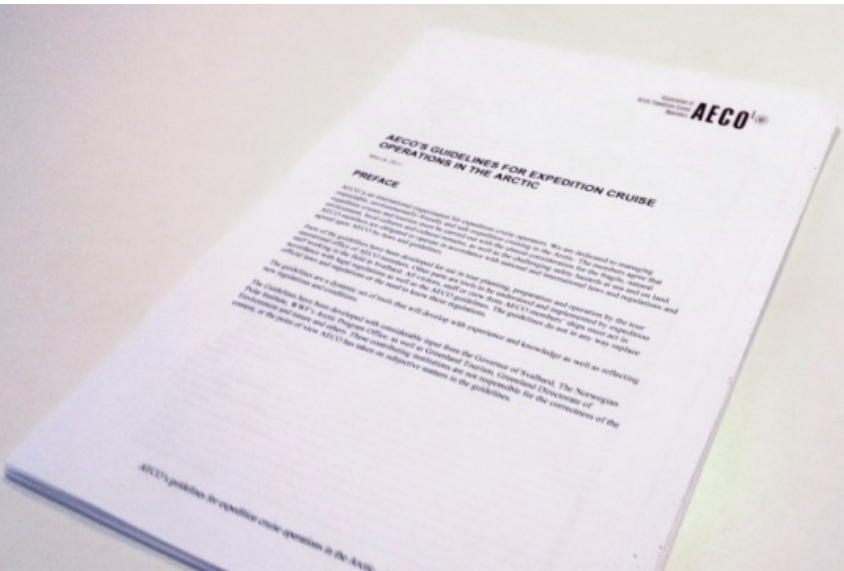
Safety

Mandatory for members

- All 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 guidelines, by-laws** and **decisions**.

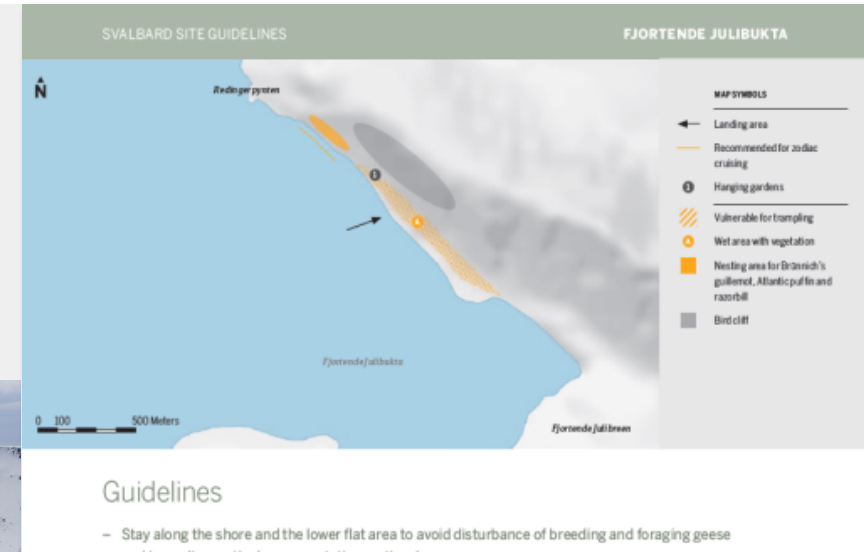
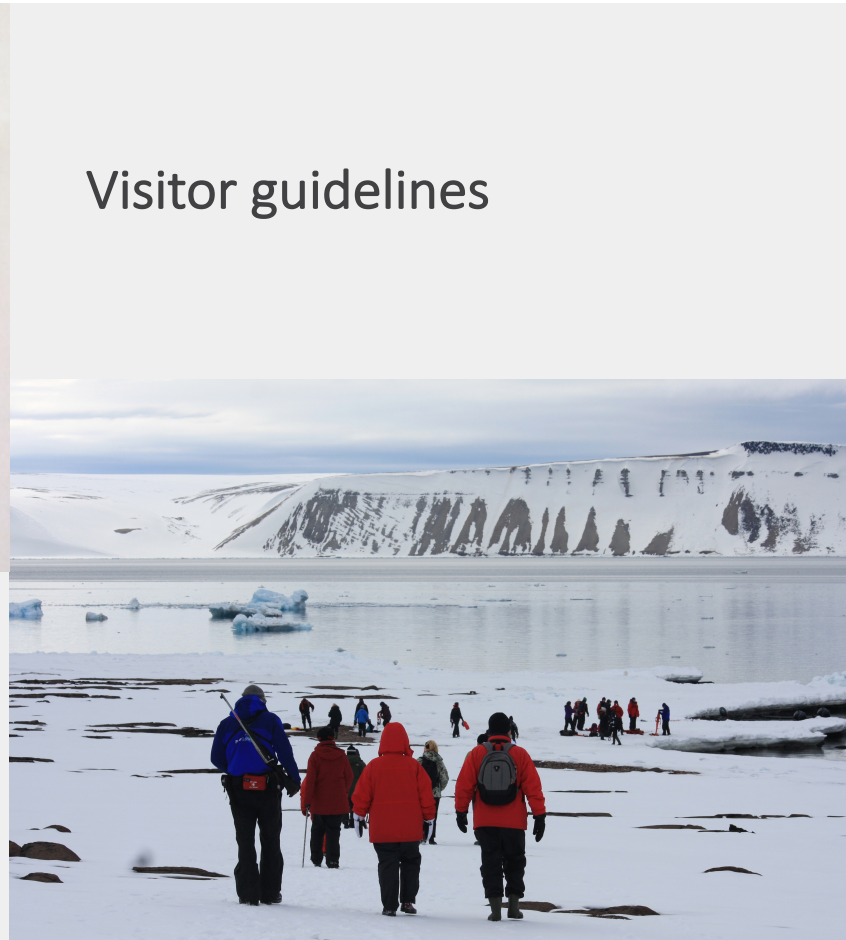


AECO measures to ensure sustainable tourism



Operational guidelines

Visitor guidelines



Site guidelines

AECO measures to ensure sustainable tourism



Wildlife guidelines



Community guidelines

Biosecurity guidelines

Contributions



Beach cleanups

Sightings & citizen science



Community Engagement

Positions



Yes to HFO ban in the Arctic

No to recreational use of drones



Join UN #CleanSeas Campaign

20 years of Cleanup Svalbard

- Initiated by the expedition cruise industry
- Cooperation between the Governor of Svalbard and mainly AECO-members
- Involving passengers in cleanups
- 3-4 tons of collected waste per season



Courtesy of G Adventures

Time line of AECO's Clean Seas Project



Courtesy of
Oceanwide
Expeditions

- **August 2017:** UNEP invitation to join the Clean Seas campaign
- **October 2017:** Project embraced by our members
- **October 2017:** Creation of Clean Seas working groups in conjunction with IAATO, the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators
- **April 2018:** External funding received
- **April 2018:** Interviews for AECO's new environmental agent position
- **May 2018:** Environmental Agent in place

AECO's Clean Seas Project - funding



SVALBARD ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION FUND



**NORWEGIAN
ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY**

- NOK 1.8 million (\approx USD 226,000) from Svalbard Environmental Protection Fund
- NOK 643,000 (\approx USD 80,000)
- Total funding NOK 2.43 million (\approx USD 306,000)

AECO's Clean Seas Project



Enhance cleanups
participation



Courtesy of Noble Caledonia

Reduce single-use plastic



Produce educational material

Spring 2018 Survey Results

Reducing single-use plastic

- High priority for 90% of members
- 15% managed to reduce plastic already
- 40% have completed their own on board assessments
- 50% list available supplies as main challenge

Cleanup Svalbard

- 70% members participate every year
- 50% members bring bags ashore every time
- 30% organize at least one dedicated cleanup on every trips
- Very little information is recorded other than location (60%) by members

Ship visits



Reducing single-use plastic



- Onboard assessments to be conducted
- Share results of assessment anonymously
- Develop a list of best practices for our members
- Develop set of educational material in cooperation with UNEP

Enhancing cleanups participation



Courtesy of Eyos Expeditions

- Ship visits during summer 2018
- Encourage thorough reporting of cleanup activities in cooperation with the Governor of Svalbard
- Develop a set of educational material in cooperation with UNEP



Association of
Arctic Expedition Cruise
Operators **AECO** 

www.aeco.no

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 @ArcticCruiseOp

Photo by Adam
Rheborg, courtesy of
PolarQuest