



Expedition MSM144 Fjord Change
Reykjavík – Reykjavík
Weekly Report No. 6
20th July – 25th July 2026

This week we left Ny-Ålesund to say goodbye to our Norwegian colleagues in Longyearbyen. On the night of 17 July, we recovered a drifting HIAOOS ice buoy belonging to the Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Centre (NERSC) and unloaded it in Longyearbyen.



Photo by Marius Kruse: MSM144 scientific team in the Wijdefjord, Svalbard

A very eventful and highly successful expedition has now come to an end, leaving us with impressive memories and data-rich samples. Over the past five weeks and 4,217 nautical miles, we have worked at four stations each in the Van Mijenfjorden, Rijpfjorden, Wijdefjorden and Kongsfjord, as well as in the 'Hausgarten' (Framstraße). In addition, we made four shore excursions to collect samples from rivers and glaciers. In total, we sampled 30 stations using CTD, snow catchers, plankton nets, MUC and gravity cores, filtering more than 10,000 litres of seawater and collecting over 100 sediment samples.



Photos by Uwe John: Rescue of the HIAOOS ice buoy

We would like to once again express our sincere thanks to the fantastic crew of the RV MS Merian. We were made to feel very welcome and received excellent support from the ship regarding all nautical and technical aspects of the voyage. Our thanks go to Captain Marius Kruse and the bridge crew, to the WTDs Jens Herrmann and Denney Hermann, to Katrin Wiggins and the engine room team, to Enno Vredenburg and the ship's mechanics team – without them we would not have been able to obtain such excellent samples – and to the catering team led by Matthias Brehm. To the entire crew: a huge thank you to you all.

Back to terrestrial life....

Best regards, 25th July 2026, Reykjavik

Uwe John

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