

**Arctic Mining: Environmental issues,  
mitigation and pollution control for  
marine and coastal mining-  
Workshop March 21, 22, 23, 2023**



<b>Title:</b> Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment – A Greenland example on how to inform a planning process
<b>Speakers:</b> Janne Fritt-Rasmussen
<b>Biography:</b> <i>Janne Fritt-Rasmussen, Ph.D., is an environmental engineer with &gt;10 years of experience in Arctic research, project management and teaching at university level. Since 2012 she has been working with consultancy regarding the environmental aspects of oil exploitation in Greenland, at the DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy, Aarhus University.</i>
<b>What is the Purpose of your Talk?</b>  The purpose of this talk is to introduce the concept of strategic environmental impact assessments and its potential as a tool in an environmentally sound planning and regulation of mining activities.
<b>What is the relevant background and context?</b>  As an aid to obtain a regional overview of nature and environmental conditions The Greenland Environmental Agency for Mineral Resources Activities, has commissioned the preparation of Regional Environmental Baseline Assessments (RBA) of mining activities. The Assessments are being developed by DCE and GINR.
<b>What do we need to know about methodology and actors?</b>  Knowledge of nature and the environment is needed to be able to plan and regulate raw material activities. For most marine, and selected land areas in Greenland, the latest knowledge is gathered in regional environmental assessments and background study reports. They describe the physical and biological environment, including protected areas, endangered species, and the exploitation of biological resources. Local knowledge is an important part of the assessments. The environmental assessments also include a description of background levels for pollutants and possible local sources of pollution. Based on this knowledge of the current situation, areas of multiple interest are identified, and the general potential environmental impact of raw material activities is discussed and assessed. The draft RBAs are going into public hearings and can inform the decision process.
<b>What are the key learning points you want to share?</b>  As an important part of the regional environmental assessments, significant deficiencies and uncertainties in the available knowledge are identified, and research projects are carried out to obtain supplementary data. These background studies have made it possible to provide an overall mapping of particularly sensitive nature areas such as bird colonies, moulting areas for diving ducks, concentration areas for marine mammals and coastal spawning areas for fish. The regional environmental assessments thus provide an overview of the latest knowledge about nature and the environment for a given area based on research and local knowledge, and the data can be used in many contexts.
<b>What are the next steps raised by your talk and/or questions that need to be answered?</b>  How can we further ease how locals and other stakeholders contribute to the environmental assessments? How can we improve our methodology to further ease the access to nature and environmental information to inform public discussions and make it easier for both industry and authorities to plan mining activities wisely?