



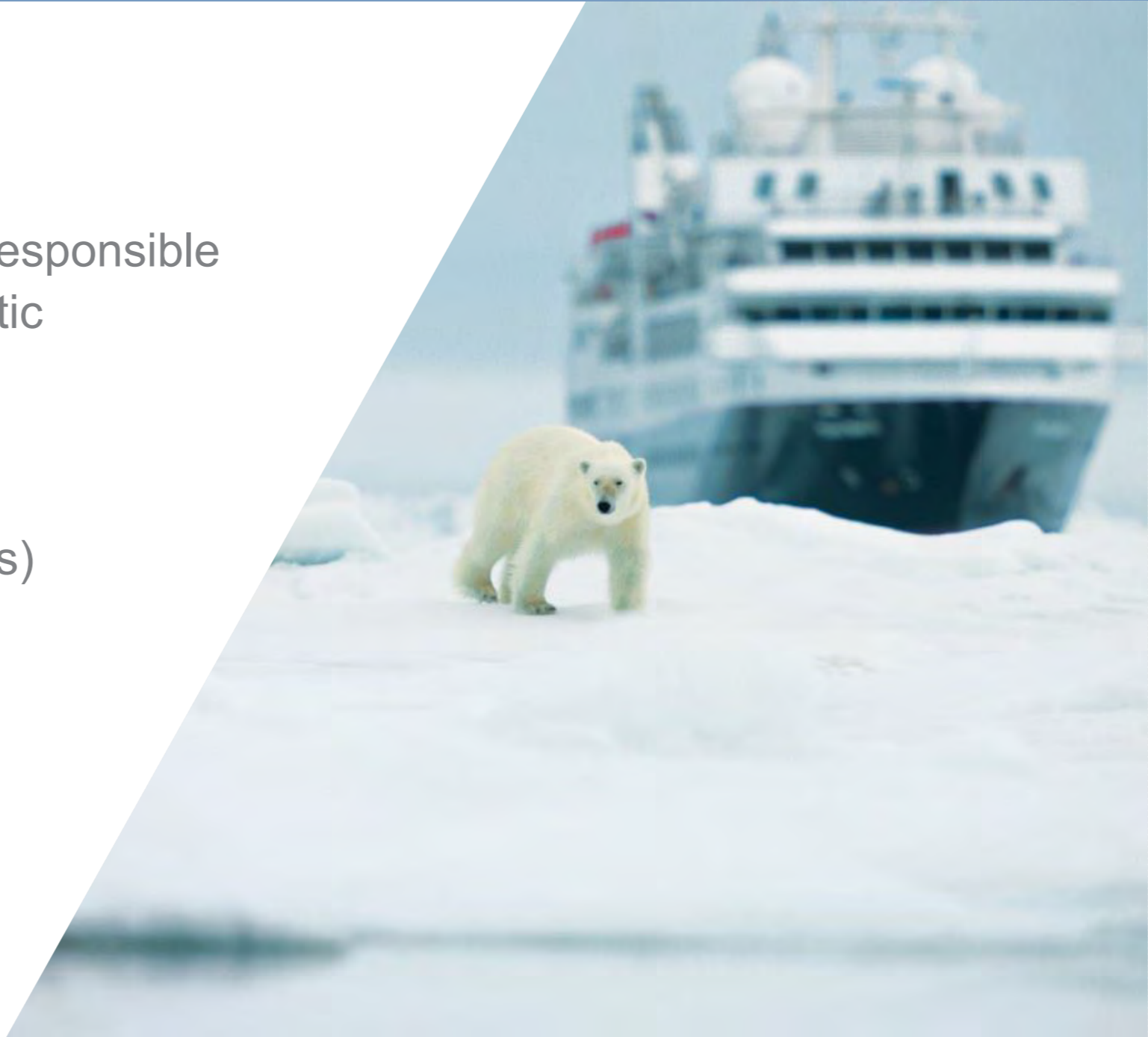
AECO Guidelines and Tools – Cultural Remains

The Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators
AECO

Troels Jacobsen – AECO Field Operations Manager

AECO

- Ensure environmentally friendly, responsible and safe cruise tourism in the Arctic
- 69 members
- 46 passenger vessels
- ~13 yachts (12 or less passengers)



Focus on ensuring sustainable tourism development

- **Natural environment**
- **Cultural remains**
- **Safety** at sea and on land
- **Communities**, people and cultures



ARCTIC CRUISE OPERATIONS



LEGAL FRAMEWORK



SIZE



FUEL



INFRASTRUCTURE & HARBOR NEEDS



ITINERARIES



DESTINATIONS



PRODUCT FOCUS



INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS



INDUSTRY STANDARDS



CONVENTIONAL CRUISE OPERATIONS

IMO

Mostly more than 500 guests

HFO & MGO

High

Fixed

Towns/populated areas

Vessel experience, entertainment on board, destination highlights

CLIA

Industry policies guide company minimum standards



AECO EXPEDITION CRUISE OPERATIONS

IMO or National/Flag State regulations

Mostly up to 500 guests

MGO, sail & hybrid technology

Low

Highly flexible

Nature landings and local communities

Destination immersion and learning experience

AECO

Mandatory industry standards and guidelines



SMALL VESSEL CRUISE OPERATIONS

National and/or flag state regulations

Mostly up to 12 guests,

MGO, sail & hybrid technology

Low

Highly flexible

Nature landings and local communities

Various

None

Individual company standards

AECO's guidelines

The backbone of the Association's work, available on www.aeco.no/guidelines/



Arctic Cultural Remains Guidelines

Stories from the past



Arctic plant life

Modest and tough beauties on the ground



COMMUNITY GUIDELINES AECO

The Northerners

People and cultures shaped by nature



AECO'S GUIDELINES FOR EXPEDITION CRUISE OPERATIONS IN THE ARCTIC

PREFACE

AECO is an international organization for expedition cruise operators. We are dedicated to managing responsible, environmentally friendly and safe expedition cruising in the Arctic. The members agree that expedition cruises and tourism must be carried out with the utmost consideration for the fragile natural environment, local cultures and cultural remains, as well as the challenging safety hazards at sea and on land. AECO members are obligated to operate in accordance with national and international laws and regulations, as well as agreed upon AECO by-laws and guidelines.

Parts of the guidelines have been developed for use in tour planning, preparation and operation by the tour operational office of AECO members. Other parts are tools to be understood and implemented by expedition staff working in the field in the Arctic. All visitors, staff and crew from AECO members' ships must act in accordance



AECO's Site Specific Guidelines for Svalbard



- Green square: Sites where operators are legally required to use site specific guidelines, and AECO has developed guidelines that have been reviewed by the Governor of Svalbard (three sites).
- Orange square: Sites where site specific guidelines will become a legal requirement if the proposed management plan for this area is approved. AECO has developed guidelines for these sites (nine sites in total – seven of these have been reviewed by the Governor, two have yet to be reviewed).
- Red square: Sites where operators are legally required to use site specific guidelines, where AECO has not developed guidelines (two sites).
- Blue square: Other sites where AECO has developed guidelines that are mandatory for AECO members (nine sites).

Reindeer



Antler clad herbivore of the Arctic

The reindeer (also known as caribou) is the largest and most diverse of the ungulates in the Arctic. It is a member of the deer family (Cervidae) and is found in the Arctic region of the Northern Hemisphere. It is a herbivore and feeds on lichens, mosses, and other plant matter.

Polar Bear



The white king of the Arctic

The polar bear (Ursus maritimus) is a large bear that lives in the Arctic region. It is a carnivore and feeds on seals, fish, and other marine mammals. It is the largest land carnivore in the Arctic.

Arctic fox



The cunning bi-colored hunter

The Arctic fox (Lepus arcticus) is a small mammal that lives in the Arctic region. It is a carnivore and feeds on lemmings, voles, and other small mammals. It is known for its ability to change its fur color to match the environment.

Arctic Cultural Remains Guidelines

Stories from the past



Sveinøysburg, Svalbard. Photo: Ole Magnus Rapp

Cultural remains are the traces humans have left behind. They are story-tellers of lived life and past times. Arctic cultural remains often tells stories of challenging life under harsh conditions, where the natural environment and cold temperatures have set the scene. Arctic cultural remains tell many different stories – stories of survival, lost cultures, exploration, science, geopolitics, wars, adventures and much more. While exploring cultural remains, it is important to be careful so that others, including future generations, also have the opportunity to learn from the past.



Photo: Jan Martin Ejerlvik

Many scientists have been attracted to the Arctic, and many signs of their presence have been left behind. Scientific station, Sorgfjorden, Svalbard.

Cultural remains may be protected by law. The regulations may be different from one country to another, but usually include that it is prohibited to damage, dig up, move, remove, alter, cover up, conceal or disfigure structures and sites or movable historical objects. Sites and objects may have automatic protections depending on age (e.g. everything older than 1946), be protected by decision even if they are younger, and some sites and objects may be protected irrespective of age (e.g. graves, slaughter places, crosses and more). To be on the safe side, leave everything as it is when visiting the Arctic.

- Developed with archaeologist Per Kyrre Reymert
- Launched in 2019

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GUIDELINES

Stay on the beach as long as the area is snow-covered and wet in order to avoid unintentional trampling on the cultural heritage remains and damage to the vegetation.

Observe the remains of the blubber ovens and the graves from the perimeter.

The small pieces of blubber concrete are also protected and must not be touched.

The house remains from the whaling station are almost invisible. Watch your step.

Retreat if terns and skuas attack while watching were you step to avoid trampling on eggs and chicks.

Avoid landings and traffic in areas with large numbers of eiders and geese.

Approach areas with family groups of eiders and geese carefully. On land, keep the group of visitors together and walk slowly. Disturbance during breeding and moulting season may cause chicks being separated from the adults, making them easy prey for glaucous gull and Arctic fox.

The polygonal ground behind the plain is muddy, partly very muddy. Walking in the area could cause visible footprints.

Field Staff Online Assessment

Question ?

B *I* U ≡ ≡ ≡ ≡ ≡ Ω x₂ x² **f_x** {;} <>

Reference: AECO Arctic Cultural Remains Guidelines

What is the safe thing to do when near a site containing cultural remains?

Choose one of the below to answer this question.

Answers

A **Correct Answer**

x₂ x² Ω **f_x** {;} <>

Leave everything as it is when visiting the Arctic

B

x₂ x² Ω **f_x** {;} <>

Don't land at all

C

x₂ x² Ω **f_x** {;} <>

Pick up things to show to guests but put them back as you found them

D

x₂ x² Ω **f_x** {;} <>

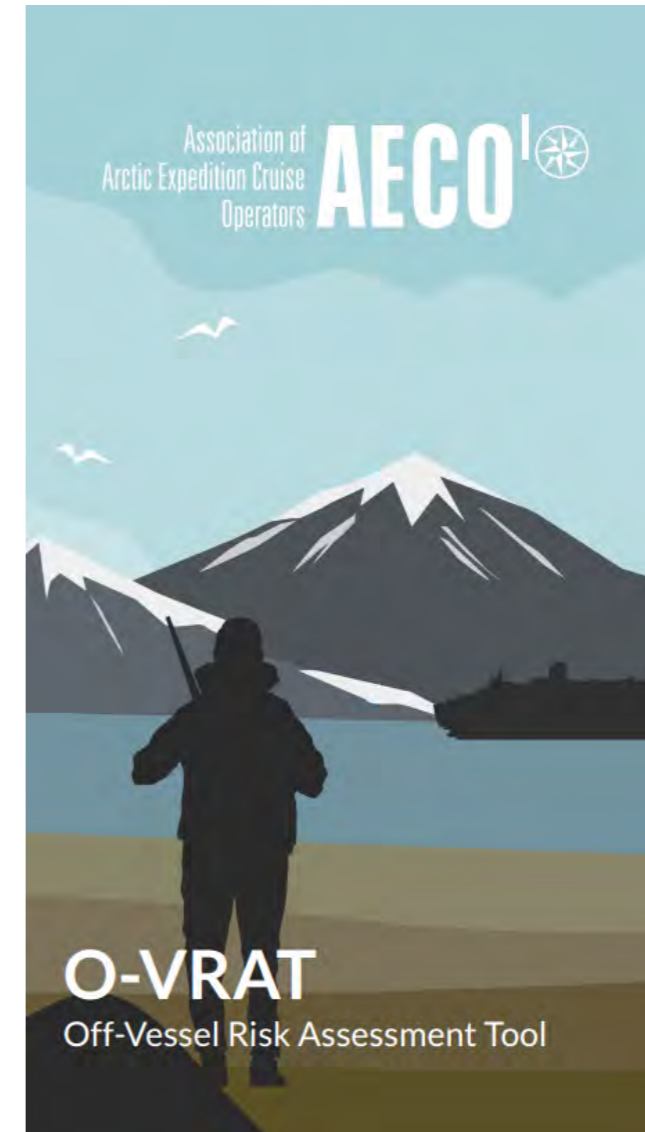
Get as close as possible to show intricate details of the site

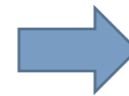
- Launched January 2018
- Made mandatory for staff working for AECO members from 2019
- 4 different exams available
- More than 1700 candidates registered

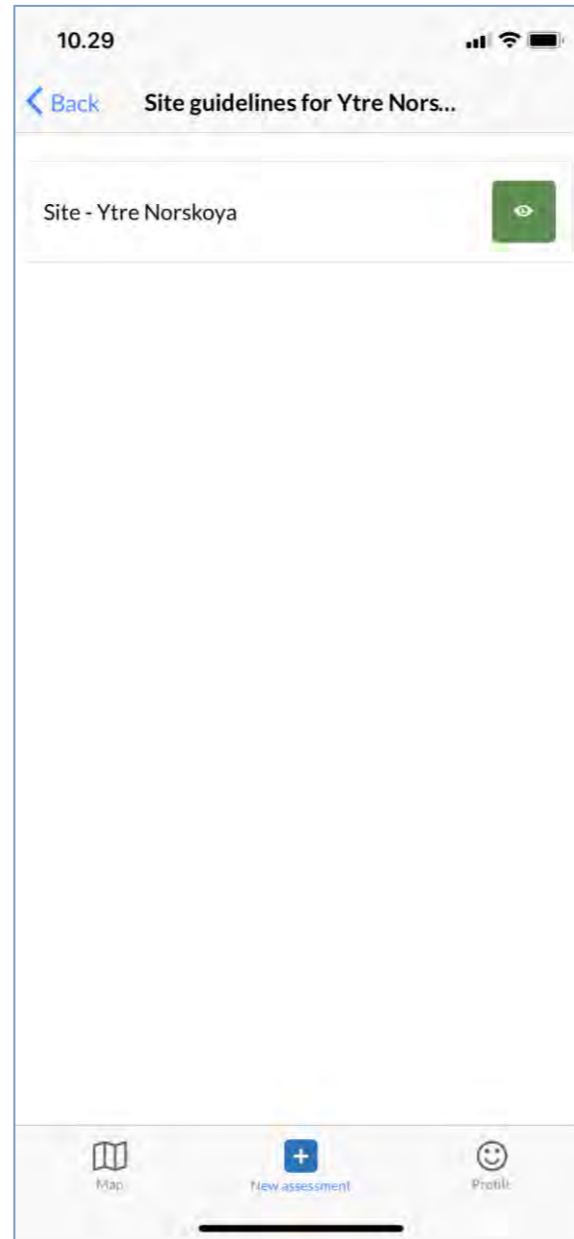
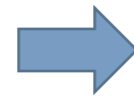
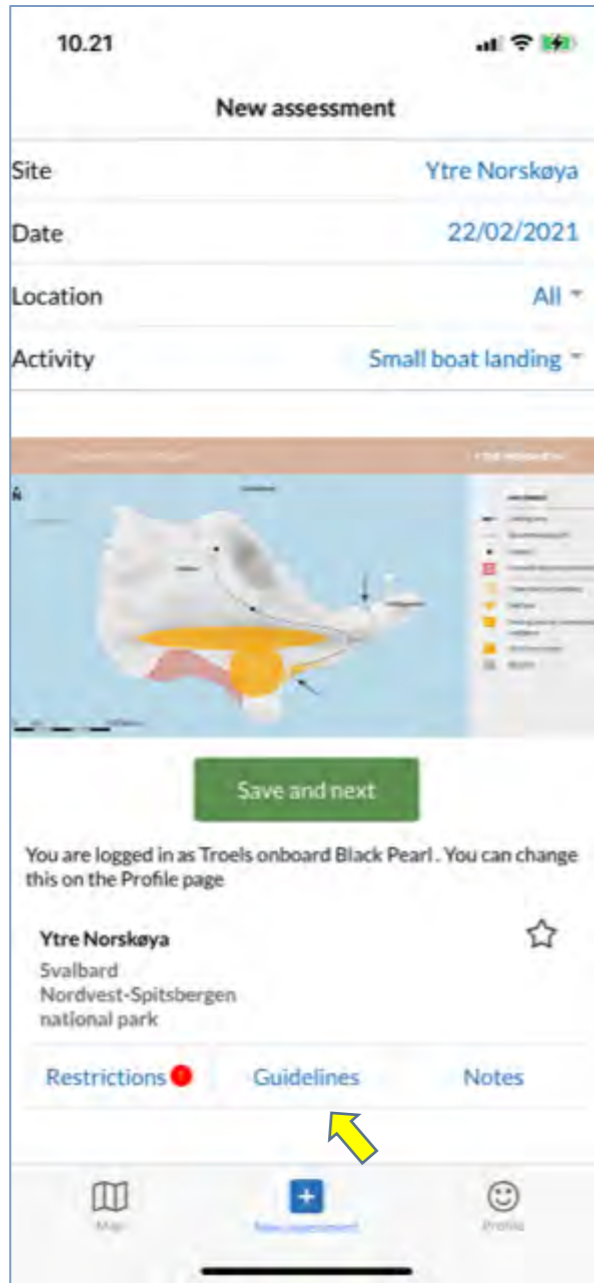
O-VRAT mobile app

An innovative field staff risk assessment app

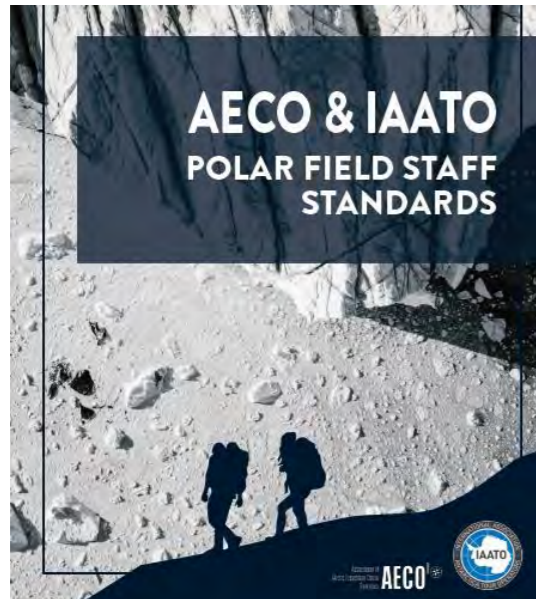
- Launched spring 2020
- Risk Assessment Tool
- Planning Tool







Standards and Implementation



In progress



Ship Observation Scheme
Incident Reporting System



Field Staff Conference

Future?

Current dialogue with Greenland National Museum and Archives and AECO on cultural remains monitoring, training of staff, development of protocols

Svalbard and other remote Arctic areas?





Association of
Arctic Expedition Cruise
Operators **AECO** 

www.aeco.no

 @ArcticCruiseOperators

 @ArcticCruiseOp

Photo © AECO, Troels Jacobsen