

## Report from the Netherlands Arctic Station<sup>1</sup>

The station is only manned in summer. Summer 2010, we expect 291 person days<sup>2</sup>, which is 76% of last year. The first user will arrive 27 May, the station will close again 23 August. During absence of the station leader Maarten Loonen, Thomas Oudman will take over his responsibility.

The reason behind the reduction in person days lays in the end of IPY and the planning of our national polar programme.

The Netherlands Polar Programme has produced a new science plan: Pole position.nl<sup>3</sup> and a policy evaluation<sup>4</sup>, both only available in Dutch. For NySMAC, the following conclusions are relevant:

- The program should continue including Arctic research
- A budget raise is needed (total:  $6 \times 10^6$  euro annually).
- No strategy to develop stations (the Arctic station is not mentioned).
- Continue memoranda of understanding with natural partners (specifically BAS and AWI).
- Investment in logistics of partners.

Now we are waiting for the inauguration of a new national polar committee and a government decision for the next 5 years. These are expected in the next summer. In the meanwhile the Minister of Education and Science has approved 6 million euro for Antarctic research based in Rothera.

Projects this summer (more details can be found in the RIS database<sup>5</sup>):

- Barnacle Goose Ecology: interactions with a changing environment (RIS 3070)<sup>6</sup>
- Health of arctic bird populations (RIS 386)<sup>7</sup>
- Long-lived evergreen shrubs from polar ecosystems as monitors of present-day and past climate change, the development of a tree ring like proxy to reconstruct polar climate (RIS 3418)<sup>8</sup>
- The Bryum enigma – Unravelling the molecular diversity of Bryum on Svalbard for improved identification tools for arctic moss species (Bryophyta) (RIS 3694)
- European Project on Ocean Acidification - EPOCA (RIS 3432)
- *Mya truncata* shells as paleoclimate archives (RIS 3831)

The station management has been involved in the production of the flagship document on terrestrial research<sup>9</sup> as part of the Ny-Ålesund Science Plan<sup>10</sup> and in a SIOS<sup>11</sup> related gap analysis about terrestrial research. Representatives of the University of Groningen have taken part in the SSF<sup>12</sup> workshops on the marine flagship<sup>13</sup> and eastern Svalbard<sup>14</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.arcticstation.nl>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.arcticstation.nl/people.php?year=2010&language=UK>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.nwo.nl/files.nsf/pages/NWOA\\_7T9A5J/\\$file/NWO\\_Pool\\_rapport.pdf](http://www.nwo.nl/files.nsf/pages/NWOA_7T9A5J/$file/NWO_Pool_rapport.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.nwo.nl/files.nsf/pages/NWOP\\_842HBM/\\$file/Rapport\\_Beleidsevaluatie\\_NPP\\_2010\\_def.pdf](http://www.nwo.nl/files.nsf/pages/NWOP_842HBM/$file/Rapport_Beleidsevaluatie_NPP_2010_def.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <http://zope.data.npolar.no/svalbard/search>

<sup>6</sup> monitoring and ringing of Barnacle Geese, but also vegetation measurements and experiments (studying goose food) and arctic fox observations and marking (studying goose predators).

<sup>7</sup> Studying pathogen pressure and immune systems of birds by collecting blood and faeces

<sup>8</sup> Open top chambers, small greenhouses, east of the campground

<sup>9</sup> <http://ssf.npolar.no/pages/news286.htm>

<sup>10</sup> <http://ssf.npolar.no/pages/baseNyAA.htm>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.forskningsradet.no/sios>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.svalbardscienceforum.no>

<sup>13</sup> <http://ssf.npolar.no/pages/news276.htm>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.svalbardscienceforum.no/pages/news351.htm>

