

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**LAUNCH OF THE 2023 SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION ON BOARD THE CANADIAN RESEARCH ICEBREAKER
CCGS AMUNDSEN**

St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, July 13, 2023 - The Canadian Coast Guard Ship *Amundsen* leaves the port of St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, to begin its annual scientific expedition. A few days after celebrating 20 years dedicated to science, the Canadian research icebreaker made a transit from Quebec City to St. John's, where she will dock for a short scientific mobilization. This Thursday, July 13, at around 6PM local time, the ship will begin its transit towards the Labrador Sea and the Arctic.

This year's scientific expedition of the CCGS *Amundsen* will last 111 days at sea and will comprise four Legs. Each Leg will welcome around 40 scientists on board. The scientists of the 2023 cohort are part of nine multidisciplinary research programs and will study Arctic and sub-Arctic marine ecosystems through a variety of activities and integrated studies targeting physical, chemical and biological environments, as well as seabed geology.

During the first Leg of the expedition, the *Amundsen* will sail along the coast of the Labrador Sea, Baffin Bay and Baffin Island. On board, scientists, the Amundsen Science technical team and the Canadian Coast Guard crew will carry out ROV dives and mooring operations. In collaboration with local Nunatsiavut knowledge, these various operations will allow us to study and monitor vulnerable coastal areas, and learn more about the fish communities and marine primary producers in these regions. In addition, the *Amundsen's* scientific teams and crew will visit Nain on July 19 for a networking event between *Amundsen* crews and Nain residents, science and local culture. Several activities are organized on board and in the town throughout the day.

"As part of the first Leg's Imappivut program, science on board the CCGS *Amundsen* works equitably with the local and cultural knowledge of communities along the Nunatsiavut Coast. Within the ship, people with a wide range of backgrounds and experiences work together to carry out scientific and research operations that are focused on the priorities of both Labrador Inuit and scientific researchers. These collaborations will be valuable and beneficial for the science community, the Nunatsiavut region and local communities as this expedition was co-developed with all partners involved," emphasizes Rodd Laing, Leg 1's co-chief scientist and Director of environment at the Nunatsiavut Government.

The *Amundsen* will then head for Iqaluit for its first crew change and to refuel. This stop will mark the start of the scientific expedition's second Leg, which will include several scientific operations involving the CTD-Rosette and the deployment of nets in the Baffin Sea. These operations will gather data for four scientific programs focused on understanding the interconnected atmosphere-ice-ocean system and the effects of climate change in the Canadian Arctic. This Leg will end in Resolute Bay for a second crew change.

The third Leg of the *Amundsen's* 2023 scientific expedition will take place in Nares Strait and near the fjords and glaciers of Ellesmere Island. Ice conditions permitting, the ship may venture into the southern portion of the Lincoln Sea to better understand the impact of climate change on this region recognized as the last ice area. Then, for her final Leg, the *Amundsen* will return to her homeport to carry out an integrated study of Foxe Basin, a region where exchanges between the ocean and atmosphere are still little studied.

"During this year's expedition with the CCGS *Amundsen*, we have the opportunity to further explore Foxe Basin and Foxe Channel. We look forward to collecting data for the FoxSIPP program, an integrated study which aims to investigate the chemistry of the deep water that is formed annually in these locations. I look forward to leading our teams on this mission and fully use the capabilities of the CCGS *Amundsen* and its pool of scientific equipment," says Brent Else, Leg 4's chief scientist and Associate Professor in the department of geography at the University of Calgary

Finally, the CCGS *Amundsen* 2023 scientific expedition plans to carry out over 800 scientific operations, including helicopter, barge and zodiac operations. Gathered on board this immense, highly equipped laboratories, the scientists, Amundsen Science's technical team and the crew of CCGS *Amundsen* will work day and night to gather the data needed to achieve their scientific research objectives.

About Amundsen Science

Based at Université Laval, Amundsen Science is the organization responsible for managing the scientific mandate of the research icebreaker CCGS *Amundsen*. Mobilized for research in 2002 thanks to major grants from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and other partners, the *Amundsen* is at the heart of a revitalized Canadian effort to study the changing Arctic Ocean. Since 2003, the research icebreaker has welcomed more than 115 Canadian and foreign teams, who have deployed 45 major scientific programs, totalling nearly half a billion dollars in research investment. For more information on Amundsen Science and the CCGS *Amundsen*, visit our website: www.amundscience.com.

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