

Aviation forecast in the Arctic

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Text Abstract

Svalbard is a collection of islands in the far north, situated between N 74° and N 81°. The islands are mainly fjords and mountains, and 60 % of the landmasses are covered with glaciers.

There lives about 3000 people on Svalbard, and the main city Longyearbyen has about 2500 inhabitants. Situated here is also the only airport where large airplanes can land and take-off. This airport, Svalbard Lufthavn (ICAO code ENSB), is the only civil airport in Norway with a dedicated meteorologist.

I have a daytime job forecasting for all aviation activity on Svalbard and its 61 000 km². It's a large area to cover, with huge differences in weather and a lot of local effects from terrain and glaciers.

The most important forecast I do, is the weather for ENSB, since there are no alternative airport on Svalbard.

I will talk about my duties and customers, and how it is to forecast weather in the Arctic.