

NÅR ISEN SMELTER WHEN THE ICE MELTS

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Nr. 21, maj 2026

No. 21, May 2026

Når isen smelter

Lad os starte med nogle fakta baseret på forskeres arbejde:

- *Sommerisen omkring Grønland er arealmæssigt skrumpet med cirka 40 procent siden 1980'erne.*
- *Tykkelsen er faldet endnu mere end arealet.*
- *Isbjørne, sæler og de lokale grønlandske fangere mærker allerede de store forandringer.*
- *Arktis kan være isfrit om sommeren inden år 2050.*
- *Forskerne forventer en havstigning på 10-20 centimeter frem til år 2050. Efter år 2100 vil havstigning i værste fald nå 7 meter.*
- *Kystsamfund på hele jordkloden trues.*

Hertil kommer en række kritiske og irreversible grænser som f.eks. ændring af de store havstrømme, der determinerer klimaet på størstedelen af kloden. Hvorvidt og hvornår dette sker, er der ingen, der har svar på, men mange indicier viser, at forandringerne kan være på vej.

Ugens foto er en samling luftfotos af isen og smeltevandets vej fra den Grønlandske Indlandsis til havet. Fotografierne er fra juli 2011.

When The Ice Melts

Let us begin with some facts based on researchers' work:

- *The summer sea ice around Greenland has shrunk in area by approximately 40 percent since the 1980s.*
- *Its thickness has decreased even more than its area.*
- *Polar bears, seals, and the local Greenlandic hunters are already experiencing the major changes.*
- *The Arctic may be ice-free during summer before the year 2050.*
- *Researchers expect sea levels to rise by 10–20 centimetres by 2050. After 2100, sea-level rise could, in the worst-case scenario, reach 7 meters.*
- *Coastal communities all over the world are under threat.*

In addition, there are several critical and irreversible tipping points, such as changes to the major ocean currents that determine the climate across most of the planet. No one knows whether or when this will happen, but many signs indicate that these changes may already be underway.

This week's photo is a collection of aerial photographs showing the ice and the path of meltwater from the Greenland Ice Sheet to the sea. The photographs were taken in July 2011.



Vestgrønland, juli 2011

West Greenland, July 2011



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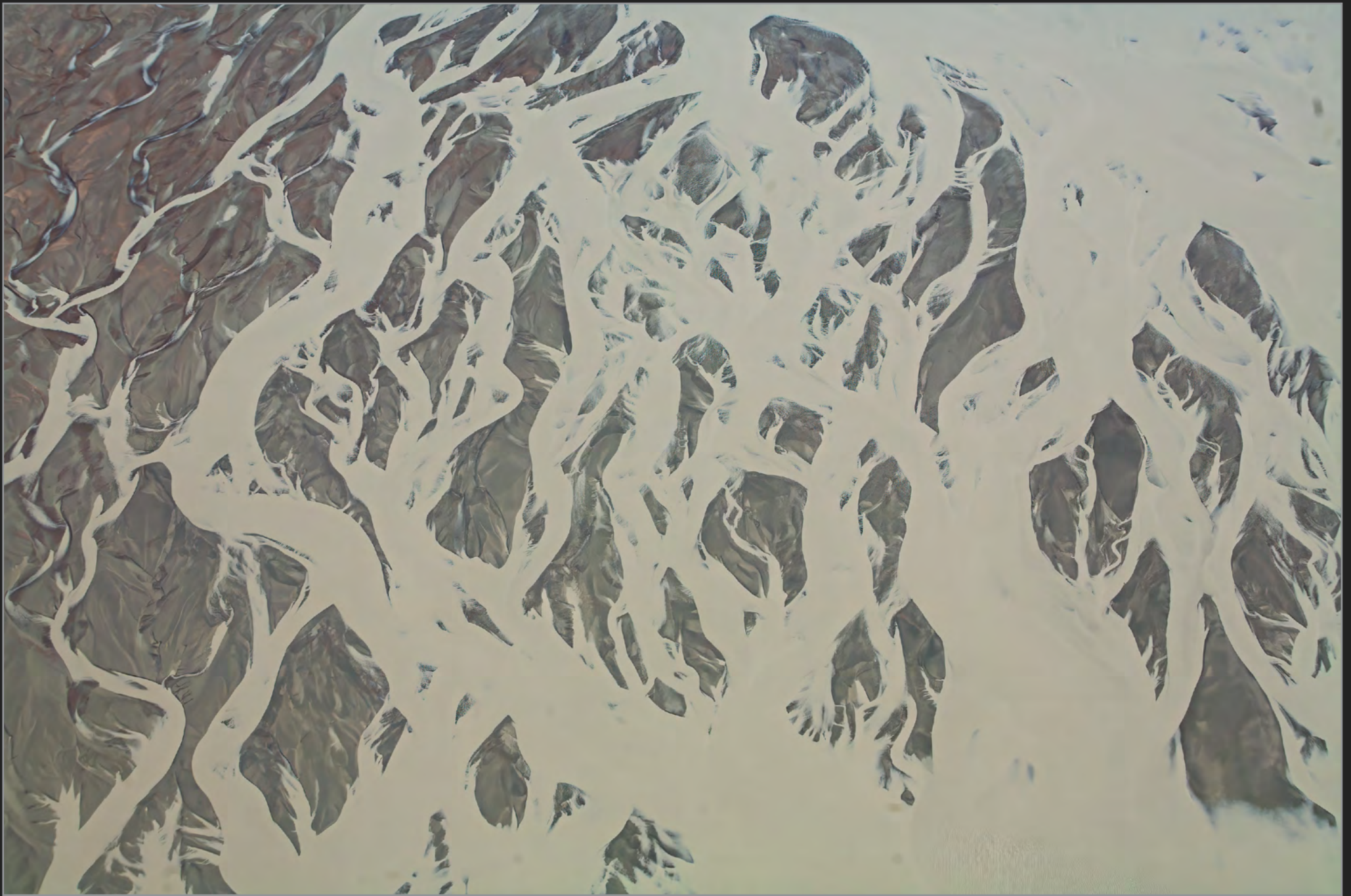
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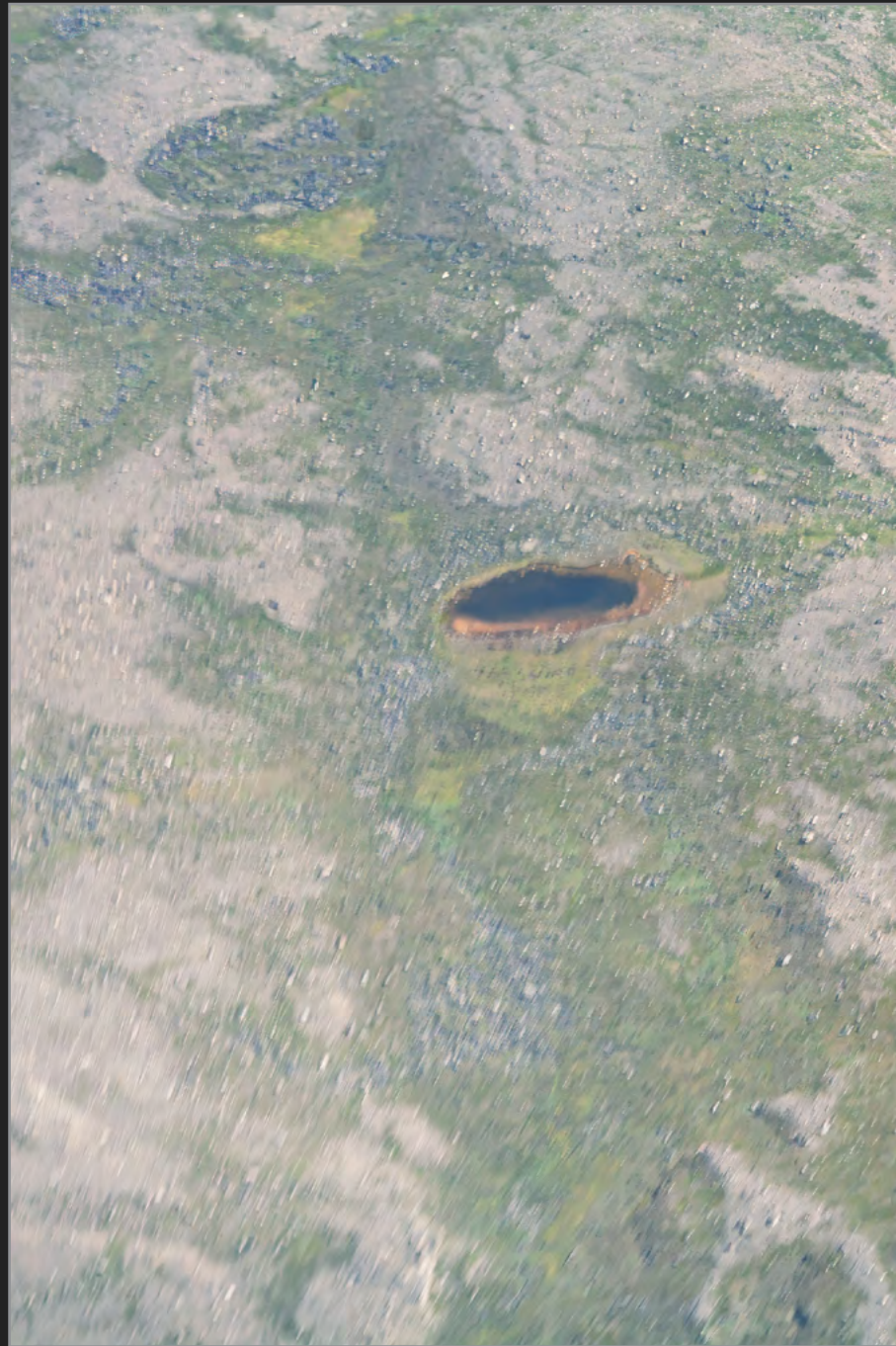
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KOLOFON

Ugens foto: Når isen smelter
Af Keld Jensen

PDF Version 1
Oprindeligt publiceret xx 2026

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COLOPHON

Photo of the week: xx
By Keld Jensen

PDF Version 1
Originally Published xx 2026

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