EGU26-6761, updated on 11 Nov 2026
https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-egu26-6761
EGU General Assembly 2026
© Author(s) 2026. This work is distributed under
the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License.

Planning and conducting successful fieldwork in the boreal–subarctic region - What to take into account during different seasons?

Karoliina Lintunen and Linnea Blåfield
University of Turku, Department of Geography and Geology, Turku, Finland (emklin@utu.fi)

In the boreal-subarctic zone, seasonal variability has a significant influence on the planning and execution of (fluvial) fieldwork. During winter, freezing temperatures, short daylight hours, and snow conditions make fieldwork challenging. In spring, snowmelt-induced flooding and freeze–thaw processes must be carefully considered when planning and conducting field activities. In the summer, daylight is abundant, but insects can pose a considerable challenge; moreover, climate change has increased the frequency of heatwaves. In autumn, daylight hours decrease, and weather conditions may change rapidly from warm to cold, with early snowfall sometimes occurring unexpectedly.

Overall, successful fieldwork in fluvial environments requires careful consideration of numerous factors, including logistics, clothing, safety, wildlife, engagement with local communities, and communication. This presentation outlines best practices for fieldwork planning and highlights key pitfalls that can impact the success of fieldwork. Although the fieldwork experience presented here is drawn from Finland and focuses on fluvial environments, the practices discussed are broadly applicable across the boreal–subarctic region and to a wide range of research fields.