

## Project information

### Keywords

social sciences, fishermen, stakeholders, management, banks, fish biodiversity, Barents Sea

### Project title

Drivers of fish extinction and colonization on oceanic banks (DRIVEBANKS): adding management and social dimensions

### Year

2018

### Project leader

Kari E. Ellingsen, NINA

### Geographical localization of the research project in decimal degrees (max 5 per project, ex. 70,662°N and 23,707°E)

Banks in the Barents Sea, e.g. Svalbardbanken ca. 75°N, 20°E.

### Participants

Kari E. Ellingsen, Torkild Tveraa (NINA), Nigel G. Yoccoz (Department of Arctic and Marine Biology, UiT), Roger B. Larsen, Jan Petter Johnsen, Claire Armstrong (NFH, UiT), Tom Williams, Per Arneberg (IMR), Cecilie von Quillfeldt (NPI).

### Flagship

Fjord and Coast

### Funding Source

Fram Centre, Flagship Fjord and Coast

## Summary of Results

In this Fjord and Coast add-on project we have included additional Norwegian participants with knowledge on social sciences, fisheries economics and management. We have discussed an approach on how to communicate with users of the Barents Sea (i.e. fishermen/fishery organizations), with a special focus on the oceanic banks. To gather information from fishermen 10 qualitative, exploratory interviews will be carried out. Based on these interviews we will design a survey. We will contact a suitable and professional company for developing the design of the questionnaire. We assume that 50-100 key informants will be asked to participate in the (phone interview) survey. The questions will include issues, such as, for example: How do fishermen define the bank areas? Is this definition different from our definition based on topography? Why are fishermen using the banks (or not)? Is it because they find more fish on the banks? Is it because shallow areas make it easier to fish with regard to equipment/vessels, and is economically the best choice? Other interesting topics include questions regarding by-catch and utilization of northern areas in the Barents Sea. By the end of the project period, we plan to organize a final workshop for Flagship participants, stakeholders and management.

## Master and PhD-students involved in the project

We aim to include students (MSc level and most likely also BSc) at NFH, UiT.

## For the Management

In Norwegian:

Barentshavet er et viktig fiskeriområde. Vi anerkjenner fiskernes erfaringer og kunnskap i forhold til hvilke banker som blir brukt som fiskeområder, og hvordan fiskepopulasjoner varierer i tid og rom. Det har vært betraktelige endringer i fiskefartøyer og redskaper de siste årene, og fiskeflåtestrukturen har endret seg. Økonomiske betraktninger og det å kunne se framover i tid er viktig for fiskerne. I Forskningsrådsprosjektet DRIVEBANKS fokuserer vi på fiskesamfunn på banker i Barentshavet, og vi studerer diversitetsmønstre og prosesser som opprettholder eller endrer diversiteten. Vi bygger opp et tilleggsprosjekt med fokus på samfunnsvitenskap og fiskeriøkonomi, der vi ønsker å kommunisere med fiskere/fiskerlag. Målsetningen er at

prosjektet bidrar til kunnskapsutveksling, og at vi også kan formidle nyttig informasjon til forvaltningen.

#### Published Results/Planned Publications

We aim to produce one publication specifically focusing on the social sciences and fishery economics outlined in this project. In addition, there will be a link between this project and DRIVEBANKS where other papers will be published.

#### Communicated Results

We presented the project at the annual Fjord and Coast Flagship meeting, 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2018. We have also shortly described the project at an invited presentation at the Institute of Marine Research (Ecosystem Processes research group, 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2018).

#### Interdisciplinary Cooperation

The project has to a large degree interdisciplinary cooperation, including social scientists with knowledge on how to perform/handle interviews of users/stakeholders as well as fisheries economy, and participants with knowledge on management plans, harvesting technology, biodiversity, ecology and statistics.

#### Budget in accordance to results

We received 100 000 NOK for 2018 to build a larger project, including a collaboration with social scientists, to plan our communication with stakeholders (including defining relevant questions) and to write a proposal for 2019 within the Flagship Fjord and Coast. This has been done, and the budget is in accordance with the requirements in the reply letter from the Flagship leaders.

Could results from the project be subject for any commercial utilization

No

#### Conclusions

We will link the RCN-project DRIVEBANKS to the Flagship Fjord and Coast, and integrate it with social sciences, fisheries economics and management by including additional Norwegian participants. This multidisciplinary approach will provide a platform for communication and the exchange of knowledge between the scientific community and the stakeholders (i.e., fishermen and fisheries organizations), for mutual benefit and improved management of our common marine resources. Specifically, we will focus on how to communicate knowledge and thereby bridging the gap between the scientific community, stakeholders, and the management.