

# Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM)

## Scientific Report

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Co-governance and territorial involvement in the Baltic Sea fisheries  
– strengthening the Swedish-Finnish research collaboration

By Pekka Salmi

<b>Action number:</b>	CA 15217
<b>STSM title:</b>	Co-governance and territorial involvement in the Baltic Sea fisheries – strengthening the Swedish-Finnish research collaboration
<b>STSM start and end date:</b>	01/04/2019 to 06/04/2019
<b>Grantee name:</b>	Pekka Salmi
<b>Institution:</b>	Natural Resources Institute Finland
<b>Host:</b>	Sebastian Linke
<b>Host Institution:</b>	University of Gothenburg

## **Purpose of the STSM**

The STSM aimed to strengthen the networking and collaboration between Swedish and Finnish social science fisheries researchers. The visit to the University of Gothenburg searched for making comparative studies and finding synergetic approaches in analyses and research designs. The Swedish-Finnish collaboration aimed at a joint output as a paper comparing Swedish and Finnish experiences. Moreover, the visit aimed at brainstorming for future joint research projects and funding applications.

The STSM supports activities in the Fisheries Governance working group (WG 6) in the COST action Ocean Governance for Sustainability. Comparative analysis of the FLAG system is of great interest in WG 6. One of the tasks of the STSM was to discuss how to contribute to WG 6 in the context of the Baltic Sea. Some preliminary studies have already been conducted in Sweden and Finland, but there is a need for wider and deeper research. In Finland, the Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) has started in 2019 an analysis of the FLAG system as a part of prospective evaluation of the national program for European Maritime and Fisheries Fund system. The material is based, for instance, on the self-evaluation of the groups themselves. The Swedish-Finnish collaboration and discussions in the STSM aimed to support mutual learning across national borders, and to provide a scope for improving research methods and producing comparative studies. One goal was also to search for new funding opportunities for social scientific fisheries research, which is a very scantily resourced research sector.

The STSM aimed also at fostering research regarding the contemporary problems experienced by the Baltic Sea coastal fishers, keeping in mind the implications for developing the governance systems. A particular attention was given to the material concerning the effects of seals and cormorants to coastal fishing livelihood collected in the Baltic Sea Seal and Cormorant TNC Project. Within this project framework, collection of interview material was funded and conducted in 2018 by coastal FLAGs in five countries by the Baltic Sea. In addition, the STSM helps in focusing on the consequences of the market-based quota systems in the Baltic Sea. This includes especially discussions about how to analyze the contemporary material and collect new material about consequences and coastal fishers' perceptions regarding the quota system in Sweden and Finland. According to a study made in 2018, the majority of Finnish coastal small-scale fishers were critical towards implementation of the new system.

The discussion during the STSM regarding the above issues and research material provide basis for studying social justice, power relations and the level of trust among the groups, together with e.g. the relation between lay and expert knowledge in fisheries governance systems at different levels. The grantee (Pekka Salmi) and the hosts (Sebastian Linke and Milena Arias Schreiber) aimed to make a plan about the scientific and practical collaboration, for instance including joint research publications, conference presentations or funding proposals. Special attention was given to contributing to the aims set by the WG 6 in the Cost action Ocean Governance for Sustainability.

## Description of the work carried out during the STSM

Each day of the STSM visit meetings and brainstorming were held between the hosts and the grantee. Discussions dealt with a broad range of issues including preparation of comparative studies that are of relevance for coastal sustainable development in Sweden and Finland. Collaborative seminar and research proposals and applications to national and international research agencies for funding the proposed activities were discussed and planned. Moreover, opportunities for co-authorship of scientific articles and short-term activities for producing joint publications were explored. Discussions focused on the following core research themes for future collaboration between the host (and their institution School of Global Studies) and the grantee (and Natural Resources Institute Finland): seal and cormorant conflicts, governance issues and the FLAG system from the perspective of small-scale fishing in the Baltic Sea.

On 2.4.2019 a Skype-meeting with WG 6 members of the OceanGov COST action was held. This meeting resulted in preliminary agreement to move forward in writing a scientific article jointly with Spanish, Swedish and Finnish researchers. The grantee and the hosts outlined the aims and principles of the studies from the Swedish and Finnish perspectives.

On 4.4.2019 the hosts arranged that the grantee could take part in two seminars and interact with relevant networks. The first one was a seminar with a famous Swedish Human Ecologist Alf Hornborg presented a paper “Signs of Power and the Power of Signs: Semiotics, Materiality, and the Political Economy of Status and Consumption”. The second seminar was a “Sea and Society Talk” called “Nautical routes to social complexity”. The host institution, the School of Global Studies at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, provided the grantee Pekka Salmi with an office room for working.

## Description of the main results obtained

1. Decision to participate and steer a project that aims at writing an article about how the FLAG-system affects small-scale commercial fisheries. The article forms a result of the Fisheries Governance WG in the Oceans Governance COST action.
2. Decision of arranging a scientific seminar that deals with the role of knowledge and power in managing wicked problems that relate to the use of natural resources. The arrangement of the seminar is dependent on outside funding.
3. The hosts and the grantee agreed that they shall explore opportunities for writing joint papers, and make joint applications for funding international projects in relation to the Baltic Sea (and beyond) fisheries governance, and the challenges faced by small-scale fisheries.

## Future collaborations

The STSM visit deepened mutual understanding of the research themes and similarities and differences between the Swedish and Finnish contexts that are relevant for the governance of small-scale fisheries. This enhances opportunities for future collaboration, especially with regard to writing

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joint papers or making joint applications for funding international projects in relation to the Baltic Sea (and beyond) fisheries governance, and the challenges faced by small-scale fisheries.

Two main projects regarding future collaboration are mentioned in previous section (1 and 2). Moreover, the hosts and the grantee shall collaborate in June 2019 when hosting a working group (Imagining sustainable futures for marine environments) in the 14th Nordic Environmental Social Science Conference in Sweden. After that collaboration continues, for instance, in the activities of the Fisheries Governance working group in the Oceans Governance COST action.

