

To students in fisheries sciences in Germany:

Idea for MSc thesis: Marine angling tourism in Norway – attitudes and behaviour towards harvest regulations among German visitors in Northern Norway

Background: Marine angling tourism has grown significantly in Norway over the last decades, along most of the Norwegian coastline, but especially in Northern Norway. Dominating markets are primarily non-domestic visitors, and Germans make up the major segment. Cod, other gadoid species, and halibut are key target species. The growth of the industry creates local economic impacts but also tension towards coastal commercial fishers and domestic recreational fishers. Generally, Norwegian marine angling tourism is liberally regulated, but for foreigners, Norwegian authorities have implemented an export quota of 20 kg fish fillet for tourists staying in registered angling tourism businesses, and 10 kg for those unregistered (from January 2018). Some stakeholder groups routinely claim that tourist fishing generates limited economic impact, and that tourists overharvest resources and smuggle fish out of the country. A range of interesting multidisciplinary fishery research topics exist in this field.

Research Project: A major research project has just started up in Norway to gain better knowledge of the many aspects and questions related to Norwegian marine angling in general and tourist angling more specifically. The project is led by the Institute for Marine Research in Bergen, Norway, with many national and international research partners. We are seeking specifically one or two German fishery students or sustainability sciences students to develop and conduct their MSc thesis within the frames of this larger research project.

What we can offer:

Potential Study Themes: Attitudes and norms towards harvest regulation and angling behaviour. Also themes such as local economic impacts, market diversification and segmentation can be considered.

Duration: 2018 – 2020 (2018-2019 or 2019-2020).

Supervisors and network: Supervisors are professors Robert Arlinghaus and Øystein Aas, as well as scientist Trude Borch from research institution Akvaplan-Niva in Tromsø. Your MSc project will be in close cooperation with an acknowledged international team of multidisciplinary fishery scientists.

Fieldwork and data: The student(s) might work with data that has already been collected as part of the ongoing research project, existing data on German marine tourist anglers, as well as their own data gathered in field. This needs to be considered more closely in relation to the objective and focus of the study.

Economic support: The selected student(s) will get up to Euro 5000 funding for coverage of field work costs (if necessary), and workshop and seminar attendance.

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