



WHO DECIDES ON THE FUTURE OF OUR FJORDS? PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING IN THE WESTFJORDS OF ICELAND

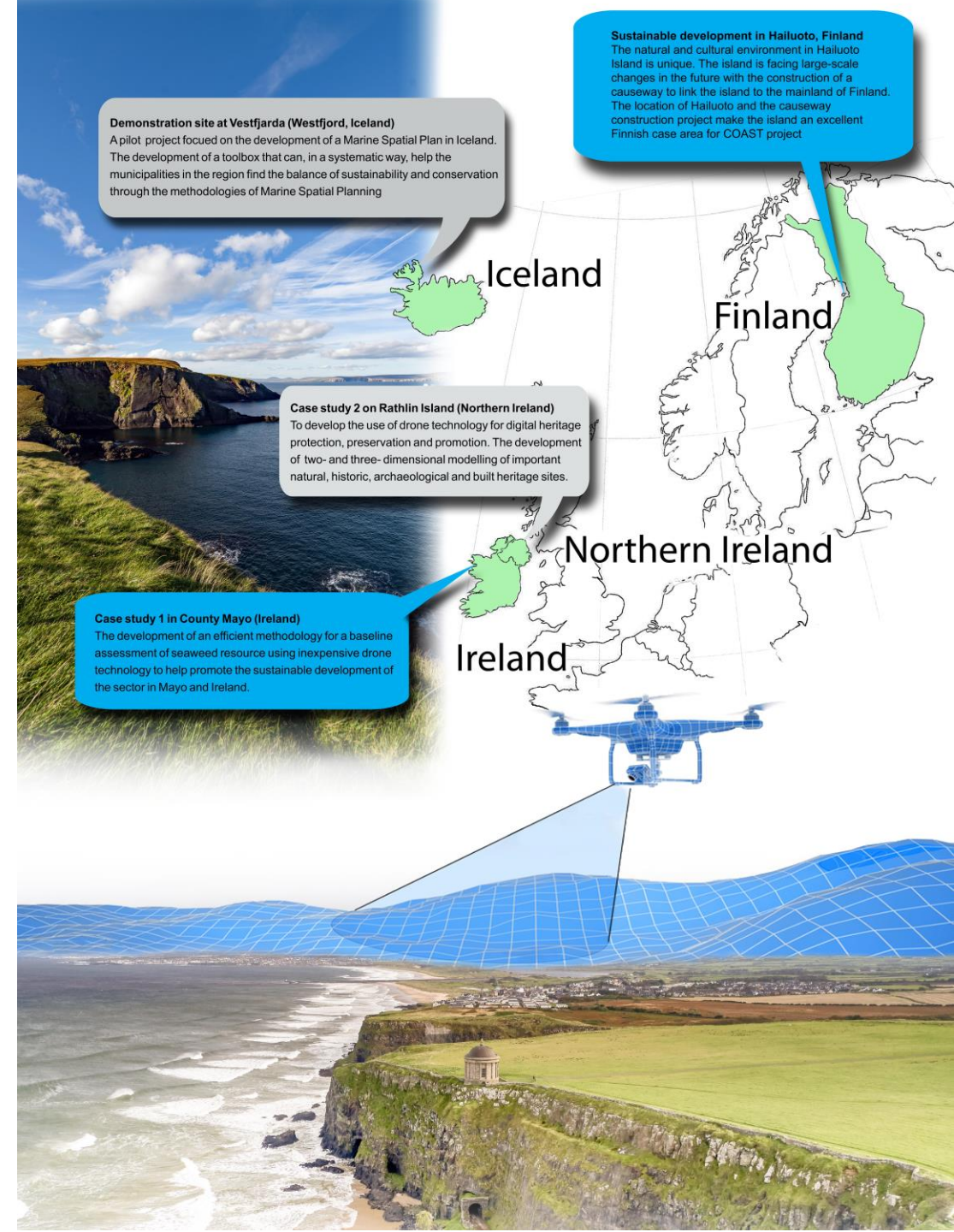
Maria Wilke



COAST PROJECT



- Oulu University of Applied Sciences, Finland
 - Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust, Northern Ireland
 - University College Cork, Ireland
 - Mayo County Council, Ireland
 - Agricultural University of Iceland
 - Svarmi, Iceland
- Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme (NPA)
 - Collaboration to make remote coastal communities more resilient in the face of climate change and rising sea levels
 - PhD Committee: Sigríður Kristjánsdóttir, Ragnheiður Þórarinsdóttir, Carsten Jahn Hansen (Aalborg Univ.), Knut Bjørn Stokke (Norwegian Univ. of Life Sciences), Bradley Barr (Univ. Centre of the Westfjords)





CASE STUDY SITE



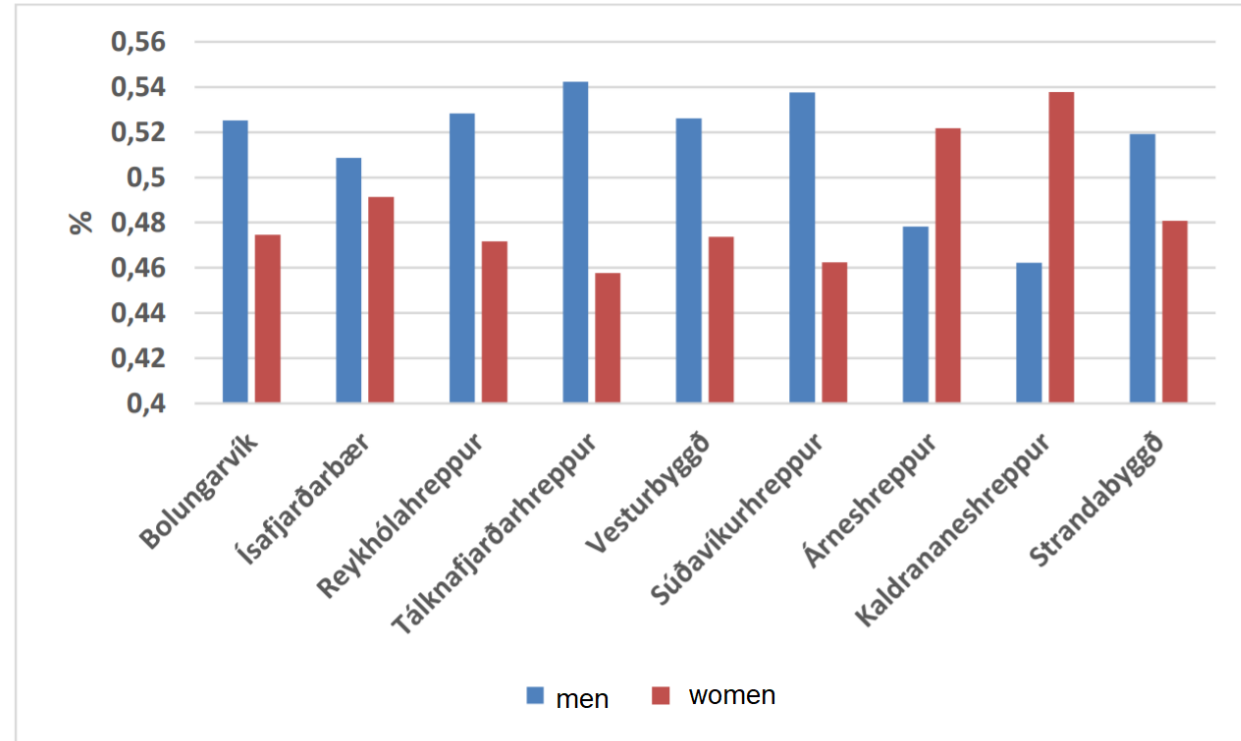
WESTFJORDS OF ICELAND



WHY WESTFJORDS?

- Iceland dependent on resources of the ocean
- No formal environmental/ coastal & marine education in Icelandic curriculum
- Depopulation

Ratio of men and women in the Westfjords municipalities



<https://www.arcticfish.is/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2020/05/2020-03-30-Frummatssk%C3%BDrsla-%C3%8Dsafjar%C3%B0ardj%C3%BAp-8000-tonna-lax-og-silungs.pdf>



TRANSPORT

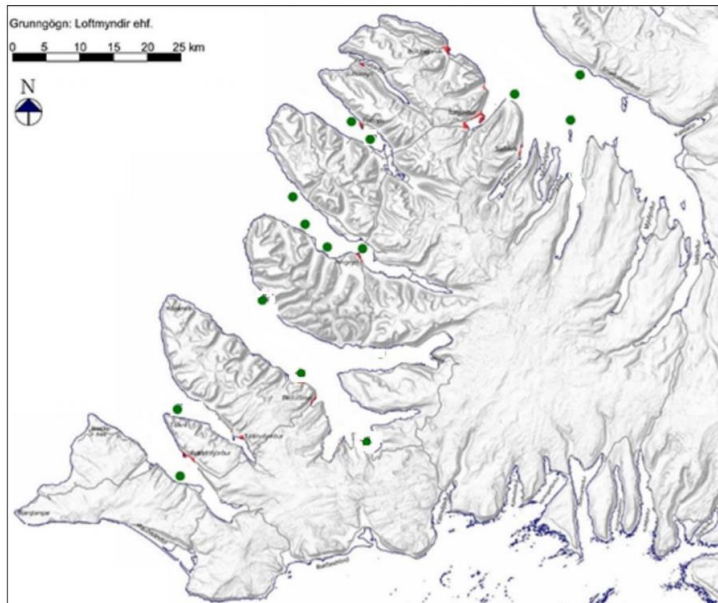


TRANSPORT

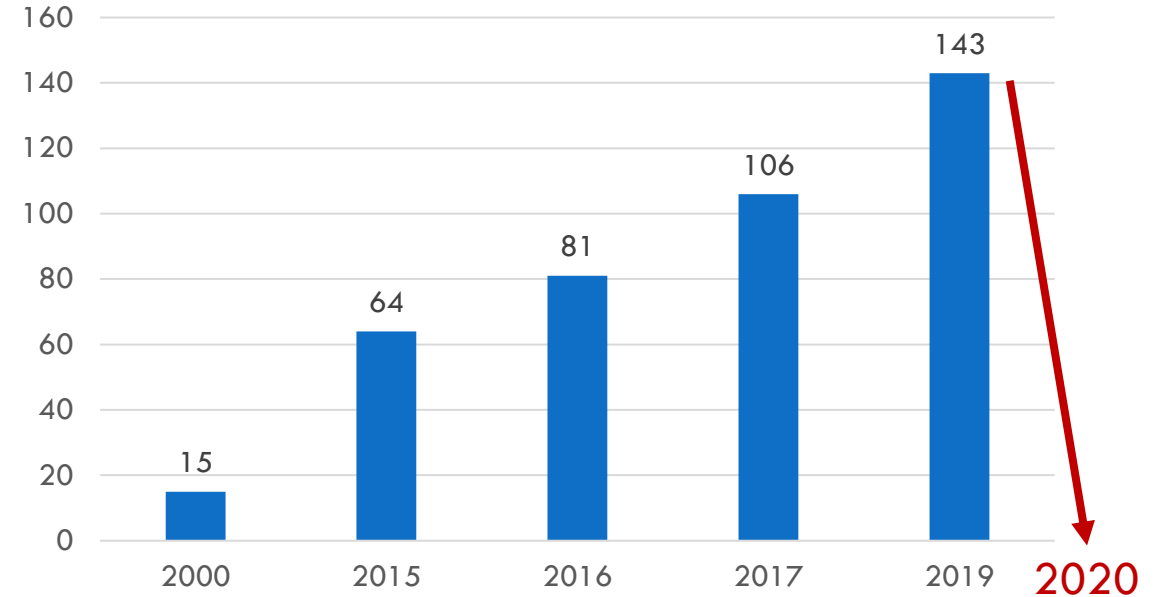


ECONOMIC STABILITY?

- Tourism largest sector since 2013
- Fisheries: Cod, Haddock, Mackerel, Shrimp
- Aquaculture sector growing
- Impacts of COVID



Cruise ship landings in Ísafjörður port



Data: https://www.ferdamalastofa.is/static/files/ferdamalastofa/talnaefni/tourism-in-iceland-2018_2.pdf

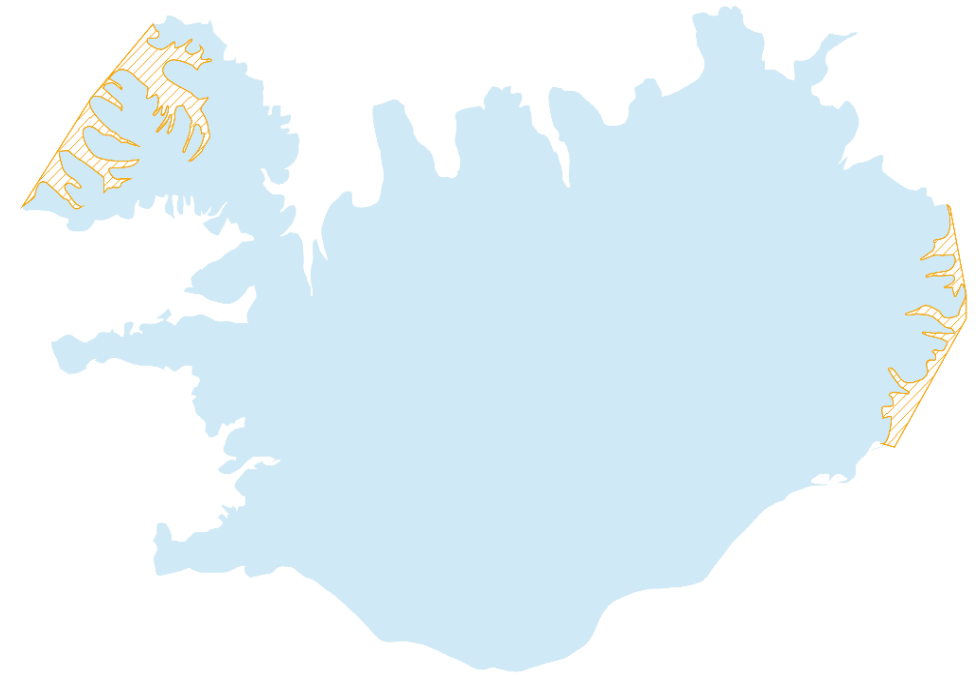


WILDLIFE



WHY PLANNING?

- National Planning Agency: Regional council with 8 representatives and a consultative group to produce MSP Regional Area Plans for Eastfjords and Westfjords
- Marine Spatial Planning (MSP): Key concept for eco-system based ocean and coastal management
- Conflicts of interest in coastal and ocean use
- Education and capacity building needed to make MSP sustainable over time



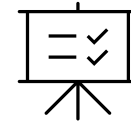
Sites for marine and coastal area plans in the Westfjords and Eastfjords of Iceland (Hafskipulag, 2019).

WHY PARTICIPATION?

- Legitimizes MSP
- Knowledge about ocean, able to make informed decisions → attitudes, awareness, skills, participation in ocean issues
- Empowers to accept stewardship of the oceans, increases agency
- Long-term and adaptive: complex environmental issues that keep changing
- Co-creation of knowledge, rooted in local identity, local knowledge



OBJECTIVES & RESEARCH QUESTIONS



1. Establishing a theoretical base for strategy for public participation in marine spatial planning in Iceland
 - a) How does community engagement impact MSP?
 - b) How can public participation in MSP in coastal communities be facilitated in Iceland's unique context?
2. Testing different public participation strategies with community groups in order to increase resilience and support coastal planning.
 - a) How can long-term community engagement strategies positively influence knowledge exchange, motivation and commitment to coastal planning?
 - Public/online community meetings
 - Targeted group/stakeholder workshops (Westfjords, North Iceland, Húsavík – JUSTNORTH)
 - Field days, drone survey (linked to COAST technology work package), podcasts, ...
3. Establishing bioregioning as a framework for Westfjords sustainable coastal future vision
 - a) How can bioregioning be conceptualised in the Icelandic context – lit review publication co-authored
 - b) What strategies can be drawn from the bioregioning approach to support local authorities in their path towards sustainability and to support marine spatial planning

METHODOLOGY

COAST

- Literature review on impact of public engagement in MSP
- Participant Observation & Key informant interviews: identify knowledge gap – assess process of MSP and extend of public participation, identify which target groups and channels
- Run/facilitate workshops, sessions, field days etc. with different target groups of community members, several sessions per group to assess impact, focus on values and attitudes



METHODOLOGY

JUSTNORTH

- Run stakeholder workshop in Húsavík – knowledge co-production in marine decision-making

Ocean missions

- Bridging gap between natural science conducted locally with coastal communities as the expedition lands in harbours – ad-hoc workshops, info sessions, gatherings

Bioregioning

- Lit-review and creation of bioregional macroscope area of Westfjords, workshop in collaboration with Trans-Atlantic partners

Drone survey of sites in Westfjords





**TAKK FYRIR.
THANK YOU.**



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