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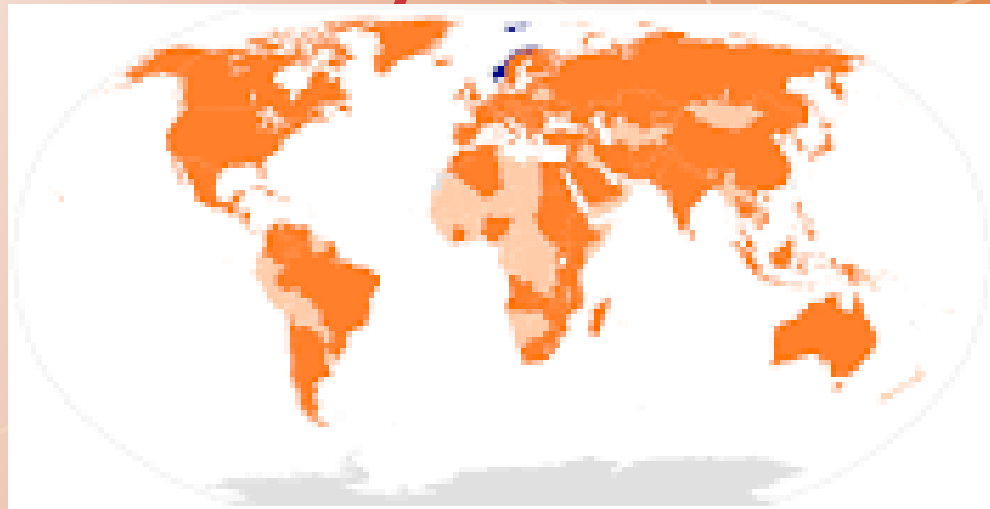
Women in the Norwegian Coastal Fishing – Guests at Men’s Table and a Minority in Men’s Fisher-worlds?

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Fishery and fishery households as a cornerstone in the Norway's economy

-Up to WORLD WAR II Norway was considered as a new and poor nation
-Norway's long coast and later the nautic 200-mile zone represented and represents a vast area with many possibilities for Sami-, Norwegian, and since 1994/2004 also for EU-people

*Fisheries and aquaculture are two of the most important industries and are important in the construction and maintenance of the Norwegian welfare-state with many social rights



Norwegian coastal fishing is based on a boat quota system since 1990 = *'privatization of the commons'*

- Quotas are organized in
 - **an open group** where you find most female boat owners today
 - **a closed group**: can be bought, sold and leased = transferable

Give rights to fish a certain amount of cod, saithe and haddock

Few women owned boats in 1990 and thus few women were allocated quotas for free!

Since the first allocation in 1990 boat quotas have to be bought

=

- **Quotas thus give great values in income**
- **and in the closed group also capital since quotas can be bought and sold**

MY QUESTION:

Since fishery is important and Norway also is famous for her equality-policies and equality work, is it so also in coastal fishing?

- To answer this question, I will focus on:
- **1) women in coastal fishery: before 1970/80s and in the millennium of 2000**
- **2) Women as registered fishers, as owners of registered fishboats and boatquota- owners**
- **3) Discussion: why are there so few female fishers today and why do women go into other sectors?**

Methods and perspectives

- **Methods:** Longitudinal studies based on field work in North Norway as well as with my fisher partner
- public documents and fishery statistics
- **Approaches:** situational analyses based on actororiented practices in the understanding of gender relations and gendered rights and interests

Women in coastal fishery – before 1970/80/s

- - Traditional women's work included care for children, elders, animals, fishing related work and community work= unpaid work
- = Women in fishery villages were the ground crew or shore crew or partners in enterprise**



Women in coastal fisheries: after 2000

- Women are now often working outside fisheries and bring income to the household:



- Women are discussant partners
- With their fisherspouses
- Main responsible for work in the household
- But men participate more than before



- Women as voluntary workers in the communities and as politicians in the parties and unions
- **) : women are still the ground crew, but often in other ways than before**
- **And connected to other sectors**



Women as registered fishers



- -Few female fishers and the number has decreased
- 1990: 19921 men 554 women (2,7%)
- 2013: 9138 men 260 women (2,8%)

= A very small proportion of female fishers compared to male fishers

= Most female fishers are 30 – 60 years old

Fewer and fewer owners of boats

No statistics devided on gender before 2002

- 1) In 2002 176 women and 10635 men owned fishing boats
- 2) In 2002 146 women and 7211 men owned boats “smaller ” than 10 meters

- 3) In 2014 103 women and 5934 men* owned fishing boats
- 4) In 2014 86 women and 3204 owned boats smaller than 10 meters

3) Few female boatowners in the groups that are entitled to closed quotas

- 2002 Female boatowners in the 11-14,99 m group: 8 (out of 901)
- 2006 Female boatowners in the 11-14,99 m group : 7 (out of 833)
- 2013 Female boatowners in the 11-14,99 m group: 3 (out of 719)
- **2014 Female boatowners in the 11-14,99 m group : 1 (out of 698)**

-): Size matters
-): Women own to a little extent boats or have more than 50% ownership in boats that can have more than one quota on a boat
- (Source: National boat register)

Women's boats, and quotas (2013) and capital

- Most women have boats in the open quota group that are not transferable:
-): smaller quotas (unless you live in a Sami defined area) and other limitations, but available under certain conditions to all that live in Norway and have a registered boat
- 12 fishing boats owned by women has quota in the closed group in Norway
- Of a total of 1858 boatquotas (1493 in Northern Norway)
- **Fishers say that today a quota of a boat in the closed group on a boat between 10 and 11 meters costs 117 000 US DOLLARS and for boatquotas 11-14.99 m often more than 200 000 US DOLLARS**

Why are there so few female fishers, boat and quota owners?

A result of

- a **strong division of labour** where men's part of the work was brought more and more into the 'market'
 - -men's paid work counted for welfare rights
 - **(but all people in Norway has pension rights, free**
 - **hospitals and education)**
 -
- The «the Western post-war housewifization of much of women's productive work
- Lack of day-care institutions that fit fishing
- Women have still most of the responsibilities in households with children

Women 'leave' fishing for other sectors

- *Women go into education and work in other sectors: earn more and want jobs they are educated for (teaching, health and care work)
- *Little political and formal recognition of women's fishery related tasks
Women's direct output from fishing related work is little (?)
- *Male dominated unions with a strong definition power
- *Women's fishery related work seldom become an ISSUE in fishery politics and in equality politics even though we have had female ministers and that at least 40% women shall be member of governmental and municipal committees

- **In this way most of us think that it is NORMAL that FISHERS are MEN**
- **Fisher identity becomes identified as a masculine identity** (Munk-Madsen 1996, 2000)
- The result is that the gender imbalance in fishing and in access to fishing boats and fishing rights continue

Women in fishing – still a minority in men's fishing worlds

- WOMEN have a little share of the fishery capital,
 - * some has general political capital
 - * some has still specialised knowledge
 - related to their work in household and
 - communities
 - * many women manage important part of
 - the fishery cultural capital
-): **BUT: Few women and men discuss and fight for women's access to the sea and quota rights**

Conclusion

- Women's low participation in fishing and the costs to enter into fishing without special public means
- as well as changes in the ways we think about fishing and fishery
- is a sign that «Norway as an equality country» has not yet succeeded in valuating women's contribution and including them in an economic field that is considered as one of the most important industries in Norway's economy
- The result is "exit" from the small fishing communities
- It is not enough to have 'equality in the public fishery committees' and in the sectors outside fishery, **women's practices and ways of thinking in the small scale fishery must be accounted for and valued, also outside the household and the local communities**

Thanks

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- Thanks to all of you who spend your time to listen to me

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- Thanks to the Norwegian Research Council

- And last and not least:
- Thanks to the women and men, children and youth that have given me so much of their time, thoughts and experience

Women in registered coastal fishing: Women as fulltime fishers by age and time



YEAR	1990	1990	2006	2006	2014	2014
AGE	TOTAL	WOMEN	Total	WOMEN	Total	WOMEN
<20	1201	48	202	4	181	6
20-29	5496	226	1749	56	1437	48
30-39	4205	97	2481	57	1578	50
40-49	4224	110	2686	59	2121	50
50-59	2948	49	2642	66	2034	72
60-67	1565	21	1480	31	1217	24
68-69	451	2	211	1	450	7
>70	385	1	24	0	380	3
ToTAL	20475	554	11475	274	9398	260
		(2,7%)		(2,4%)		(2,8%)

- Few female fishers and the number has decreased
- A very small proportion of female fishers compared to male fishers
- Aging female fishers

Fishing boats, owned by women, and diversified by size and in total

Year	2002	2002	2006	2006	2013	2013	2014	2014
Boats Size og boats	Number of fishing- boats	Boats owned by women	Number of fishing- boats	Boats owned by women	Number of fishing- boats	Boats owned by women	Number of fishing- boats	Boats owned by women
<10 meters	7353	146 (2,0%)	4310	114 (2,6%)	3347	93 (2,8%)	3204	86 (2,7%)
10.10,99 meters	1346	21 (1,6%)	1383	16 (1,2%)	1503	14 (0,9%)	1510	15 (1%)
<u>11- 14,99 meters</u>	<u>901</u>	<u>8 (0,9%)</u>	<u>833</u>	<u>7 (0,8%)</u>	<u>719</u>	<u>3 (0,4%)</u>	<u>689</u>	<u>1 (0,1%)</u>
15-20,99 meters	463	0	299	0	167	0	150	0
21-27,99 meters	261	0	234	0	137	0	130	0
>=28m meters	317	1 0,3%)	241	3 (1,3%)	255	1 (0,4%)	251	1 (1,3%)
TOTAL	1064 1	176 1,7 %)	7300	140 (1,9%)	6128	111 (1,8%)	5934	103 (1,7%)

Why do women fish on smaller boats and why are there so few female boat owners of boats larger than 11 meter?

- **Most women fish alone or with a partner/husband on smaller boats**
- **Boats under 11 meter are considered as a suitable size in the coastal fishing of the North Norway = one person in a boat**
- **Women fish when «they want» and can adapt work in the household with the work in fishing**
- **(Munk-Madsen (1996, 2000, Johnsen and Vik 2013)**
-
- **Great turnover: Many women leave the fishing**
- **because of divorce and husbands' deaths**
- **because they enter into other type of work where they to**
- **a little extent can use their «technical fisher skills»**
- **because of age**
- **because of children (Grimsrød et al 2015)**

Boat quota as capital

- IF fishers want annual fishing rights in the closed group they have to
 - buy a quota, buy a boat with a quota or be one of the ten who get a recruitment quotas that the Norwegian Government gives every year
 - to YOUTH below 30 years of age with fishery education
- In 2014 a women got one of the 10 quotas that was redistributed
-
- Fishers say that today a quota of a boat in the closed group on a boat between 10 and 11 meters costs 117 000 US DOLLARS and 11-14.99 m often more than 200 000

Quota as a turning point in small scale fishing

- Quotas = Rights to fish = “annual fishing permits» = fishing possibilities- (DELTAKERADGANGER)
 - 1990: Given to the boat dependent on the length and gave rights to fish cod (later on also haddock and coalfish)
 - Important in Northern Norway coastal fishing = ‘cod-dependent’
 - 2004: a boat with its original quota could have three additional quotas
 - 2006: valid for 20 (25) years
 - Since 1990 there have been what we call a) the open quota b) the closed quota (various names).
 - In the closed group boats more that 11 meter can ‘structure’ that is they are allowed to have up to 3 additional quotas (The conservative government with support of the Fishery Union in Troms and Finnmark (Fiskarlaget NORD) want to change this
 - A complicated system – a new committee has been launced to look at changes

Gender imbalance in fishery policy as an explanation

- Hardly any focus on women in fishery politics
- **Exceptions**
 - 1) committees
 - 1980s – 2000: The fishery industries committee on women
 - 2007: Action Plan for increased proportion of women in the marine sector (Handlingsplan for økt kvinneandel i marin sektor) (2007) initiated by the Minister for family affairs and equality and the fishery and coastal minister with representatives from the different part of the industry
= but few public means, that was the responsibility of the different associations
 - 2) White papers
 - The Sami parliament's paper on fiord and coastal fishery (Sametingets melding om fjord og kystfiske fra 2004 (Sametinget 2004))
 - The research report: What does gender and competence mean for fishers when they enter shore based work (Hva betyr kjønn og kompetanse for hva fiskere gjør når de går i land? (Sett Sjøbein, **Fiskeri- og havbruksnæringens forskningsfond (FHF)**) (2015))

Education and work

- Since the 1960/70 high school and higher education became important also for women in the coastal area of Northern Norway – women choose education, (since 1970s also through distant education)
- work as teachers, health-workers, administrators, researchers etc.
- **): except for teaching, this kind of work that does not exist in small fishery villages**
- **coastal young women and men migrate to urban places**

This is in spite of women's political oppositions

- The Midwife action to have midwives in the municipal centers in the municipality of Nordkapp 1985/86
- Mehamn women fought to maintain the fish plant so that they could have paid work in 1987
- Coastal women's actions to fight for better conditions for household after the MORATORIUM of 1989 and the introduction of the quota system in 1990
- Fighting for the coast 2006/7 --- women used modern symbols and lists of signatures to teach the Norwegian populations about the situation in the fisheries
- Coastal Action Men and women fought to get more fish from the big trawlers back to Northern Norway, especially when Norway Seafood separated the trawlers from the fish plants 2013/2014
- The Fisher daughter 2014: fought for the small scale fishing

Do we need a new setting of the table?

The fact that women

- *fish, participate and give active support to fisher-households
 - *are leaders and supporters in actions and politics in Norway and internationally
 - *do research on women in fisheries and are administrators of fishing firms and associations
- demonstrate that women (and some men) are not only guests at men's table, but want to set the table in a new way.