



# Ocean in Balance

Hav i Balance A/S

<http://havbaade.dk/oceaninbalance/>

*Social Enterprise Focused on Sustainable Coastal fishing*



# The Skagerrak Sea

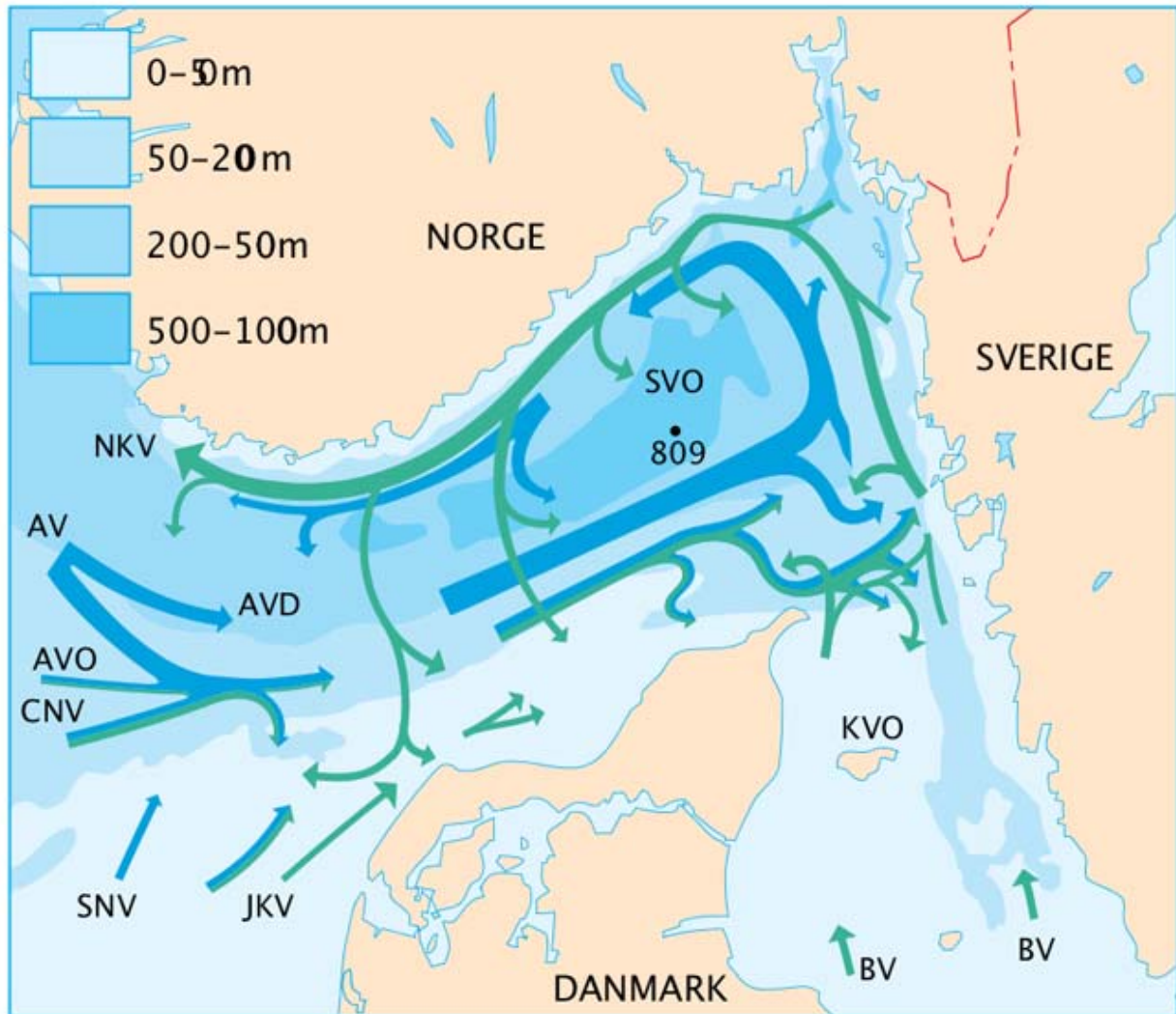


Figure quotation from: John Fowlie©/denstoredanske.dk

- |                     |                         |     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| AV                  | Atlantic water          | KVO | Kattegat surface water  |
| AVO                 | Atlantic surface water  | NKV | Norwegian surface water |
| ADV                 | Atlantic deep water     | SNV | South North Sea water   |
| BV                  | Baltic water            | SVO | Skagerrak surface water |
| CNV                 | Central North Sea water | JKV | Jutland coast water     |
| <b>Green arrows</b> | surface water           |     |                         |
| <b>Blue arrows</b>  | deep water              |     |                         |

# Ocean in Balance

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(OiB)

## *A Social Enterprise Focused on Sustainable Coastal Fishing*

This new initiative is focused on securing and extending the coastal, small-scale fishing in the Skagerrak Sea with sustainable and low-impact fishing techniques, thereby preserving the marine environment and the local communities, while limiting large-scale fishing with heavy bottom fishing gear. The initiative has established the company Ocean in Balance as a social enterprise to provide the necessary fishing rights and vessels for independent coastal fishermen, thus ensuring that these assets are used for fishing according to agreed sustainable and low-impact principles. The initiative is social-economic with the aim of establishing coherent economic, social, cultural and environmental sustainability for everyone involved.

### ***The Aim***

The company's overall aim is to promote increased sustainability within fishing in order to preserve the marine environment and the biodiversity in the sea. This overall aim can be secured through providing financing to independent fishermen, groups of fishermen and associations of fishermen, who exercise fishing within the frames of the company's aim. The financing includes the construction of new small-scale fishing boats with the latest technologies for sustainable fishing, leasing of small-scale fishing boats, acquisition of fishing quotas for low-impact fishing and other activities in connection with this.



### ***Jammerbugt in Balance***

Jammerbugt in the Skagerrak Sea is the largest and most fertile marine environment in Denmark, based on a rich, diversified sea bottom with depths down to 800 meters, sandbanks, chalk and coral reefs, limestone rocks, stone reefs, forests of seaweed, gravel slopes, clay and turf banks and sand bottoms. Water from the Baltic rivers and the salty, Atlantic water from the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea flow through Skagerrak. These streams mix fresh water, salt water, cold and warm in many layers and whirlpools providing the optimal conditions for a rich organic production in the food chains that the fish stocks are living on.



*Ocean in Balance* aims to secure a sustainable future for this fertile marine area. Heavy trawl fishing is attracted to this area because of its richness in fish. Skagerrak's marine ecosystems could, however, be brought into balance and be preserved by replacing energy consuming, industrial fishing with a low-impact and low-energy consuming small-scale fishing. The construction of new clinker boats for low-impact fishing - combining Nordic boat-building crafts with the most advanced technologies for transmission of power and electronics – will pave the way for sustainable small-scale, post-industrial fishing, engaging the young generation of fishing families in continuing, developing and extending this type of fishing.

*Ocean in Balance* invests in the construction of new boats developed by the boat-building yard at Han Herred Sea-Boats in Slettestrand for sustainable fishing. The boats are leased to fishermen using low-impact fishing gear, and after the leasing period the boat will become the property of the fishermen. If needed, *Ocean in Balance* can decide to lend capital to the Thorupstrand Guild of Coastal Fishermen with the purpose of buying fishing quotas that will be tied to the Danish fishing scheme that is unlimited in time for small-scale fishing with low-impact gear. With the boats, the

fishing quotas and a sustainable operation as a security, *Ocean in Balance* provides financing for the boat-building, the purchase of fishing quotas and the development of knowledge, ways of organizing and administrating this type of fishing.



*Blue Transition* - Prototype of a new sea-boat from the Han Herred Sea-boat Yard, constructed for eco-friendly, low impact fishing financed by *Ocean in Balance*.

### ***Robust Investment in Sustainable Utilization of the Marine Environment***

Different aspects make the activity of *Ocean in Balance* robust and resilient. Below we briefly describe the six most important ones:

- 1) The small-scale fishing is conducted with light boats and low-impact gear, preserving the marine ecosystems and the catch, for which reason the fishermen can deliver an extraordinary high quality of fish (officially termed E-fish), obtaining the highest prices on the market. Earnings and low-impact fishing favour one another.

- 2) An extended small-scale fishing with passive and semi-passive fishing methods such as gillnets and Danish seine (anchor seining), are low-impact and efficient ways of making use of the marine ecosystem. For scientific approval, see Dinesen et al 2018. At the same time, this type of fishing is suitable for limiting and replacing fishing with heavy trawling and flyshooting, the bottom trawls and typhoon wires of which are damaging for the sea bottom's vulnerable reefs, limestone rocks and habitat. The reason is that trawlers, dragging their fishing gear through the sea, must, according to the law, give way to fishing boats that are lying still. No matter what size, all trawlers must make way for small-scale boats that are lying still, tending their nets or pulling in their seine ropes, reaching several kilometres into the sea from each boat. The more small-scale fishing boats in the sea, the more bottom trawl fishing will be limited.
- 3) Fishing with gillnet and Danish seine have a low-energy consumption compared to bottom-trawling per caught tons of fish, and are therefore suitable for reducing the CO2 emissions caused by fishing as well as the economic expenses of fossil fuels.
- 4) The life mode of share-organized fishing – where boat, fishing gear and crew share the earnings equally – gives all fishermen an incentive for fishing efficiently, creating most value out of the natural resources, the boats, the gear and the work.
- 5) Fishing quotas for the consumption of fish species are bought, paid off, owned and managed by the fishing families' cooperative quota guild, Thorupstrand Guild of Coastal Fishermen. The culture of owning in common gives the local fishing families an incentive to make use of the local sea in a sustainable way as this secures a balance between fishing and ecology for the fishermen themselves, as well as for the new generations of their community. In addition, the cooperative access to the natural resources make way for a constant generational handover, where fishermen, boats and gear are continuously replaced by new generations without a loss of value in the cooperative. Every generation contributes to the building up of the local community's common quotas by using these to create a business that pay off the loans of the guild.
- 6) In 2017, the Danish Parliament made it possible to transfer fishing quotas from the open quota market into a protected small-scale and low-impact fishing scheme that is unlimited in time, where the enrolled quotas can never be transferred back into the open quota market. Since the coastal fishing cooperative will not have to sell their quotas to the highest bidder – as a private, quota-owning fisherman might have to in case of retirement – the guild brings all fishing quotas they buy into this low-impact fishing scheme. Within the scheme, the fishermen receive an increase in their yearly quotas, the highest bonus for coastal, small-scale (below 15 meters) fishing boats with low-impact gear. This means more reliability when providing loans for the guild's purchase of fishing quotas.

These six aspects of the activity mean that foundations, as well as other capital owners who wish to make a lasting contribution to the ocean environment in the Skagerrak Sea between Norway and Denmark, can contribute with capital or loans to *Ocean in Balance*, while enjoying the social yield of transition to environmentally-friendly fishing in one of Europe's richest ocean areas.

Film: <https://coastlight.net/detaljer/5338/Blue-transition/>

## Organizational chart

