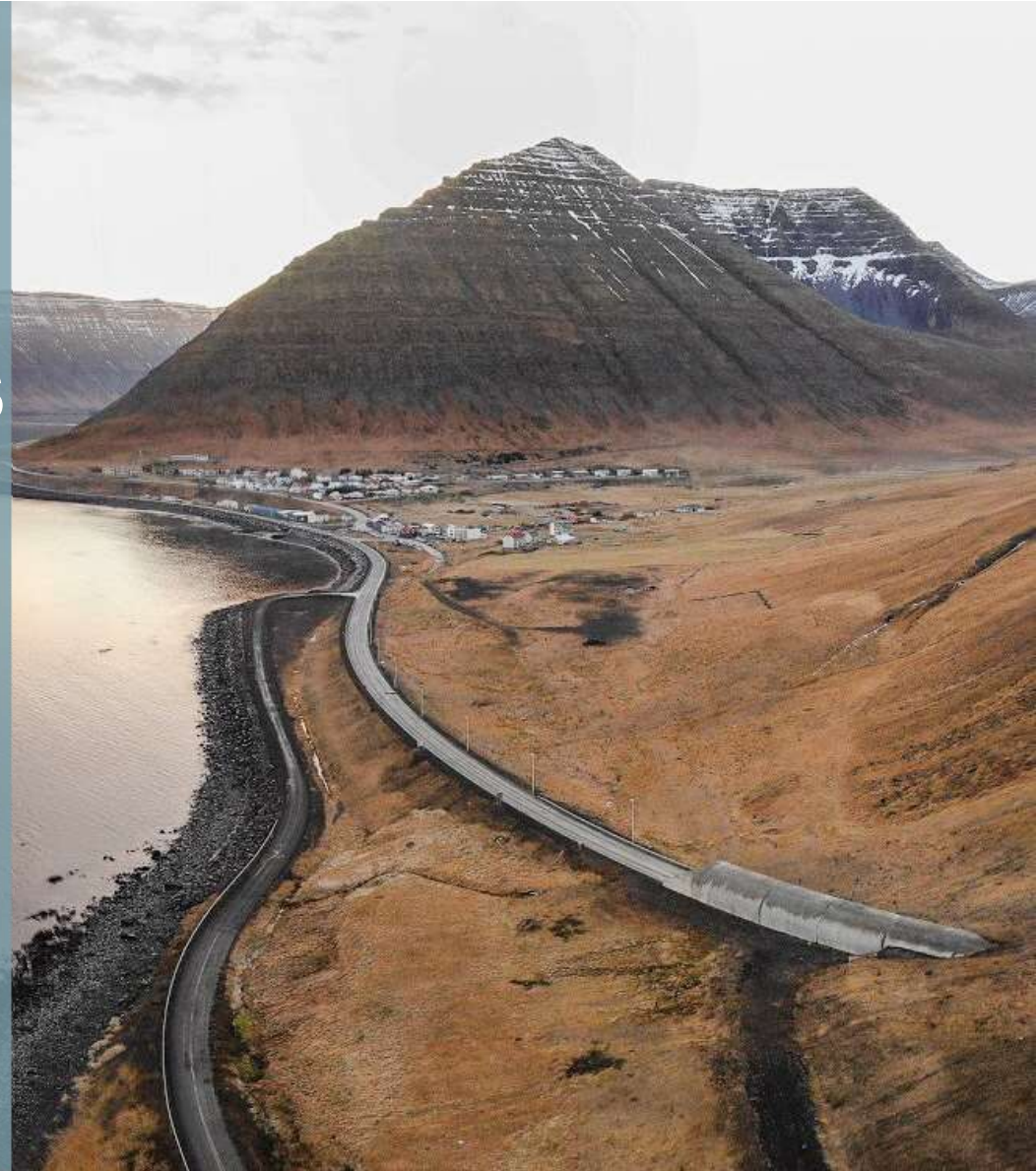




Háskóla  
Vestfirðna  
University Centre  
of the Westfjords

Current and future challenges  
in coastal Iceland

And some hot topics...





# My research activities

- **Community Resilience**
- **Transformation and change**
- **Climate Change**
- **Fisheries management**
- **Tourism**
- **Depopulation**



# Positionality

- **Very interested in small and remote communities**
- **Role of welfare state in policy making**
- **On the search for a socially acceptable way to dismantle depopulating town**



An aerial photograph of a fishing boat docked at a pier. The boat is green and white, with various equipment on deck. The pier is concrete and has several yellow bollards. In the foreground, there is a parking lot with several cars. The image is overlaid with two semi-transparent blue boxes containing text.

**Fisheries  
management  
and the loss of  
access to  
livelihood**

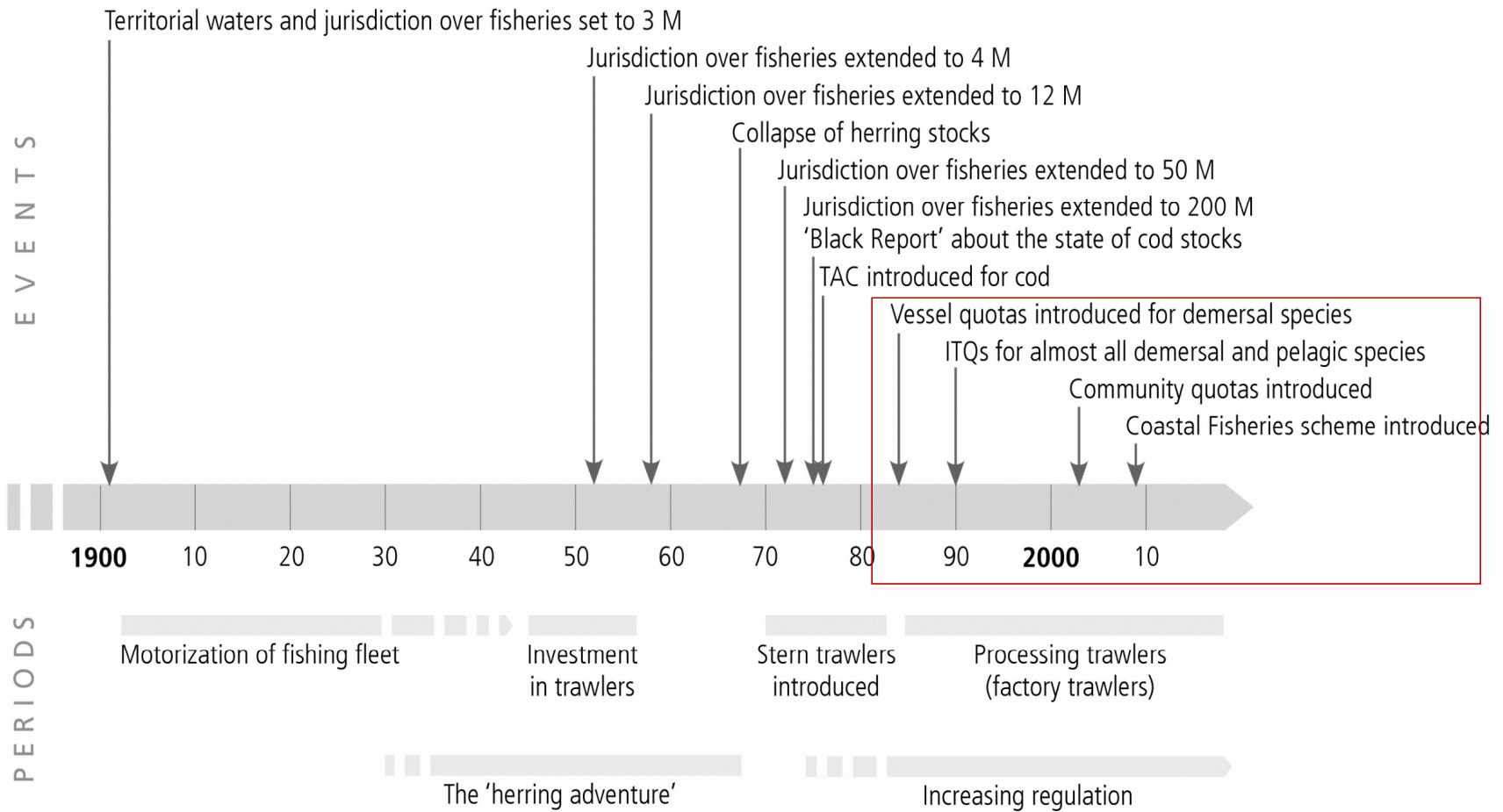
**Remote  
communities in  
times of  
climate change**



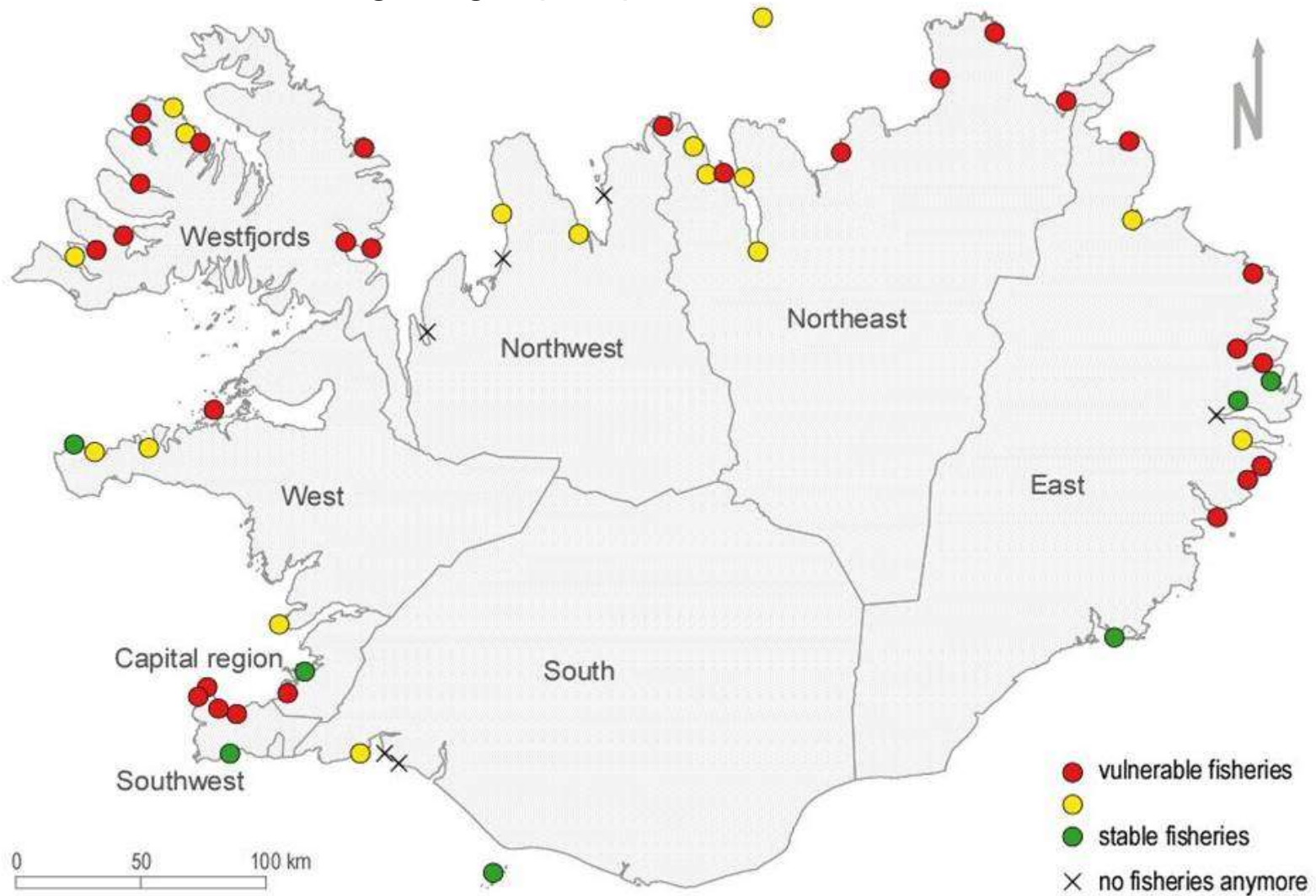
[menti.com](https://www.menti.com)

1967 0327

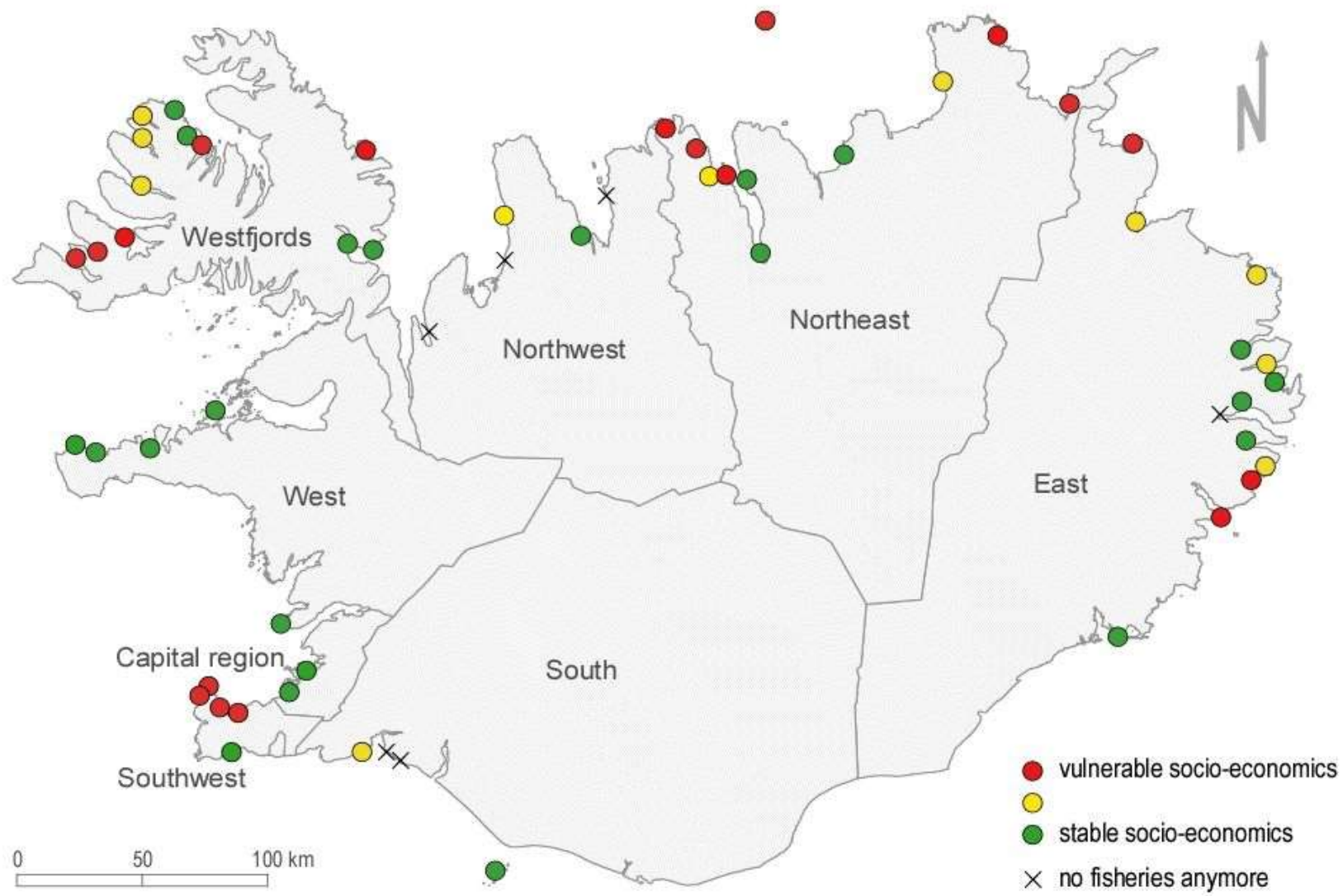
# Resilient to what...?

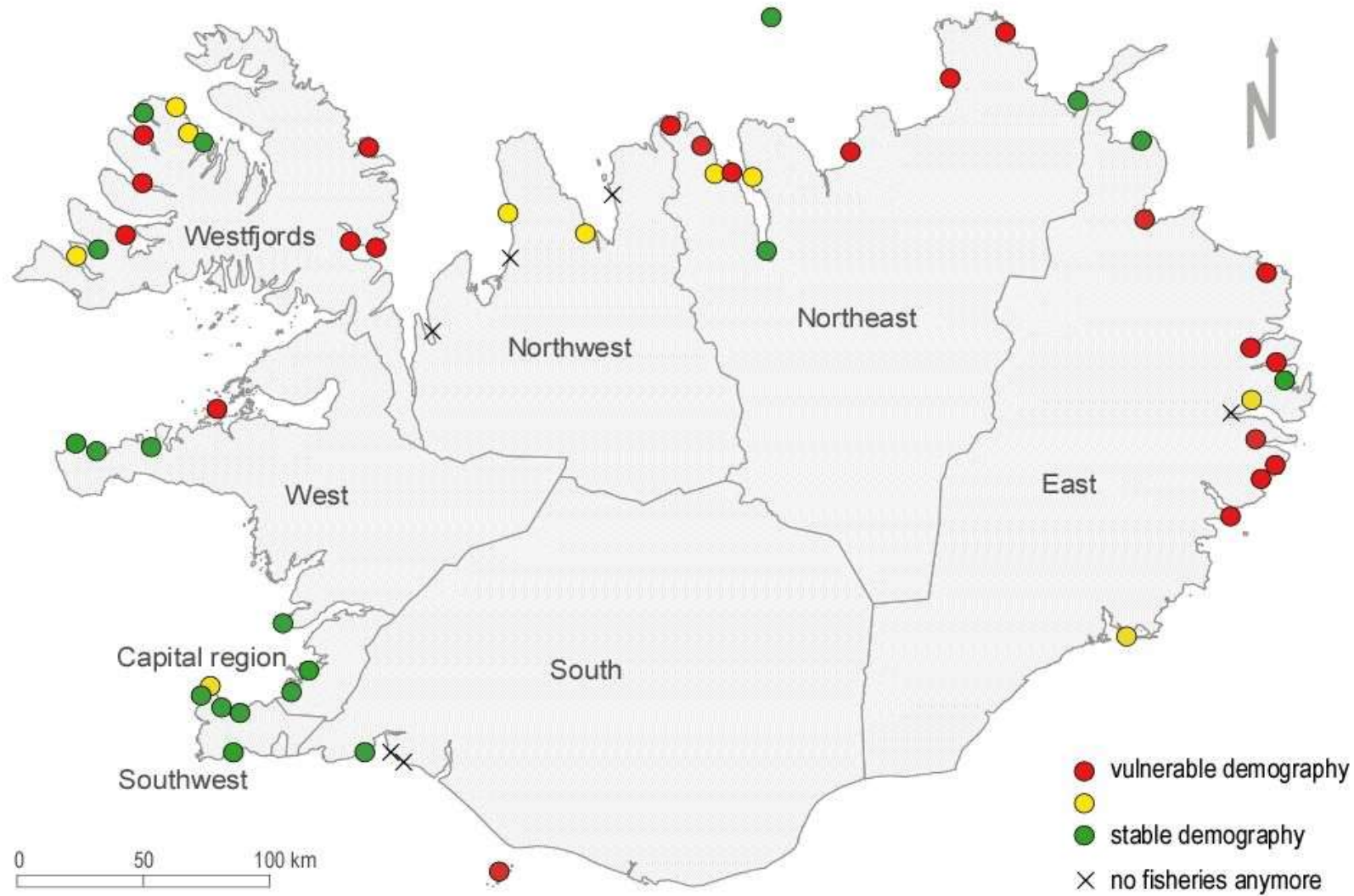


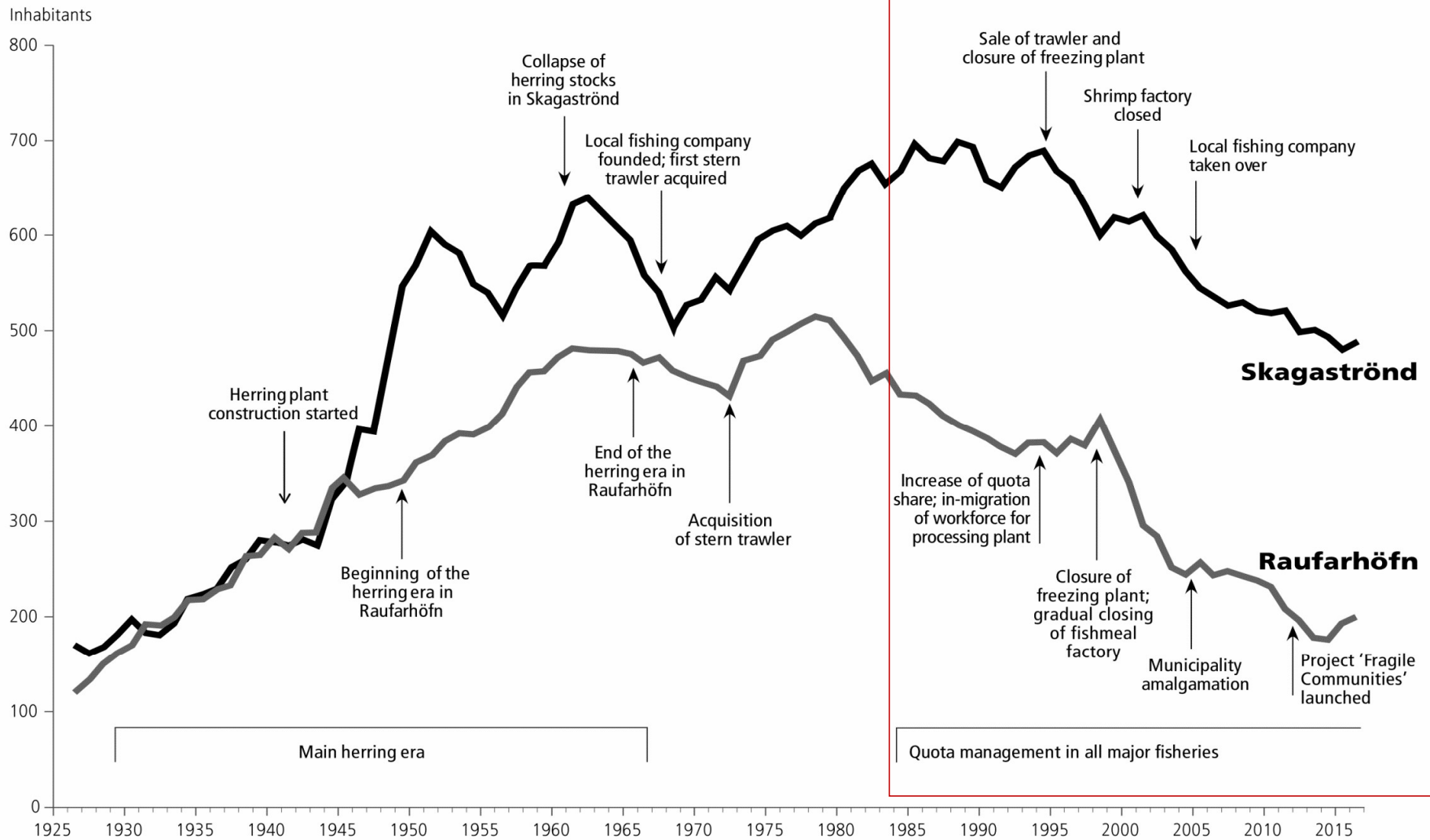
## Status of Icelandic fishing villages (2016)



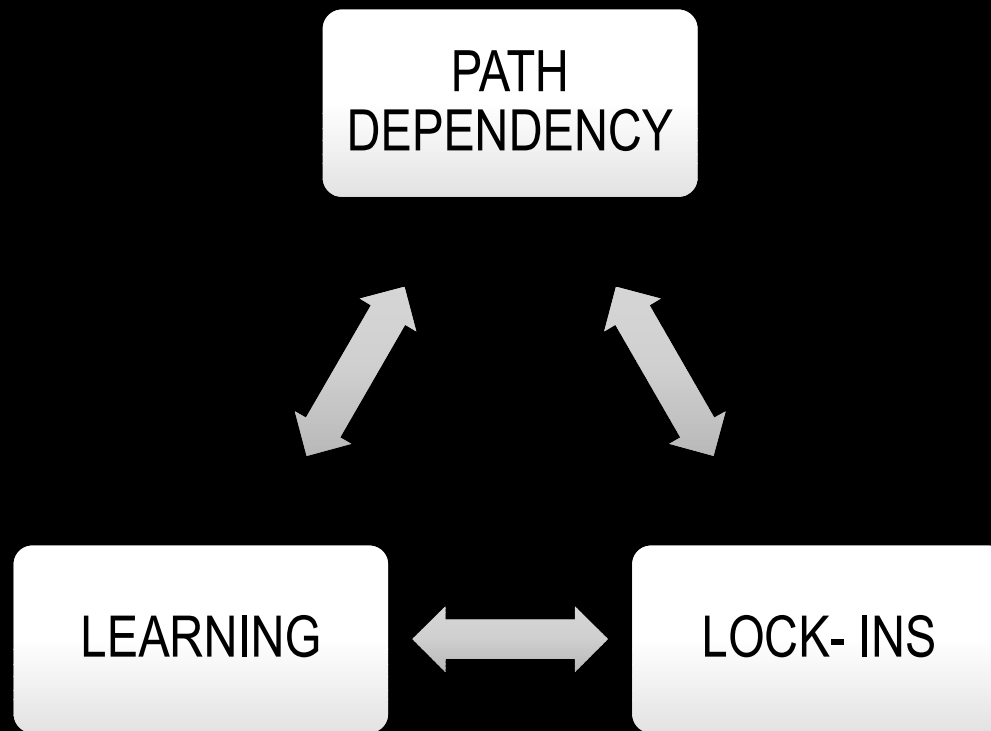








# ADJUSTING & ADOPTING

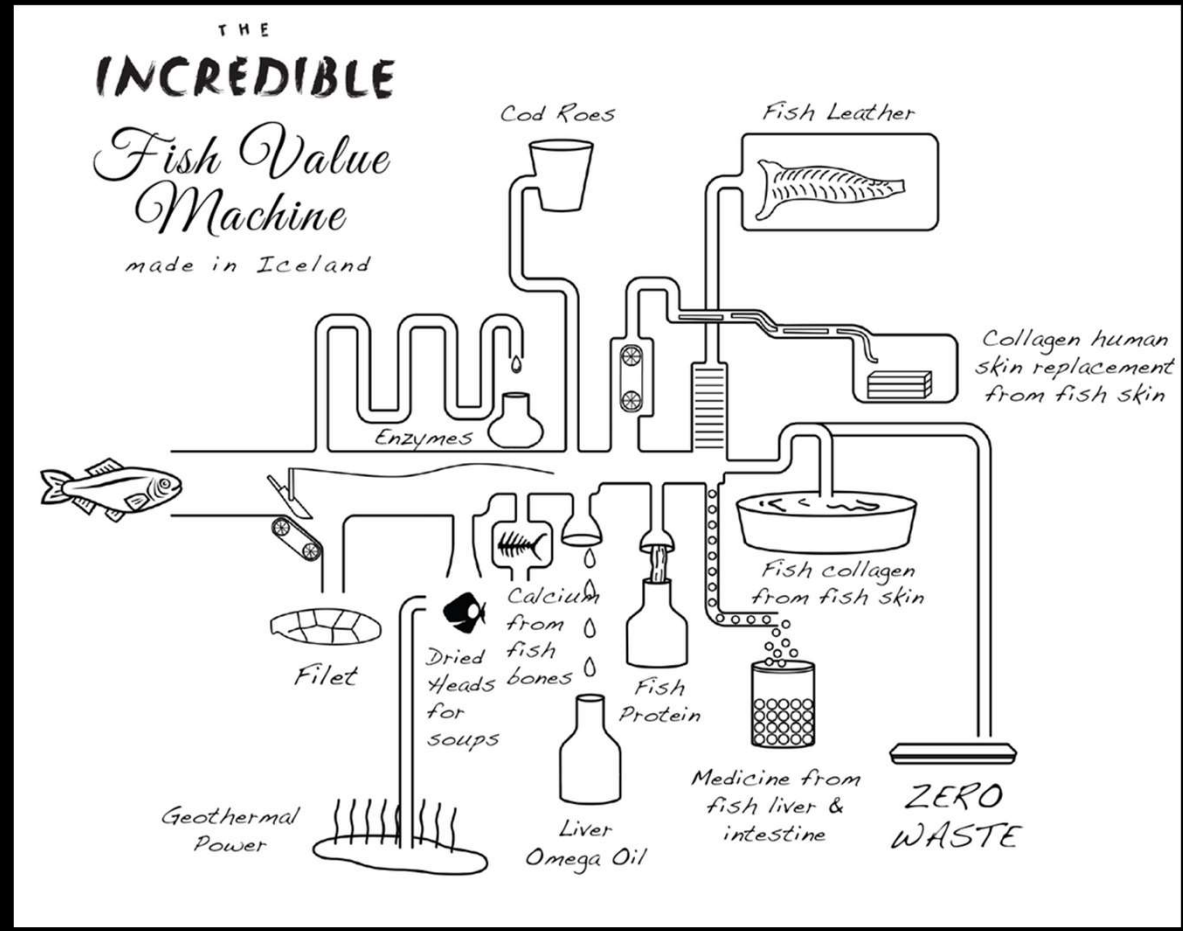




# REORIENTATION & RENEWAL

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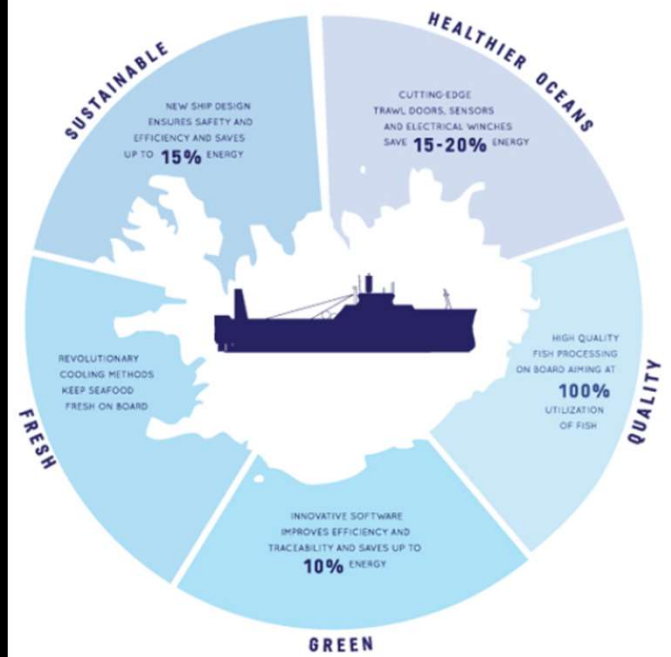
Pictures: fisherman.is/ mbl.is/ sjavarklasin.is



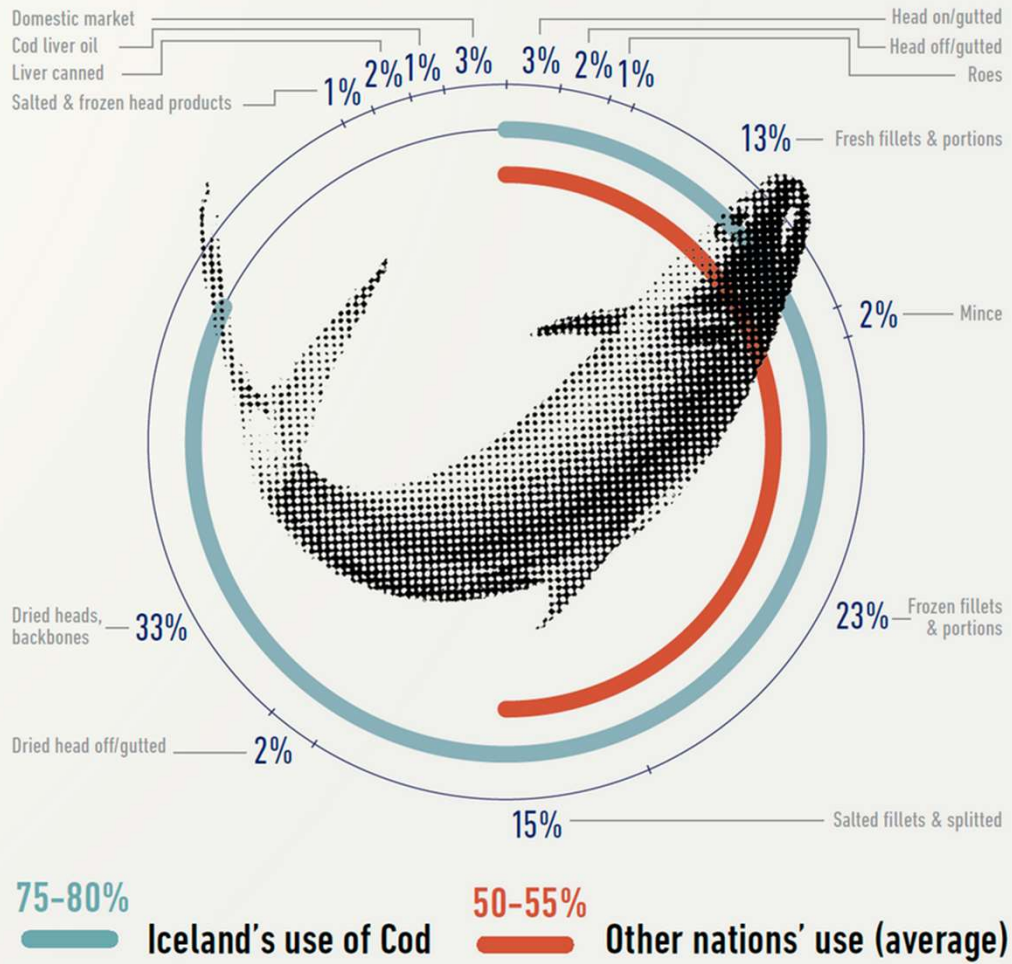
100 %  
fish



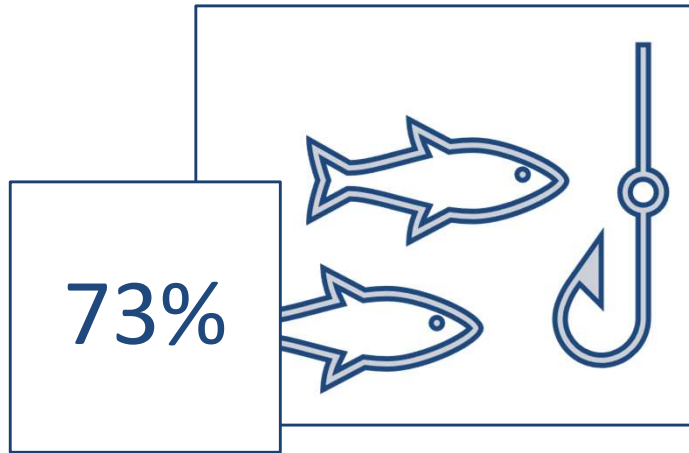
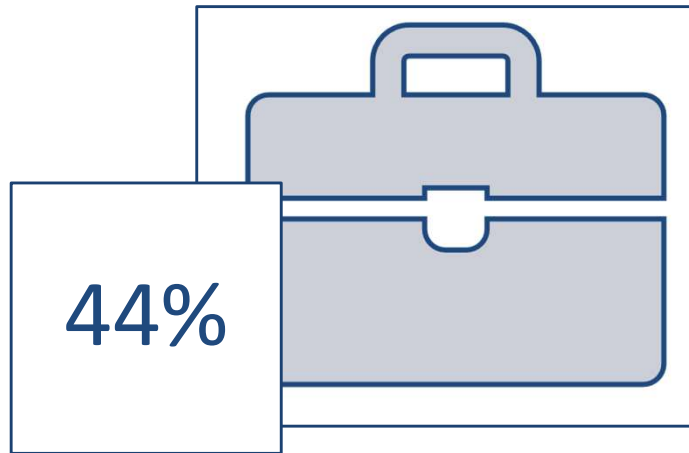
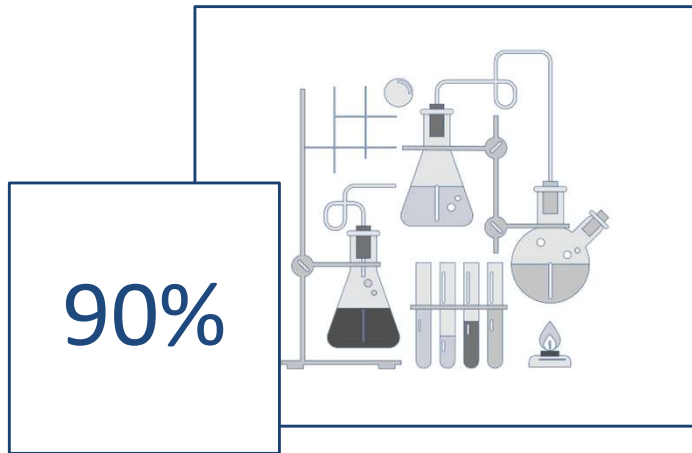
Fishing  
ship  
OF TOMORROW



# USE OF COD RESOURCE

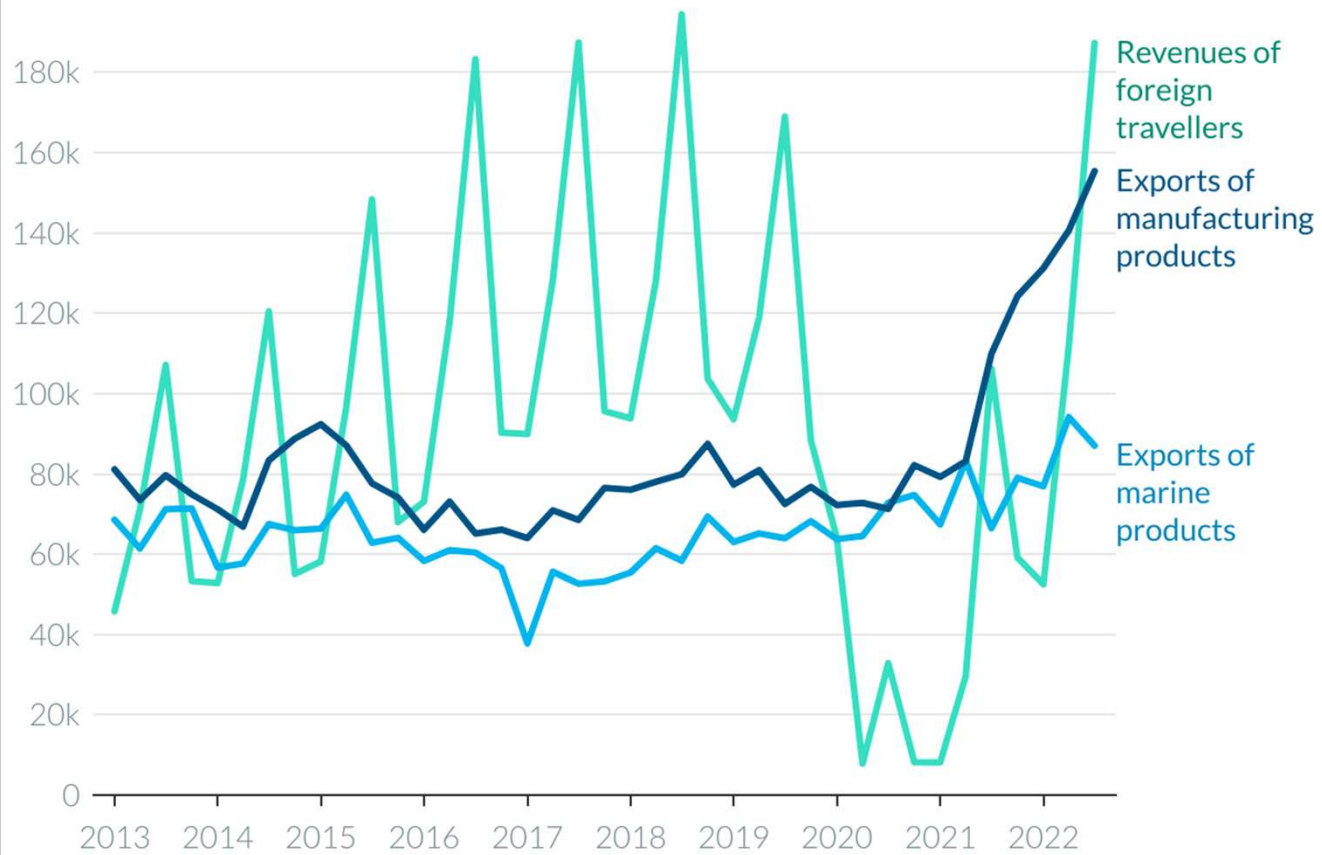




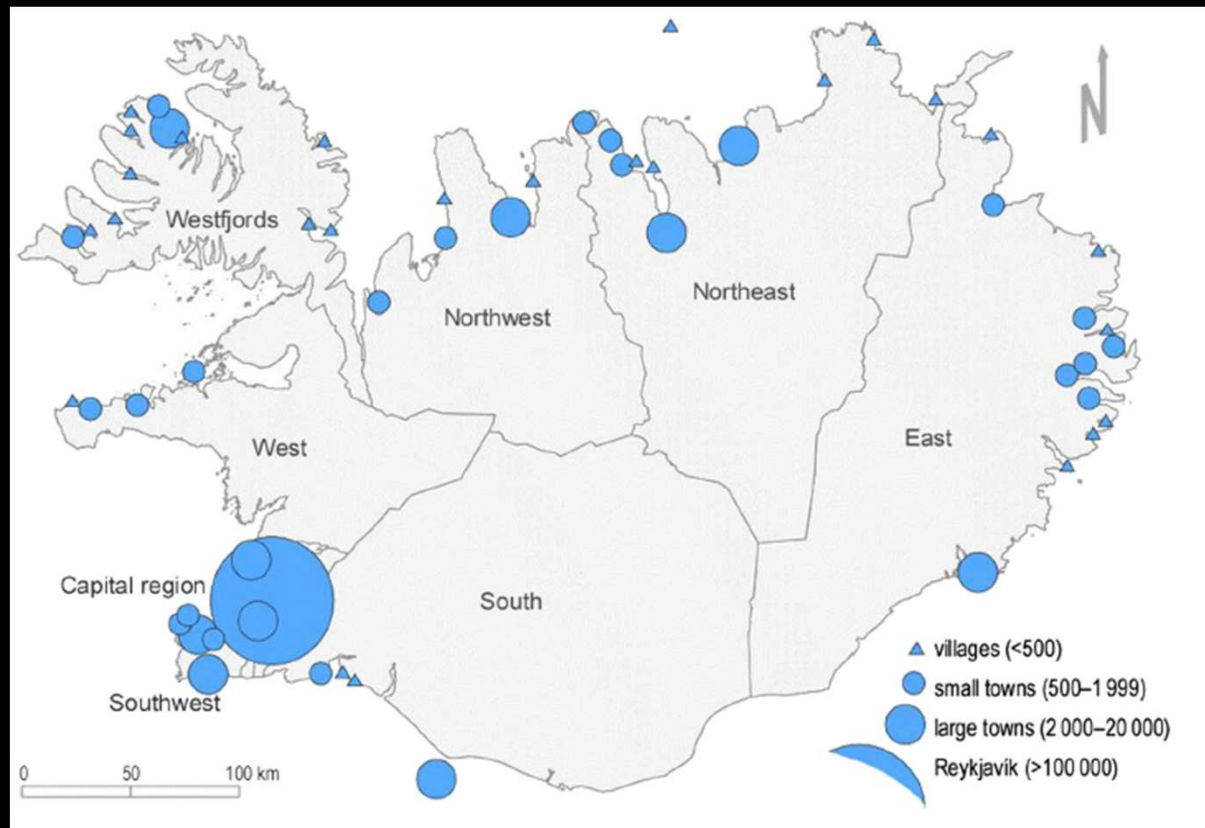


## Selected items of the exports of goods and services

Million ISK

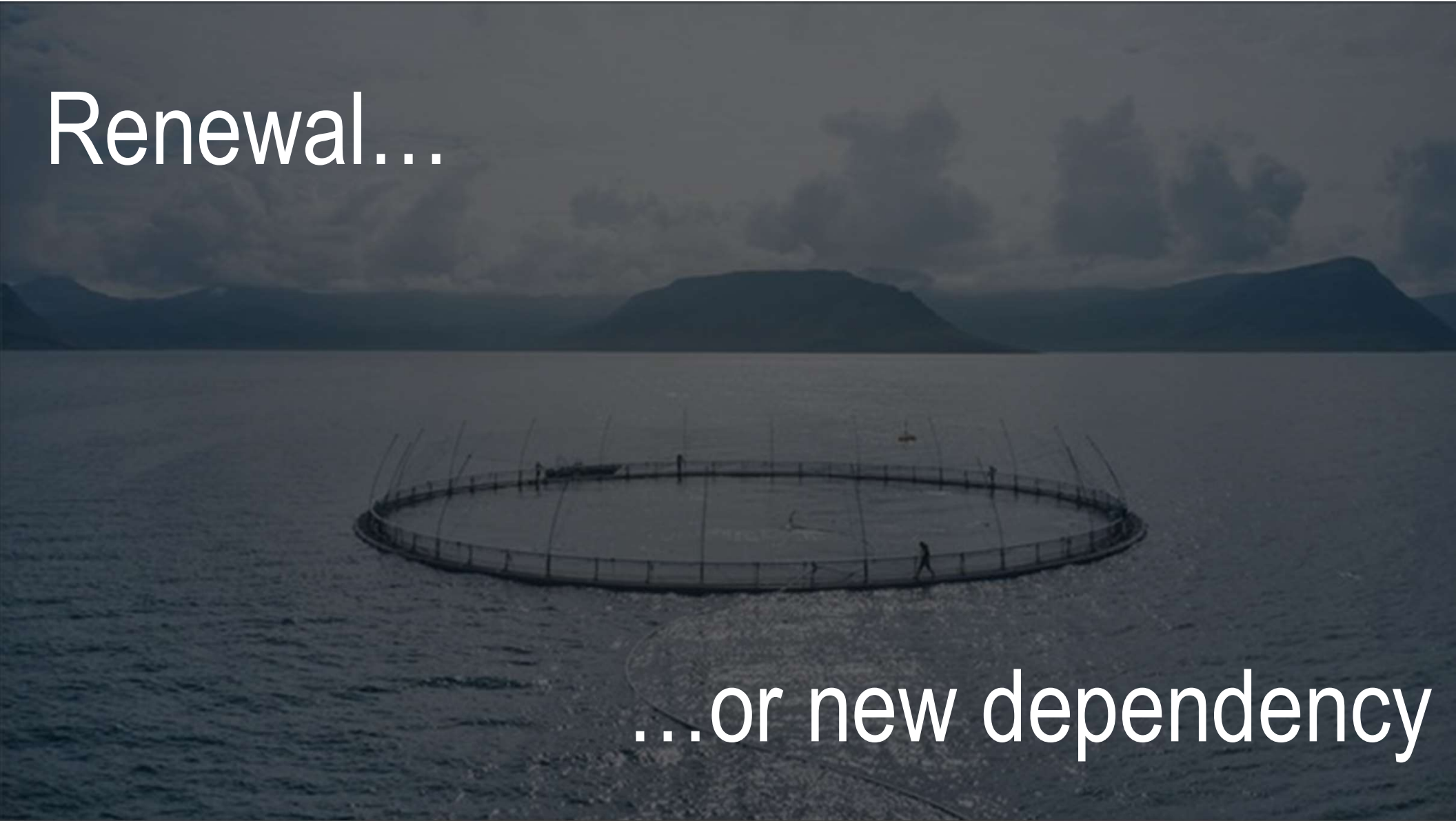


# Challenges for rural development



Renewal...

...or new dependency



1,790t in 2010

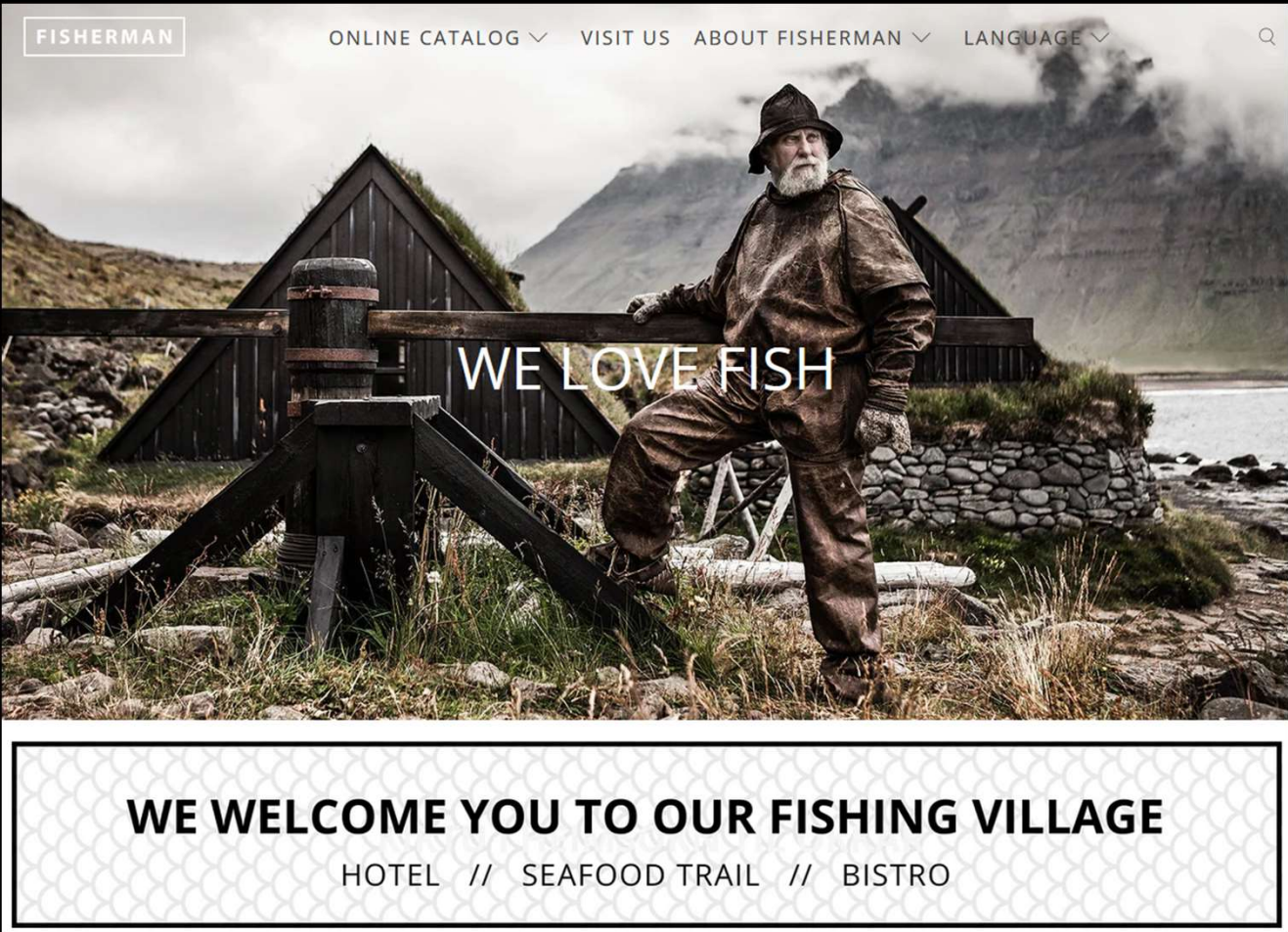
50,000t in 2024





**Reorientation and renewal...**

**...or new dependencies?**



Picture: fisherman.is



## Fisherman Seafood Trail

**Tasty one hour tour for those who like gourmet food and the history behind it.**

Experience an authentic Icelandic fishing village and taste high quality Fisherman products first-hand.

Fisherman seafood trail is a fun, tasty and informative 60 minute walk in a Westfjords fishing village. Accompanied by a local, you will get tasty samples of Fisherman products and learn about the daily life in a small fishing village and how the fishing industry has shaped Icelanders over the centuries.

The tour starts at Fisherman welcome center, Aðalgata 15, Suðureyri.

Local guide and tasty seafood treats is included and the tour is in English.

Price: 5,900 ISK (Free for children under 16 years old)

Please email us, [fisherman@fisherman.is](mailto:fisherman@fisherman.is) or call: **+354 450 9000** to get more information and book your tour.

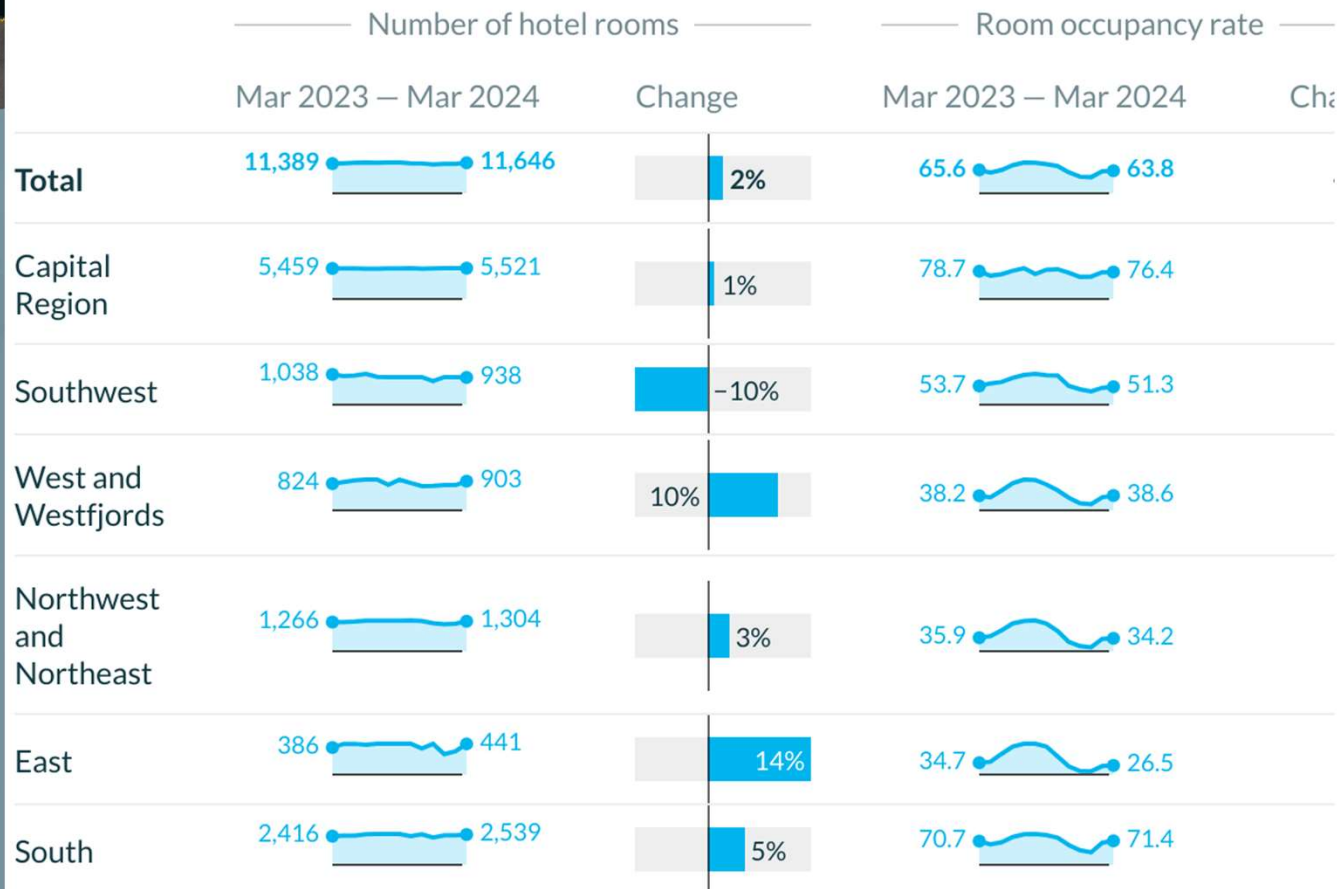
**BOOK TOUR**

Pictures: fisherman.is

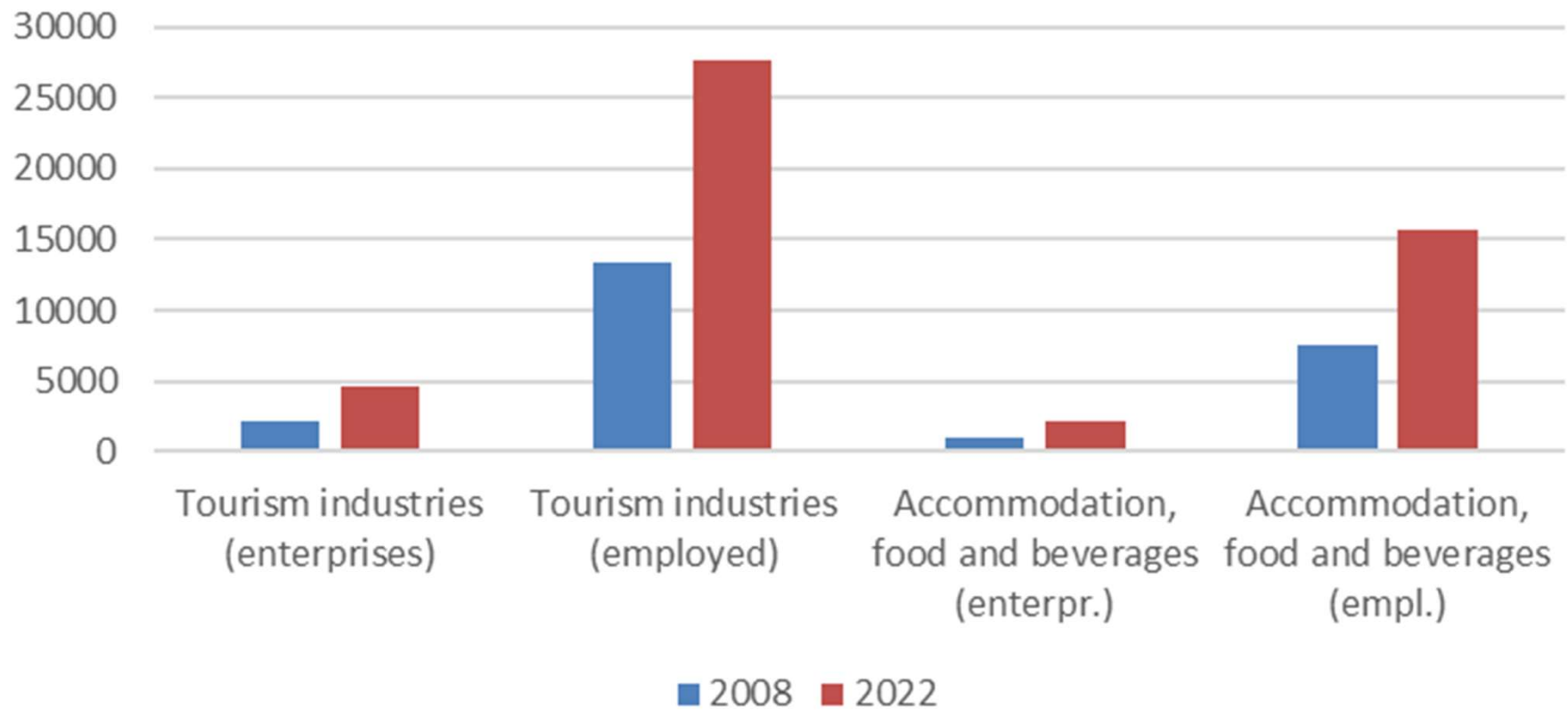


# Coastal Tourism: a matter of seasonality & region

## Supply and occupancy rates of hotel rooms



## Number of enterprises and operational information by industry and size 2008-2022





2 Generic problems...

Over-dependency

Regional distribution



# Carrying Capacity

## Cruise ships in Ísafjörður

7. júlí 2023	12-21	Star Legend	343	190	Ísafjörður
-	8-18	Norwegian Prima	3950	1388	Ísafjörður
-	8-18	Azamara Journey	750	400	Ísafjörður
-	7-19	MSC Grandiosa	6300	1700	Ísafjörður
-	8-17	Zuiderdam	2300	817	Ísafjörður

An aerial photograph of a fishing boat docked at a pier. The boat is green and white, with various equipment on deck. The pier is concrete and has several yellow bollards. In the background, there are stacks of yellow crates and a small car. The image is overlaid with two semi-transparent blue boxes containing text.

## Coastal Fisheries

- **2009**
- **May - September**
- **Small boats & jigging**
- **Strict temporal and spatial limits**
- **Around 2% of TAC**

## Regional Quotas

- **2003**
- **5- 8000t/ year**
- **Around 45 villages apply**
- **Max of 300t CFE/ village**

An aerial photograph of a fishing boat docked at a pier. The boat is green and white, with various equipment on deck. The pier is concrete and has several yellow bollards. In the background, there are buildings and a parking lot. Two semi-transparent blue boxes with white text are overlaid on the image. The left box is titled 'Coastal Fisheries' and contains a list of six bullet points. The right box is titled 'Regional Quotas' and contains a list of three bullet points.

## Coastal Fisheries

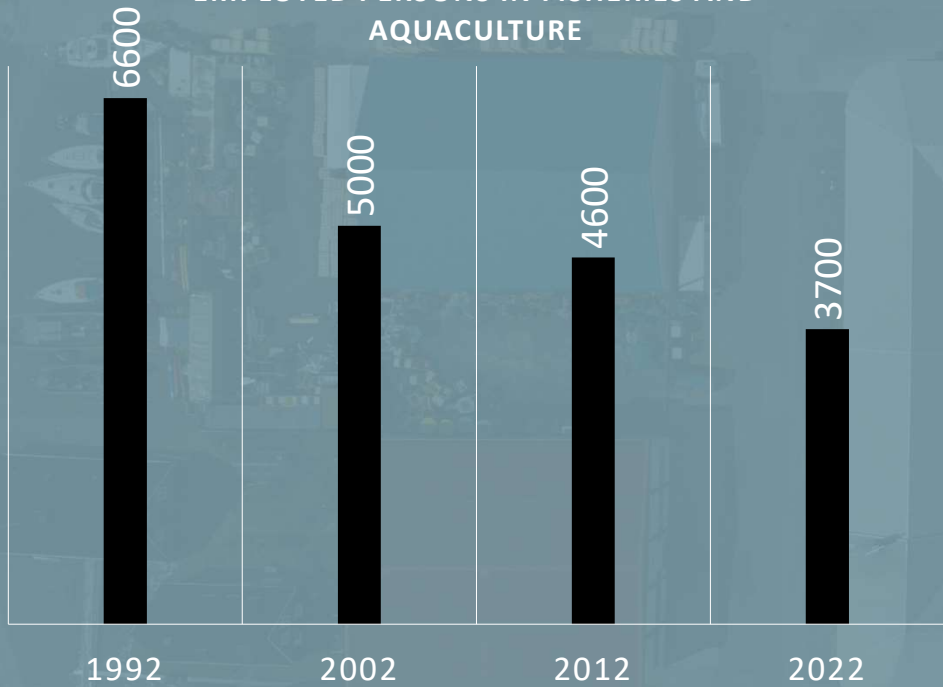
- **Increased landing during summer**
- **Does not attract newcomers**
- **No year-round processing**
- **Olympic fishing**
- **Regional (in-)justice**
- **Very unreliable**

## Regional Quotas

- **Distributional (in-) justice**
- **Used for tourism activities**
- **Tension among fisher**



### EMPLOYED PERSONS IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE



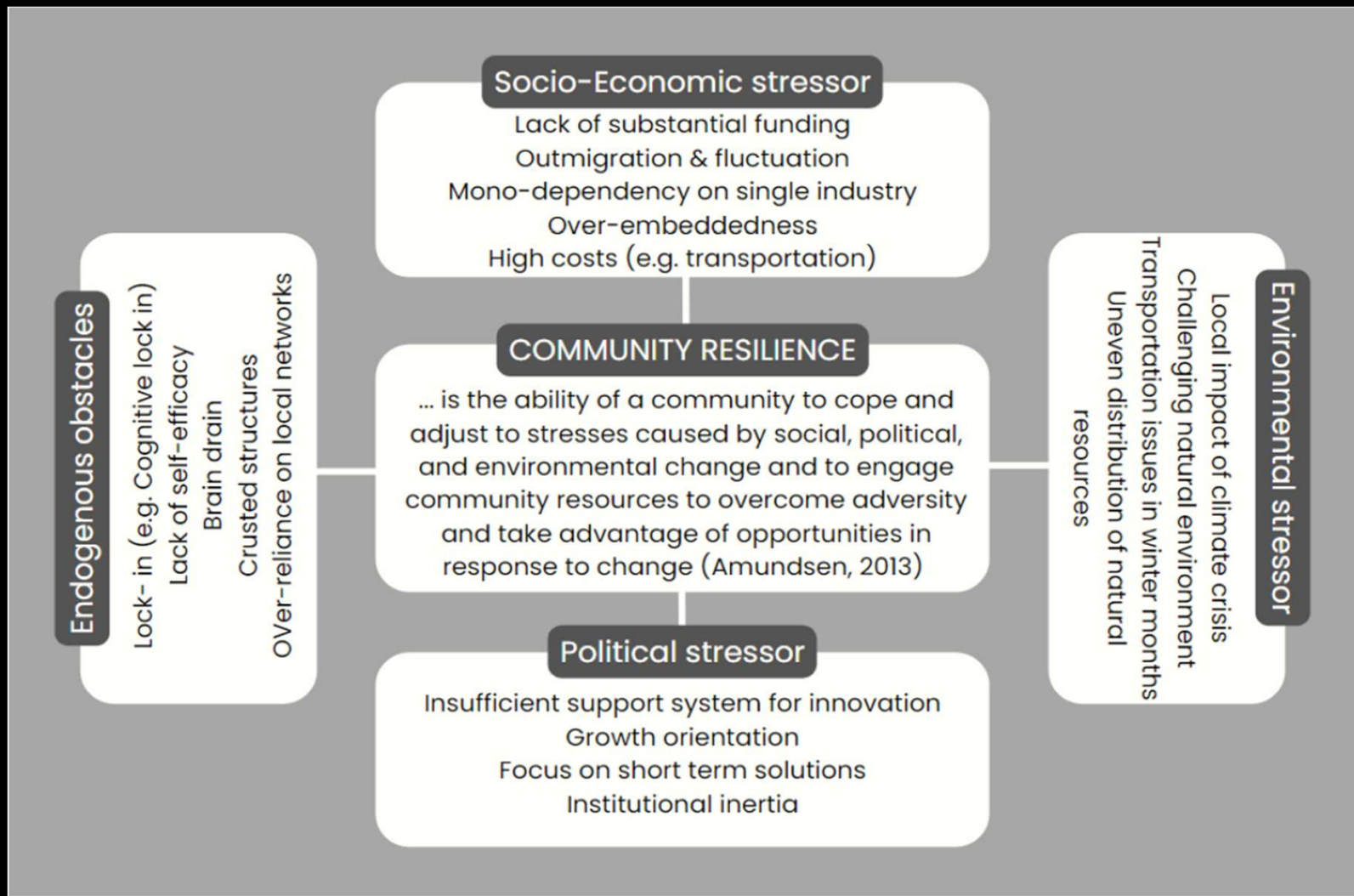
### Number of boats

- **Decreasing number of vessels (loss of 300 in past 20 years)**
- **Trawlers from 73 to 42**
- **One exception: undecked vessels in Westfjords: from 151 to 236**





Future of small and remote communities?



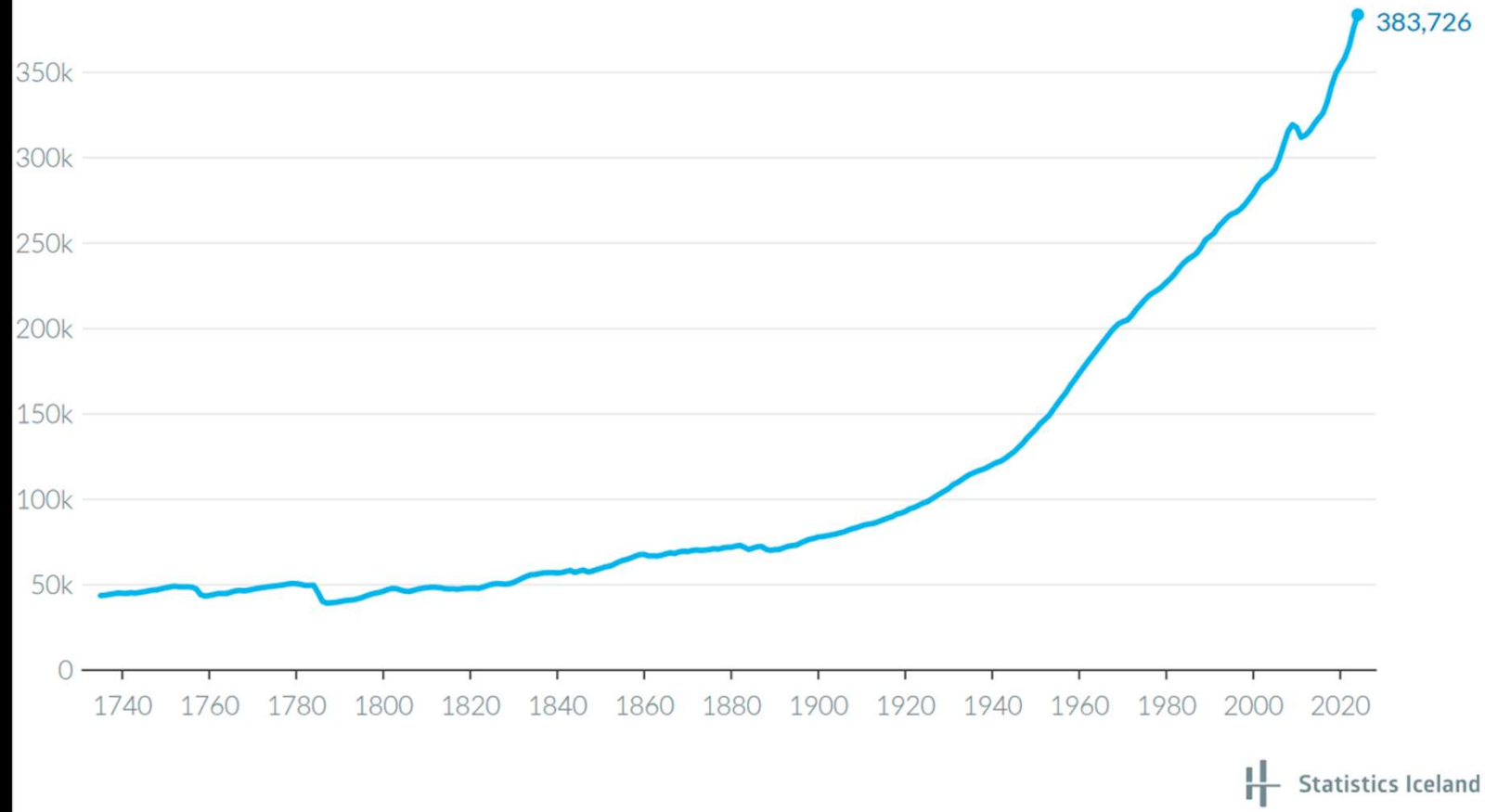
**Fig. 1.** Community Resilience in the context of different external stressors and local obstacles in Iceland.



Future directions

# Population

1st January



## Majority of Residents in Mýrdalur Are Foreign Citizens



Vík í Mýrdal. Morgunblaðið/Sigurður Bogi

Foreign citizens make up more than half of the population of the municipality Mýrdalur, South Iceland, according to new figures from Statistics

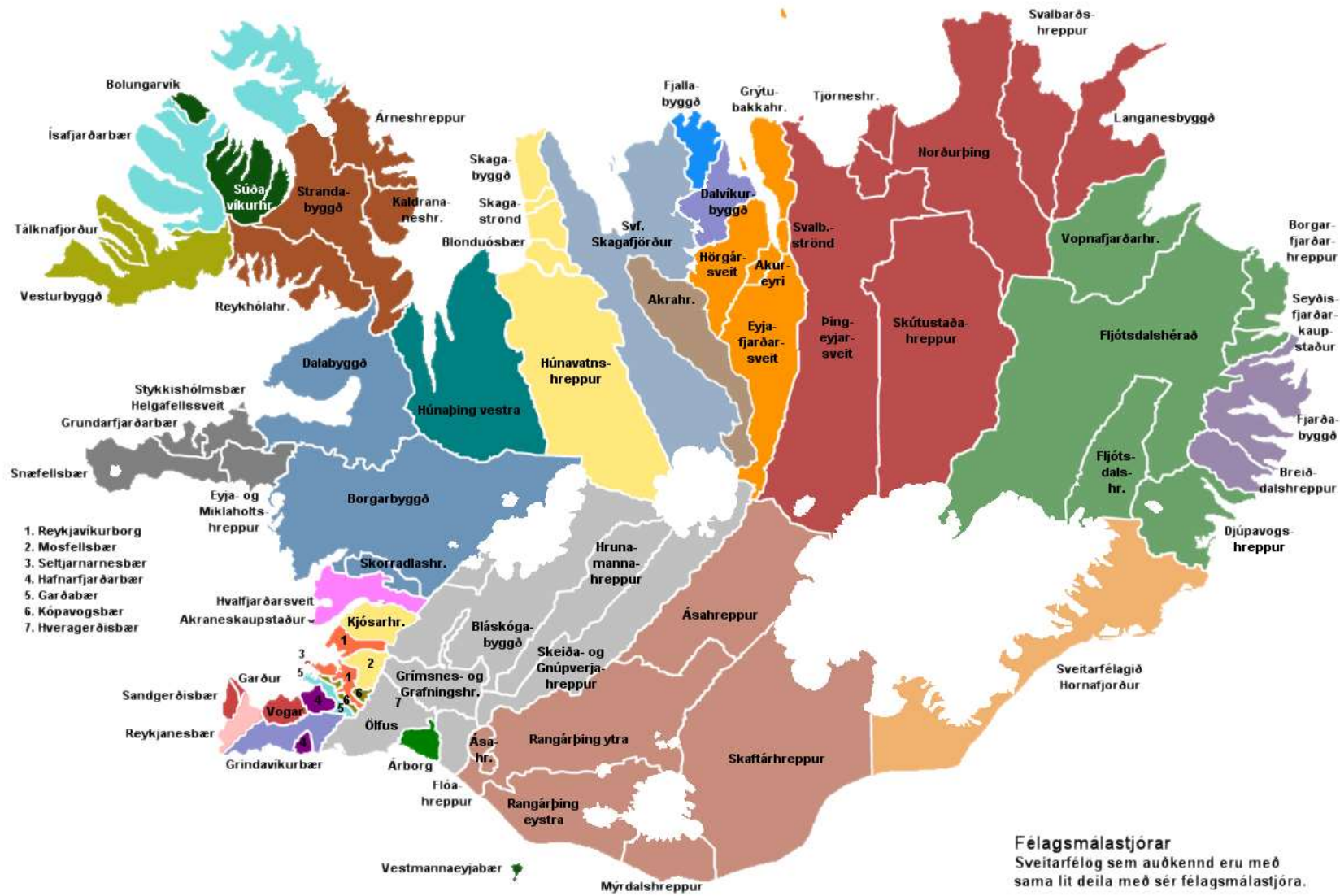
Iceland, *Morgunblaðið* reports. They constitute 51 percent of the population, or 412 residents out of a population of 808. Of those 808, about 540 people live in the village Vík, which is a major tourist attraction.

Vala Hafstað  
vala@mbl.is

		Total
		2023
Reykjavíkurborg	Total	35,017
Bolungarvíkurkaupstaður	Total	281
Ísafjarðarbær	Total	883
Mýrdalshreppur	Total	507
Skaftárhreppur	Total	279

	Percentage
1990	1.9
2004	3.5
2010	6.8
2024	16.6

		<b>Number of localities</b>	<b>Total population</b>	<b>Percent of population</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>Population 100.000 and over</b>	1	239,733	62.5
	<b>Population 10.000 - 99.999</b>	2	41,694	10.9
	<b>Population 5.000 - 9.999</b>	2	18,030	4.7
	<b>Population 2.000 - 4.999</b>	10	28,336	7.4
	<b>Population 1.000 - 1.999</b>	12	16,710	4.4
	<b>Population 500 - 999</b>	14	9,868	2.6
	<b>Population 300 - 499</b>	10	3,838	1.0
	<b>Population 200 - 299</b>	12	3,132	0.8
	<b>Rural areas</b>	34	22,385	5.8

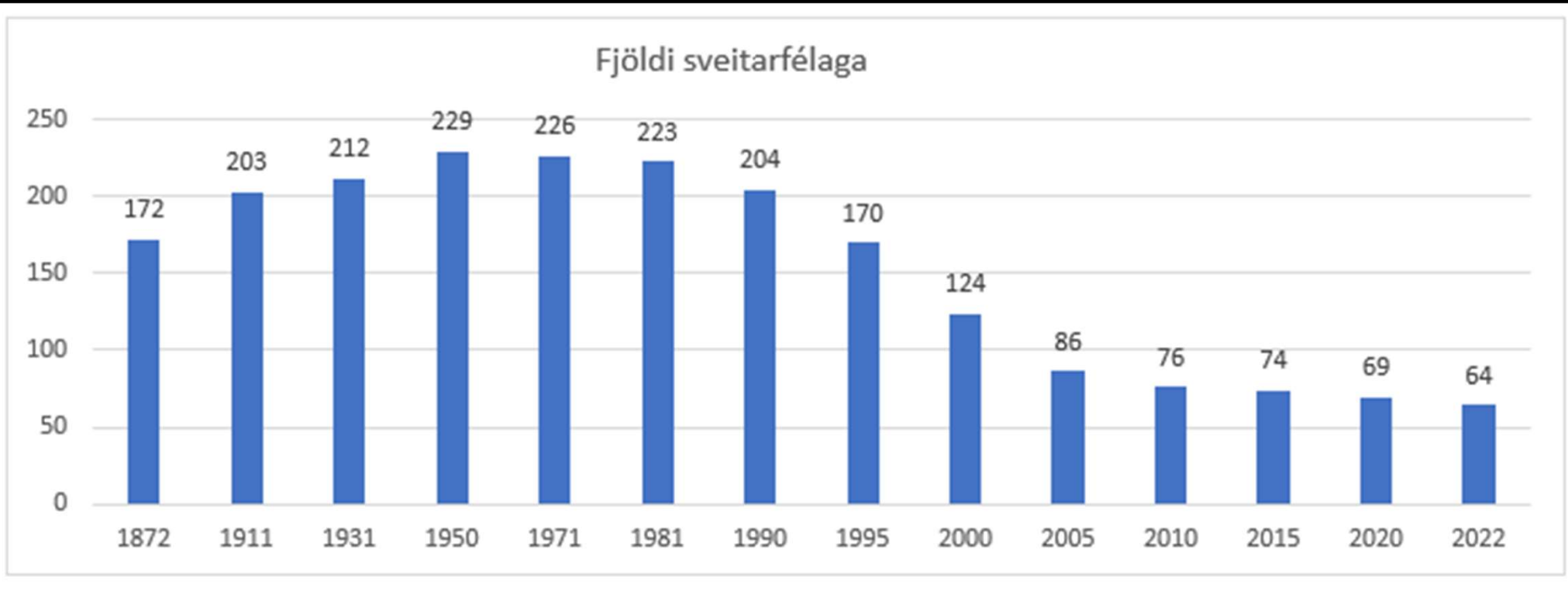


Bolungarvík, Ísafjarðarbær, Tálknafjörður, Vesturbyggð, Reykhólahr., Strandabyggð, Árneshreppur, Kaldrananeshr., Skagaströnd, Skagabyggð, Blönduósibær, Sví. Skagafjörður, Akrah., Fjallabyggð, Grytu-bakkahr., Tjorneshr., Norðurþing, Svalbarðshreppur, Langanesbyggð, Borgarfjarðarhreppur, Seyðisfjarðar-kaupstaður, Fjarðabyggð, Breiðdalshreppur, Djúpvogshreppur, Svalb.-strönd, Vopnafjarðarhr., Fliótsdalshérað, Fliótsdalshr., Skútustaða-hreppur, Þing-eyjar-sveit, Eyja-fjarðar-sveit, Húnaþing vestra, Húnavatns-hreppur, Dalabyggð, Stykkishólmsbær, Helgafellssveit, Grundarfjarðarbær, Snæfellsbær, Eyja- og Miklaholts-hreppur, Borgarbyggð, Hrunanna-hreppur, Ásahreppur, Skaftárhreppur, Sveitarfélagið Hornafjörður, Skorradalshr., Kjósarhr., Bláskóga-byggð, Skeiða- og Gnúpverja-hreppur, Rangárþing ytra, Rangárþing eystra, Mýrdalshreppur, Hvalfjarðarsveit, Akraneskaupstaður, Grimsnes- og Grafningshr., Ölfus, Ásborg, Flóa-hreppur, Vestmannaeyjabær, Sandgerðisbær, Garður, Vogar, Reykjanesbær, Grindavíkurbær, Árþing, Flóa-hreppur, Vestmannaeyjabær

1. Reykjavíkurborg
2. Mosfellsbær
3. Seltjarnarnesbær
4. Hafnarfjarðarbær
5. Garðabær
6. Kópavogsbær
7. Hveragerðisbær

**Félagsmálastjór**  
Sveitarfélög sem auðkennd eru með sama lit deila með sér félagsmálastjóra.

# Number of municipalities in Iceland







# Municipality Mergers

An aerial photograph of a port area. A large blue and white cargo ship is docked at a concrete pier. The pier has yellow safety markings and some equipment. In the foreground, there's a parking lot with several cars and a building. The background shows more of the port and the sea.

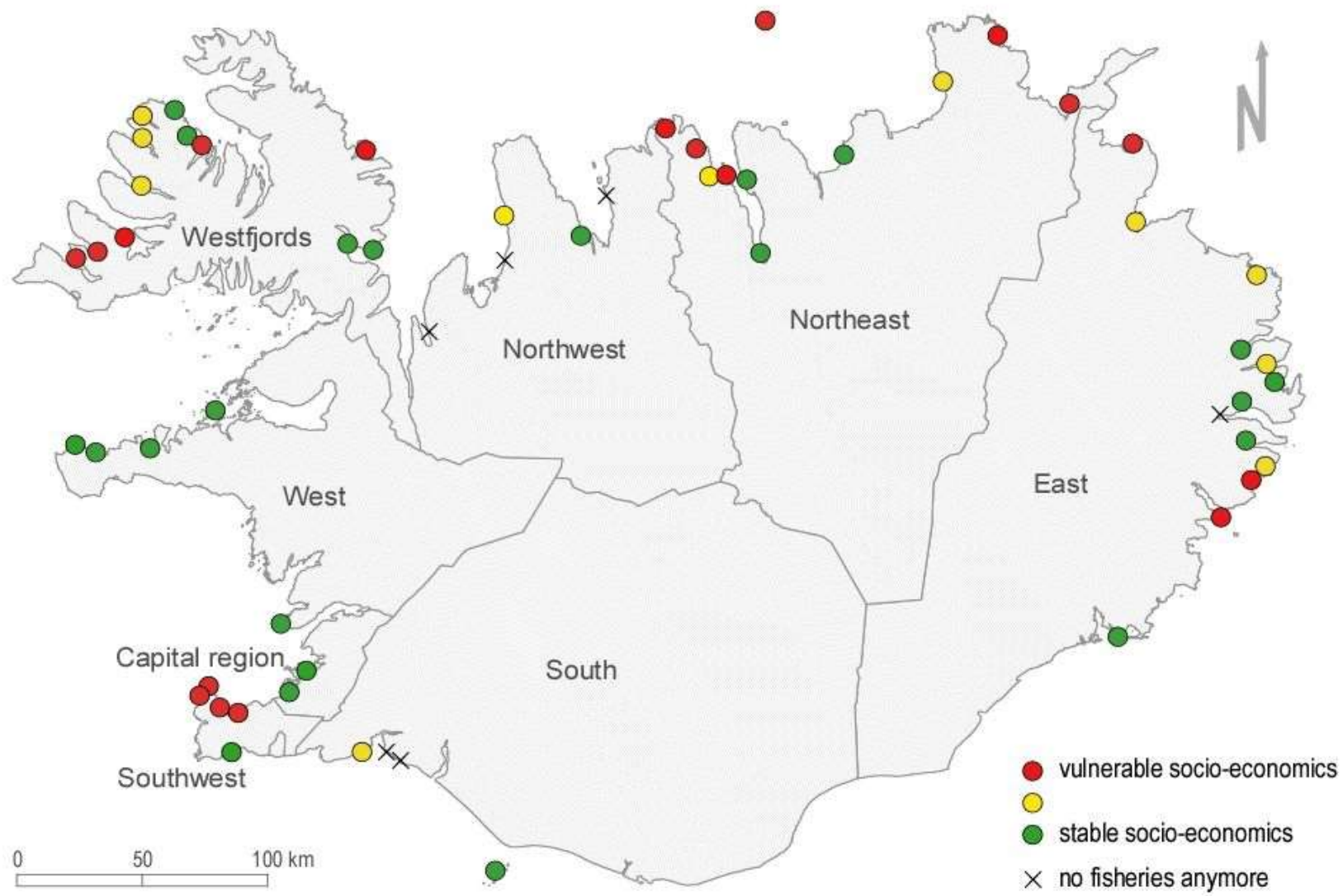
# Tasks of municipalities

- **Education**
- **Social services**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Anything else?**

An aerial photograph of a port area. A large blue and white cargo ship is docked at a concrete pier. The pier has yellow safety markings and some equipment. In the background, there are more buildings and a parking lot with several cars. The sky is clear and blue.

# **Municipality finances**

- **Taxes**
- **Subsidies**
- **Private  
investors**





Which challenges come  
with mergers?



## **Workshop on municipality mergers - Your task**

**You will work in groups and discuss whether the town called Sjárbyggð should merge with the one of the other municipalities in the region (Eldfjallafjörður and Jöklabær).**

**For making an informed decision, you will receive some key figures on socio-economics, demographics and the local industry, as well as one short text about the town Sjárbyggð. Take a close look at the financial situation of Sjárbyggð. In case you recommend not to merge: what opportunities do you see to overcome the financial constraints?**





**THANKS FOR LISTENING**



**CONTACT INFO**

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