

Feeding Fish to Save the World?

Transitioning towards responsible and circular aquacultures: understanding the entanglements between marine sustainability, policy and society



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Background and motivation

Thomas Völker is working as a SEAS fellow at UiB's Senter for Vitenskapsteori (SVT). His research focuses on environmental governance and on attempts of transitioning towards more sustainable aquacultures. More specifically, Thomas is interested in the development of novel feeds as a case of implementing circular economy policies and introducing principles of responsible research and innovation (RRI) in Norway.

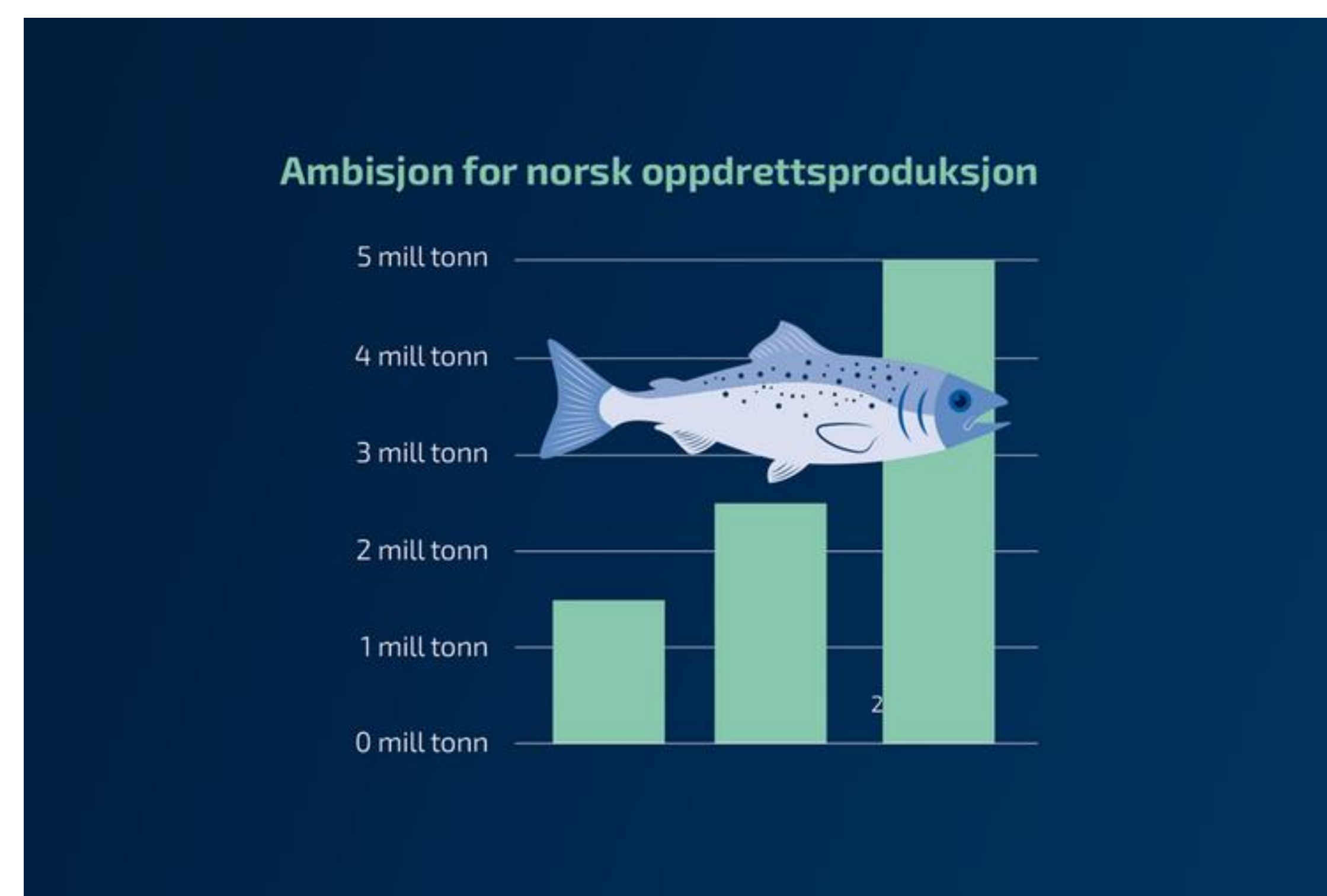
Project description

This project explores how ideas of responsible research and innovation as well as calls for a transition towards a more circular economy are translated in debates of producing salmon feed more sustainably. The overarching aim is to develop recommendations for the broader and policy-relevant question "How can Norwegian aquaculture become more responsible, sustainable and circular and how can activities under the heading of 'marine sustainability' contribute to that?"



Recent and future activities

- Publication of a report on environmental governance with the European Environment Agency (EEA): "[Governance in complexity - Sustainability governance under highly uncertain and complex conditions](#)" in June 2024
- Participation in Centre for Digital Life Norway 'walkshop' "[Rethinking Value Creation in Life Science for a Sustainable Future](#)" in September 2024
- Collaboration with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre on a project on [bioeconomy narratives and land-use change](#)
- Organization of Workshop "SSH perspectives on fish feed" in December 2024



SINTEF visualization: https://www.sintef.no/en/sintef-research-areas/biomarine_resources/this-is-why-we-need-sustainable-feed/

Empirical research

- Fish nutrition science as epistemic community, culture and practice
- Samfunnsoppdraget om berekraftig fôr as a site of classification
- Salmon farming and fish feed – enacting sustainability and responsibility

Marine sustainability

The project will develop pathways on which Norwegian aquaculture can become more responsible, sustainable, and circular. In addition, the project will empirically look at how ideas like marine sustainability, circularity and responsibility are understood by the actors in the field of fish nutrition science and feed production.

Supervisory team

Prof. Roger Strand, Senter for Vitenskapsteori

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