

ET LEVENDE HAV

Vi kjemper for fisken, folket og fremtida

VÅRE SAKER

© Erling Svensen

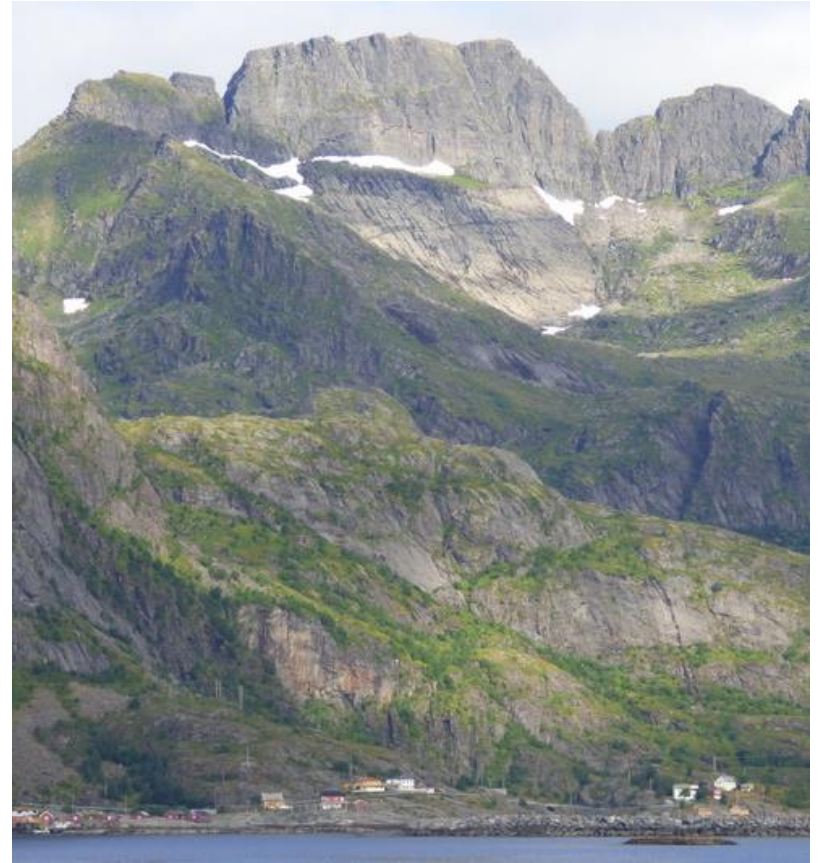


History and mission of the newly established
“Folkeaksjonen LEVE HAVET” for safeguarding the
marine environment and sustainable fishery around
Lofoten, Vesterålen and Senja
in Northern Norway.

Karin Olsen,
Hallig Langeneß, 13.4.2025

Lofoten, Vesterålen & Senja





My first Impressions of Lofoten



Lofoten





Lofotfiske:

- The main reason that helped people to survive economically. Fishermen from all the coasts of Norway came and gathered together with the indigenous people

North East Atlantic Cod

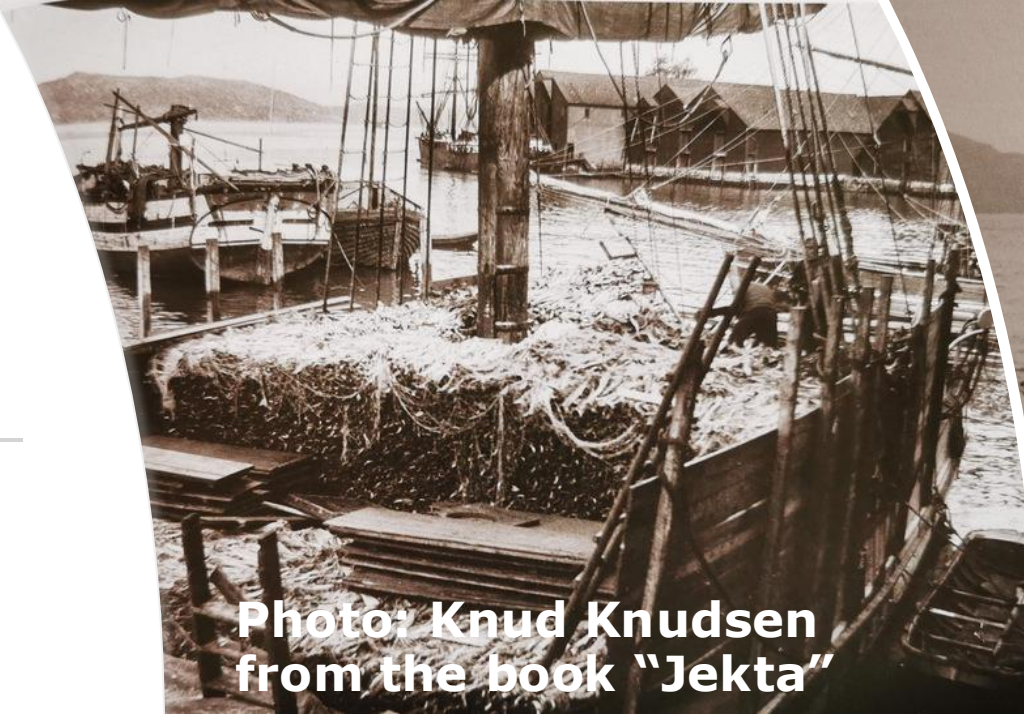
- It is from January to the end of April this special cod population, which lives in the Barents Sea («north east atlantic cod»), comes down to the LoVeSe area to spawn.



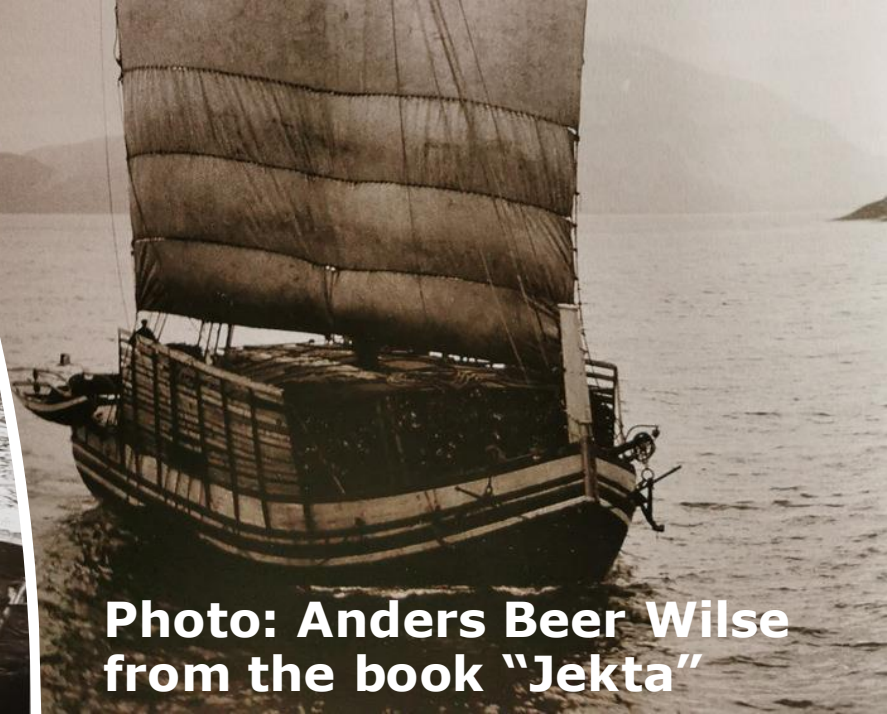
Fish racks

It was a different time...

- over many centuries an important source of income, especially in the North of Norway.



**Photo: Knud Knudsen
from the book "Jekta"**



**Photo: Anders Beer Wilse
from the book "Jekta"**



Oljefritt LoVeSe

- Long time it was a poor region. But when oil was discovered on the Norwegian continental shelf in 1969, people saw it as an opportunity for a wealthier future.
- 1996 Equinor was granted permission to search for oil just near Røst. In 2001 Hydro was ready to start drilling a survey well; got stopped only just in time



Why oil drilling was opposed



- *Seismic shooting* disrupts marine life, mainly of fish and whales: and – it is ongoing all the time while there is oil drilling, since oil production depends on that technology
- After the earlier tests it took about six years for pollock populations to recover.
- *Oil spill* would have severe environmental and economic consequences:
 - destroying the spawning ground for the three most commercially important fish species, cod, haddock and pollock, for a long time
 - being particularly destructive for the north east atlantic cod which still is extremely important for the LoVeSe region
 - killing birds
- *Drilling* would disturb/destroy areas of the cold-water coral reef.



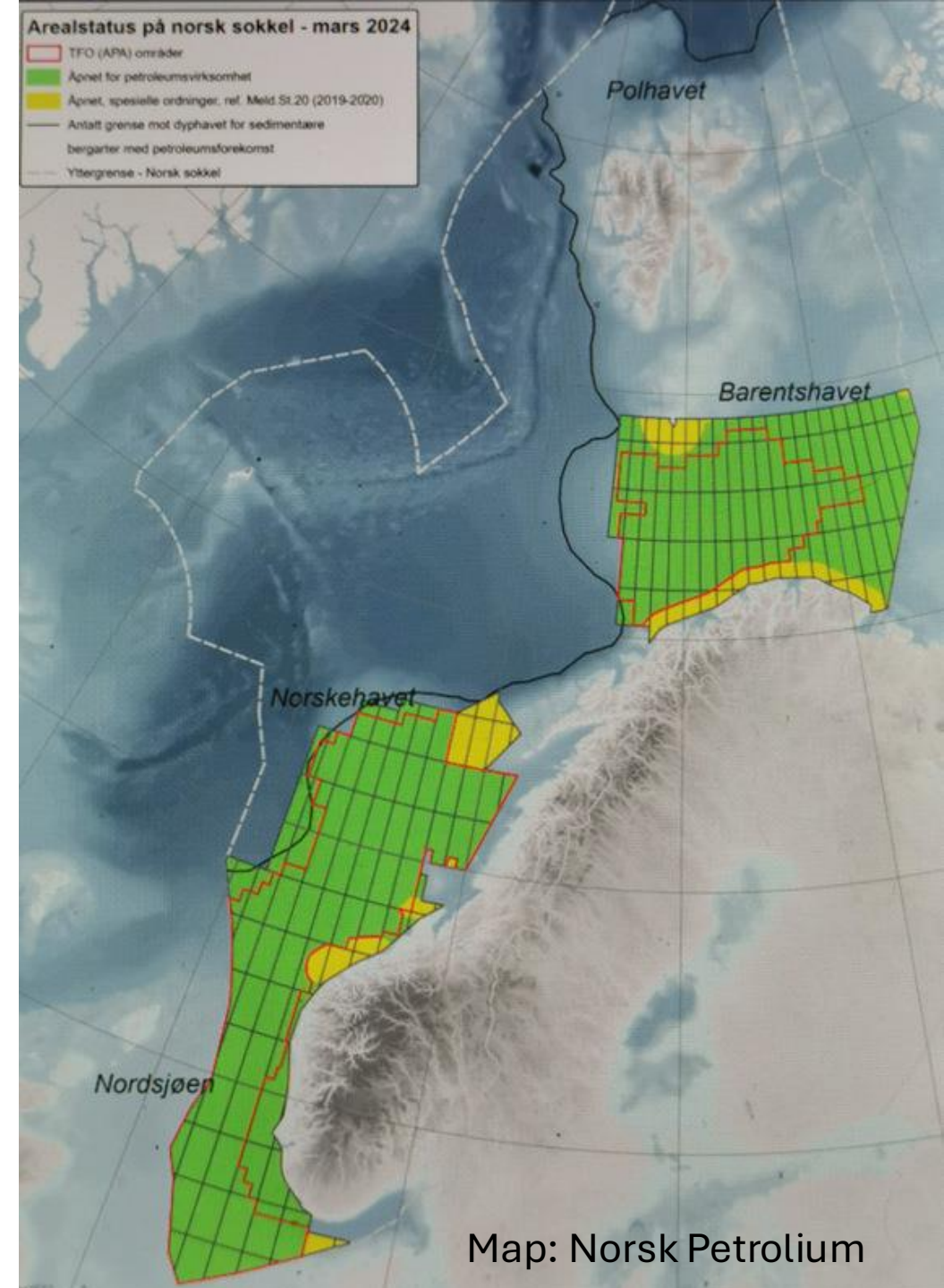
Not only fish...

- LoVeSe is known for its unique and particularly rich biodiversity



We were opposing
oil and gas
development also
because

- for the first time oil drilling would take place *near the coast*
- of the narrow shelf, the nearest drilling could happen only 20 km from the coast compared to the usual 100-200 km



How the resistance succeeded

- A broad alliance of very different people came together in the resistance
- Use of reliable information and cooperation with researchers
- Widespread information campaigns using media and direct contact with politicians, both local and national
- Arrangements, events in small groups, and big festivals
- Cairn fires all over Norway on special days
- Wall paintings on houses in Lofoten
- Even distribution of a cookbook with cod as the main ingredient to all new members
- **!!! 2016 all six municipalities of Lofoten were against oil drilling**





It seemed we had won...

A celebration party was organized and the Folkeaksjonen Oljefritt LoVeSe disbanded



“Folkeaksjonen Leve Havet” was born



Photo: Moreano/ MRI

Some days before the dreary event of shutting down the people's action movement "Oil-free LoVeSe", **the 1. of March 2023** a group of seven members of the dying organization founded a new organization:

«Folkeaksjonen LEVE HAVET»

«Peoples Organization LET THE SEA LIVE»

The previous successes need to be secured...

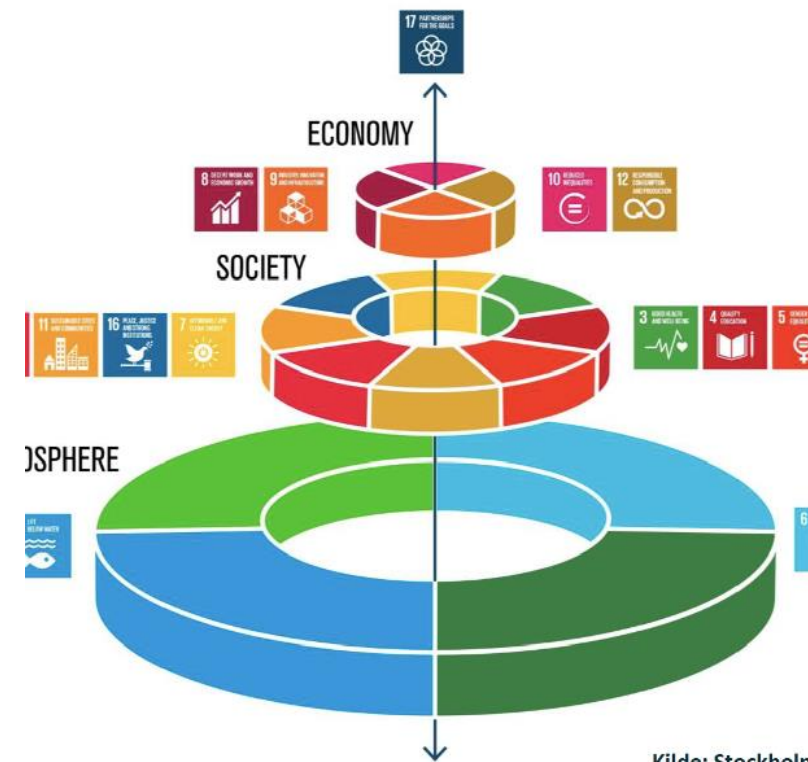
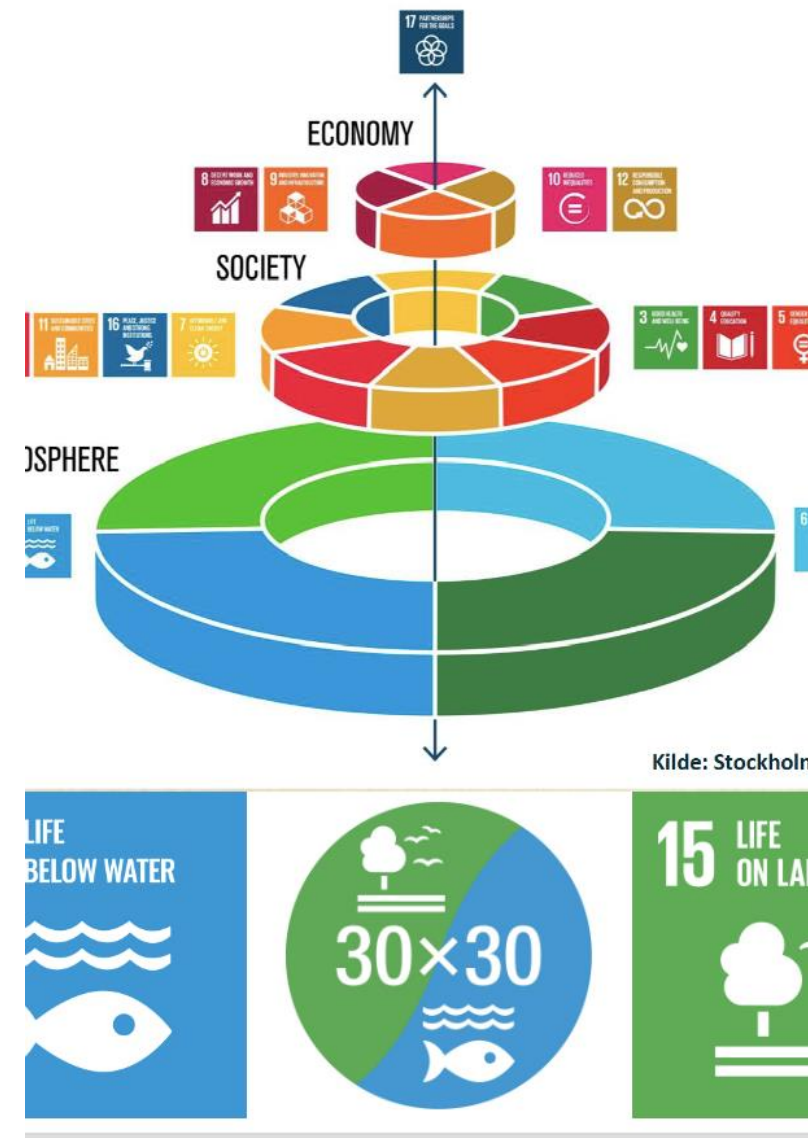
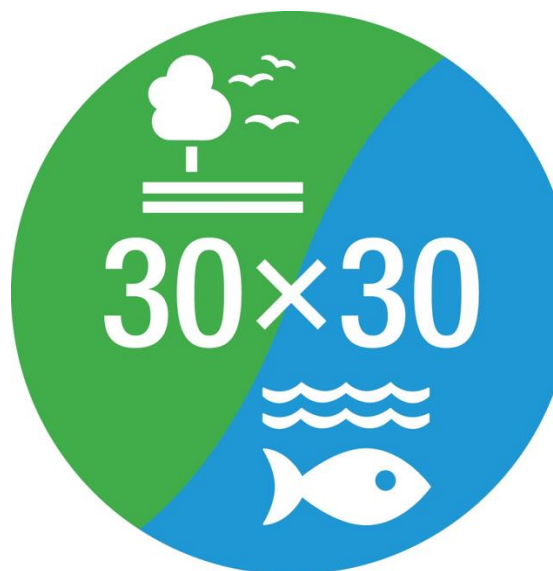
- unlike our predecessor we not only focus on the LoVeSe region but also on protecting marine areas in the South of Norway and in the Barents sea in the North

we base our work on

--- the 2022 UN
**Landmark Agreement of
30x30, to protect 30 % of our
marine area**

--- the Sustainable
**Development Goal
14, "Conserve and sustainably
use the oceans, seas and
marine resources for
sustainable development"**

--- the Norwegian
«Havressursloven»



Kilde: Stockholm

Our Goals include:

- stopping oil/gass exploration
- banning deep-sea mining
- promoting sustainable fishing methods
- reducing noise pollution in marine environments
- protecting Norwegian marine nature, culture, and traditions, for example by stopping depositing mining waste in the sea

Our work is guided by:

- dialogue with local people, researchers, politicians and organizations concerned about marine problems
- **Looking ahead, we are also considering the establishment of a Lofoten Biosphere Reserve or even an UNESCO World Heritage designation for the region.**



New threats, even new proposals for oil development in the area, are coming up again

- We need new coalitions, which recently started, when we demonstrated together with other NGOs, such as WWF and Friends of the Earth (Naturvernforbundet), against a new oil development proposal of the political party “Høyre”





<https://folkeaksjonenlevehavet.com>

