

Study Guide



An Introductory Level study
guide for exploring the
FisherCoast Exhibition



FisherCoast Exhibition: Coastal Transformations

Study Guide

This Study Guide will help students identify some of the key themes within the FisherCoast Exhibition and consider the advantages and limitations of using multiple approaches to gather and communicate social science data.

It is intended for Introductory Level courses but can be adapted to meet requirements for lower/higher levels.

The guide includes:

1. A brief summary of the research.
2. Three question prompts - on the theme of representing data; gender; coastal change; and heritage and identity.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Learn to assess information and identify key themes from a variety of different sources.
- Identify local, global and environmental drivers of change and how they can impact on coastal communities.
- Recognise how a gendered approach can offer different perspectives to evaluating social change.
- Identify relevant examples to apply a cultural heritage perspective to evaluating the impact of coastal change.
- Evaluate the benefits and limitations of using different methods to collect and communicate research findings.



Why Study the Coast?

Coastal communities have historically been reliant of the sea to make a living. Changes to fishing practices, the shift to tourism, oil, gas and windmills, alongside physical or environmental change inevitably impact of the people who live and work in coastal communities.

But how exactly do these changes affect their lives? Do men and women experience these changes equally? Who are the 'winners' and 'losers' of industrialisation or modernisation along the coast? How do these changes affect the way people feel about the place they live in? Their sense of belonging or continuity?

The FisherCoast team decided to ask these questions across coastal communities that had experiences significant change in India, Norway, the UK and Slovenia.

The multidisciplinary, international team brought together academics interested in political ecology, anthropology, heritage studies, development, gender and human geography. They used a multi-method approach that drew on archive material, statistical information, satellite data, and contemporary interviews.

The resulting FisherCoast Exhibition has maintained this diversity of methods, communicating findings through satellite images, life histories, ethnographic films, and photo materials amongst others, to tell the story of continuity and change in coastal communities.

This rich collection of data forms the basis of this study guide, encouraging students to explore for themselves what can be learnt from the material found on the Exhibition pages.



Questions

The following questions will help you think about how and why the researchers put the Exhibition together in the way they did. You should answer all three questions, picking one theme from question 2.

The FisherCoast Exhibition: <https://fishercoast.si/>

Q1: Why present data in this way?

Explore the whole Exhibition and answer the following questions:

1) Identify:

- a) What different methods have the researchers used to communicate their findings?

2) Discuss:

- a) What do you think are the advantages/limitations of communicating through these methods?

3) Consider:

- a) Why do you think the researchers chose such a wide variety of methods to collect and present data?
- b) What 'story' are they trying to tell?

Q2. How can we evaluate coastal change?

Choose one of the following themes and try to answer the associated questions:

- Coastal Change
- Gender
- Heritage and Identity

Suggestions on where to begin your search are given for each theme.



Q2a. Coastal Change

(see films, statistics, maps, and archives)

Changes to the coast, whether environmental, economic or social, can significantly transform the lives of people who live and work in coastal communities. Such changes can often be uneven, resulting in multiple 'winners' and 'losers'. When evaluating the impact of coastal change, it is important to consider whose voices might not be being heard.

1) Identify:

- a) What examples of change to coastal communities or fishing practices can you find in the examples?
- b) Can you identify any of the causes of these changes? (*local, global or environmental*)
- c) What types of difficulties do people say they are facing in these communities?
- d) Can you find any examples of how people might have adapted to these changes (*adaptive strategies*)?

2) Discuss:

- a) Who are the 'winners' and 'losers' of coastal change?
- b) What types of benefits and/or negative impacts can coastal change bring?

3) Consider:

- a) Think about the types of changes that have occurred. Is change more accelerated on the coast? Why might this be?
- b) Why might certain sections of the community want to resist changes to fishing industries?
- c) Think about the people who adapted or are facing difficulties – how much voice/agency do you think they have to influence these changes?



Q2b. Gender

(see films, women in fishing, and life histories, statistics)

Society is often organised so that men and women's lives are stratified along different expectations and opportunities. This often translates to differences in access to resources, available livelihoods and mobility. Understanding these differences is important to evaluating the impact of coastal change.

1) Identify:

- a) What roles have women had in the fishing industry/coastal communities?
- b) How have women's roles changed?
- c) Can you identify any of the causes of these changes?

2) Discuss:

- a) Why might these roles be considered 'hidden'?
- b) How are women's experiences different to the men's experiences?
- c) How might changes in coastal industries affect women differently?

3) Consider:

- a) What are the advantages of looking from a gender perspective?
- b) What other perspectives/intersections could researchers consider?



Q2c. Heritage and Identity

(See following the fish, films, life histories)

Local activities, objects and places often hold deep emotional meaning for people. These intangible memories and feeling can be crucial to a sense of belonging and local identity. Exploring the cultural heritage of coastal communities can help us understand why there might be fierce local resistance to change and/or what cultural losses change might bring.

1) Identify:

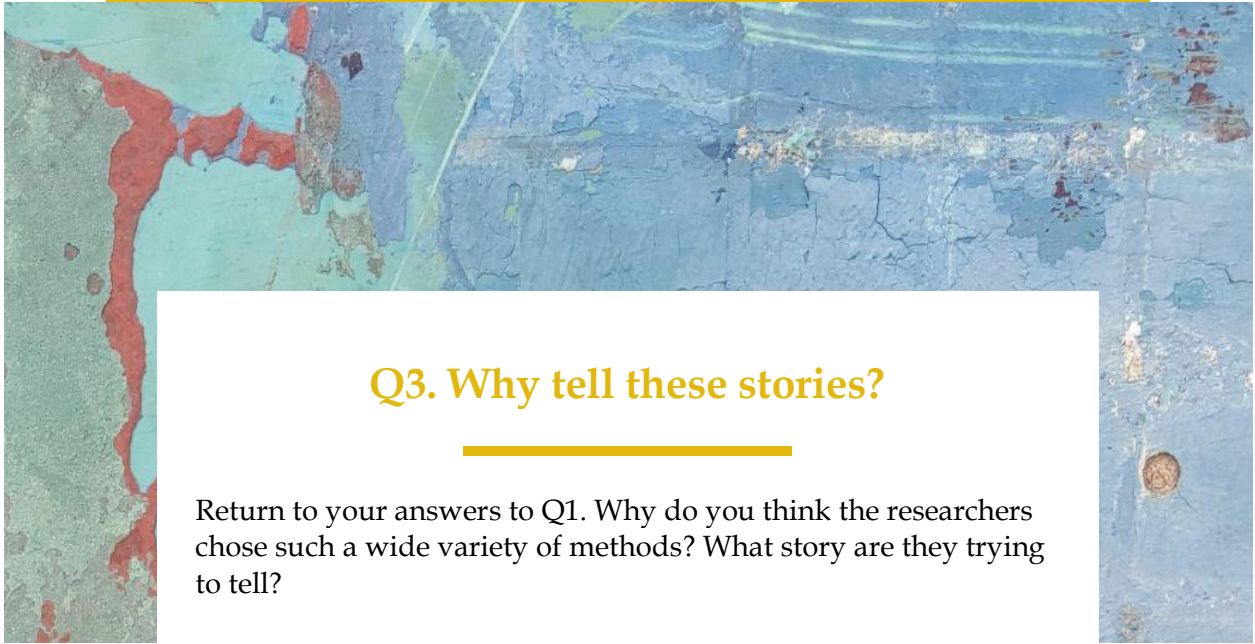
- a) What examples can you find of an emotional connection to the fishing industry? *(this might be people's sense of heritage, fun, memories, identity, sense of loss or freedom).*
- b) What types of cultural heritage or social meaning is associated with certain fish species?

2) Discuss:

- a) When fishing industries go into decline what type of social/cultural 'losses' might people experience?
- b) How might the decline in certain fish species or the loss of the fishing industry have intangible changes on fishing communities?

3) Consider:

- a) Why might it be important to consider the emotional, sentimental attachment people have to fish/fishing when planning for coastal changes?
- b) How might traditional coastal practices be linked to issues of sustainability or the ecological future of the coast?



Q3. Why tell these stories?

Return to your answers to Q1. Why do you think the researchers chose such a wide variety of methods? What story are they trying to tell?

Having explored the key themes (Coastal Change, Gender, Heritage and Identity), can you expand on your answer?

Discuss:

- 1) What messages do you think the researchers are trying to get across in this Exhibition?
- 2) Why did they focus on the stories of these particular people?

Consider:

- 3) What are the advantages of using diverse method to collect and communicate research on the impact of coastal change?



Sergio Perentin (Photo credits: Maritime Museum 'Sergej Mašera' Piran)

If you would like to leave feedback on this resource, please email:
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This Study Guide was produced by Natalie Djohari based on material from the FisherCoast Exhibition.