

# Preface

This book describes the changes and the driving forces in the trading pattern of codfish (Bacalao) between the Nordic and the Iberian countries. This trade has a long historic origin based on the food demand originated from the catholic people's preference for seafood in the lent season and the availability of big cod resources in the North Atlantic.

The bacalao trade has been an important contribution for the human existence and heritage over centuries in the fishing communities in Norway, Iceland, Faroe Island and Canada as well as for the southern Europe cuisine tradition. Many of the authors have a background in this culture; others have developed their cultural understanding through their research.

The book is a result of long term academic cooperation between the Universities of Bergen, Tromsø, Salamanca, Alicante and Santiago de Compostela and the former University College of Finnmark (now part of University of Tromsø, The Arctic University of Norway).

The main funding for the research project came from the Norwegian Research Council (Food Programme). The participation and partial project financing from the Export Council of Norway and the Norwegian Fishermen's Sales Organisation were also important for the research-based process. Sparebank 1 Nord-Norge's endowment fund gave also an important financial contribution for the Salted Fish Academy course in Galicia, Spain through the Seafood Centre at Vardo High School, Nordkapp Maritime College and High School and the then University College of Finnmark.

Particularly important project supporters were the manufacturers of bacalao Cape Fish Group from Honningsvåg, with its director Bjørn Ronald Olsen and his production manager Bernt Nicolaisen, as well as the firm Norfra from Tromsø and its director Steinar Eliassen and the leader of its Nordvågen facility, Odd Magne Nylund.

In Spain the project was considerably influenced by the organization ANFABASA-Asociación Nacional de Fabricantes de Bacalao y Salazones and their member manufacturers.

The project was managed by the Department of Geography at the University of Bergen. Siren Juliussen was project assistant in the project's first section. Research technician, Kjell Helge Sjøstrøm contributed with many of the book's maps and figures. The head of department, Svein Olaf Dahl, the head of administration, Gro

Aase and the economic consultant Marianne Soltveit have been important supporters of the project. The editors and project managers would like to thank all the institutions and individuals mentioned, for their positive participation and cooperation.

Finally, let us also mention two key names in the effort to transform research reports to scientific publications.. Professor Roger Hayter from Simon Fraser University in Canada was very important as a scientific advisor in the writing process. Dr. Heidi Bjønnes Larsen performed a key part of the editorial work on the first editorial phase. We thank them for their contribution.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to our co-authors!

Let's just finally remind you that all scientific conclusions and formulations are solely the responsibility of the individual authors!

Bergen and Tromsø  
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