

Katja Enberg, Associate Professor in Fisheries Science

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I am running for the department board of BIO because I think that my international and intersectoral experience, doer-personality, and fearlessness ahead of new tasks makes me a useful member of the board able to constructively contribute to the development of BIO.

I am afraid that the BIO department board currently does not fulfil the important role it could and should have. [Rules for the governing bodies at the faculties and departments](#) state that «*The department board shall process, make decisions on behalf of the department and make a recommendation to the faculty or other superior body in matters concerning: i) Research report, researcher education report, education report and other **strategy and result documents** prepared by the institute; ii) Any restructuring and reorganization plans; iii) **Budget proposals, annual budget and annual accounts**; iv) **Significant changes** in the department's study offerings, in particular related to study programs, syllabi, teaching, examinations and course and program evaluations.* " In addition, "*In remaining cases, the department board is an advisory **information and contact body between the head of department, all employees and students.***" Besides, "*There shall be as much **openness as possible** about the governing bodies' work". It may be that the BIO department board processes and makes decisions in matters listed above, but it is difficult to know because the last meeting protocol available is from [September 2019](#), and I can unfortunately not say that I experience that it functions as an information and contact body for all employees and students.*



The challenging financial situation at BIO is an example where better communication could reduce the unrest among us employees that feel we do not receive enough information about the causes, consequences or measures related to these financial challenges. **If I become a member of the BIO department board, my goal is to increase transparency around the decision-making and strategy processes and contribute to increased communication within BIO.** A good place to start is to inform staff and students of the meetings and hold them with open doors as the above-mentioned [Rules for the governing bodies](#) mandates and make the protocols openly available.

Short summary of my experience relevant for the BIO department board:

I received my PhD in evolutionary ecology from the University of Helsinki in 2005, and have experience from research environments in UK, Austria, USA, and Norway. I have worked with practical fisheries assessment and management nationally and internationally, providing **scientific advice** on sustainable use of fish resources, and as the head of the Research and Advice Program for the Norwegian Sea at the Institute of Marine Research, working with **strategic planning**, implementation and follow-up of > 40 internally and externally funded project and controlling that the annual total budget of ca. 180 million kr was kept, as well as national responsibility for scientific management advice for fish stocks within the Norwegian Sea.

Membership (2015-2019) and leadership (vice-chair 2016-2017) in [Young Academy of Norway](#) gave me insight into and opportunity to contribute to debates and consultations on **research policy**, and I have continued engaging in public discussion on research and **education policy, equality and gender balance**.

Since starting as an associate professor at BIO in autumn 2018, I have focused on **sustainability education**, by designing the **interdisciplinary** course [SDG214](#) (read my article on it [here](#)), serving as the scientific director of the [Bergen Summer Research School in 2021](#), and being responsible for the development of the interdisciplinary sustainability course [SDG200](#). I currently lead the [Sustainability Education Collective](#) (Bærekraftskollegiet), a forum to exchange experiences, knowledge and ideas for improved teaching and learning with members from all UiB-faculties, initiated together with Yael Harlap from the Department of Education (check out [our article](#)). I am also a board member of the [Sustainability masters' programme](#).

My **research** is motivated by both **fundamental understanding** and **utility to society**. My main research tool is simulation modelling, trying to build models incorporating mechanistic understanding and often evolutionary considerations. I often combine insights from evolutionary ecology into management related questions, and I am keen on finding sustainable solutions for using our natural resources. You can read more about my research from my [home page](#).