



Andreas Westerberg, a profile

Andreas Westerberg, 33, joined the BOBP-IGO in Chennai as Fishery Officer in FAO's Global Project on Safety at Sea for Small-Scale Fisheries in Developing Countries (South Asia) in late 2008. The assignment is till June 2009.

Andreas hails from Linköping, Östergötland, Sweden, where he served as a Project Coordinator for the Swedish Maritime Administration (SMA). An economist, Andreas also holds a post-graduate degree in Maritime Affairs from the World Maritime University, Malmö, and in Business Administration from the University of Gothenburg. He is also an able seaman trained in Crowd Management, Small Pleasure Craft Driving and VHF operation.

Andreas is enjoying his first overseas assignment – exploring local culture, experimenting with local cuisine, and helping out a children's NGO. He is a linguist (proficient in Swedish, English, Spanish, French and Portuguese) and a competent photographer. He talked with Bay of Bengal News about his life and career.

Q: What were your duties at the Swedish Maritime Administration?

A: I worked with a project to offer a Search and Rescue (SAR) Mission Coordination Course for Estonia. I also assisted the SAR unit at the SMA and the Marine Rescue Coordination Centre. I was responsible for collecting SAR-related information, project planning, monitoring and implementation.

Q: Please elaborate on your safety-at-sea related experiences.

A: A major goal of the SMA is to provide sustainable transportation nationwide. Safe shipping for trading

and fishing vessels is an integral component of sustainability. All our projects, including those I planned and implemented, aimed at enhancing safety at sea. Earlier, I helped prepare a report on "Survey of strategic Swedish ports" for the government. This work provided exposure to maritime governance in Sweden and inter-agency responsibility sharing, which I hope will prove useful in this project.

As financial officer in another project, concerned with masterplan studies for the development of fairways in the Baltic Sea, I enabled conflict resolution between fishing vessels and larger merchant vessels for safe fairways.

As regards technical experience, I have served as a pilot dispatcher in the Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) center in Göteborg – a heavily congested area often used as a working area by fishing vessels. I carried out coordination/logistic activities relating to piloting in the Port of Göteborg.

While with the T/S Gunilla soon after my business administration studies, I was busy with fire drills, 'man overboard' drills and other safety drills.

Q: You have been an editor and teacher as well.

A: I worked for some time with *Smålandsposten*, a daily newspaper, as local editor. I took photographs, wrote several articles and handled day-to-day editorial work. This experience proved handy for producing an annual report on the development of the Swedish maritime sector for the SMA in 2006. I have also published several articles in journals of the World Maritime University and the University of Gothenburg.