# On the Cod´s Tail

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Abstract:

From the beginning of the settlement and especially after 1200, fishing was a key element in the economy of Iceland. Many fishing stations have been recorded and some excavated. A few of them date back to the settlement and many were found to fluctuate between occupation and abandonment into the early modern period. This pattern of use can be explained by several non exclusive hypotheses e.g. reduced reliance on marine resources when agricultural conditions were favourable, political governance of fishing and finally fluctuations in the marine environment i.e. fishing stations have a close relationship with cod migration and changing fishing grounds. It is important to understand if changes in the marine environment affected these fishing stations and coastal settlements or if the cause is of an anthropological nature.