Processes of learning and the accumulation of knowledge that is embedded in craft has been recognised as a source of practice and wisdom that can inform better management of resources and develop a more sustainable use of resources.

However, there are many questions about the relationship between these knowledge types and social ecological resilience and how to access and articulate knowledge embedded in crafts and crafts making. Here, the role of craft as a repository of practical knowledge of social-ecological interactions is explored at the local scale within two case studies: the duodji, or handicrafts produced by a Sami craftswoman living in northern Sweden, and the fishing style of a small-scale fisher in the Stockholm archipelago. The research has two main aims: 1) to explore ways of mobilising and capturing these knowledge types through the use of visual methodologies including film and photography, and 2) to understand the relationship between the practical and tacit knowledge embedded in craft, and the resilience and sustainable resource use within a tightly coupled social ecological system.

The findings show that visual methods engage participants in a deep and detailed reflection of their craft and invite them to link their craft to the place and culture where they live. This in turn creates a bridge of communication between the researcher and the participant who can use the images as a tangible and unambiguous starting point for discussion. The activity of craft recruits the practitioner as an active and engaged creator of meaning through a practice that draws on their knowledge of the environment, and links this to cultural codes and cosmologies that are embedded in ways of doing and learning.

These findings contribute to a body of research that understands knowledge as an ongoing process of learning and, of the practices that accumulate over time.

Keywords: local ecological knowledge, Stockholm archipelago fishing style, craft, duodji