

NEW SERVICES IN SWEDEN

National objective

For 2018-2020 the Swedish government instructed the [Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management](#) (SwAM) to establish a “support function” together with the launch of so-called catchment officers. The SwAM made a public call for municipalities, counties and other organizations to hire catchment officers. 20 pilot areas with catchment officers were established with a total grant of about € 35 MM (37 MM SEK) during the fall 2018. These catchment officers have different “home organizations” – some are employed by municipalities, others by County Administration Boards, others by non-governmental organizations such as the Federation of Swedish Farmers, Water Councils, and the Rural Economy and Agricultural Society.

The grant is only used for hiring catchment officers and cannot be used for measures to mitigate nutrient runoff in the landscape. For the latter there is an array of other funds available. (This plethora of funds, how you should apply and who that can apply, and for what you can apply for, well, here is where the confusion starts. And then there is the respective reporting...)

The objective with the Swedish catchment officers is to (hopefully) achieve more measures, to make the measures more accurate and accurately placed in the landscape, but also to ease the communication between landowners¹ and authorities.

¹ Here we say landowners instead of farmers since more actions are needed to mitigate nutrient runoff than on land used and owned by farmers. This way we also include forestry and other that own land where measures should be taken,

Relevant context

Catchment officers – as a formal function within Swedish management has not existed before. If we don't consider that specific municipalities and organizations (such as Water Councils) have had employees with the specific task of coordinating and even executing measures in a given area.

The catchment officers' coordination task, between landowners and authorities, is believed to be central for increasing the amount of actions and measures in Sweden. The catchment officers are also tasked to help landowners (and others) in applying for funds for actions to decrease nutrient runoff.

Scope of new services for water management

The scope of the new service 'catchment officers' is that they are hired in 20 so called pilot areas in Sweden. All except one (1) are based in southern parts of Sweden, which per se is not a problem – eutrophication is a problem in the south rather than in the north. The problem lies in that the not all regions with problems have a catchment officer and that the funding for these catchment officers only run for three years (until the end of 2020).

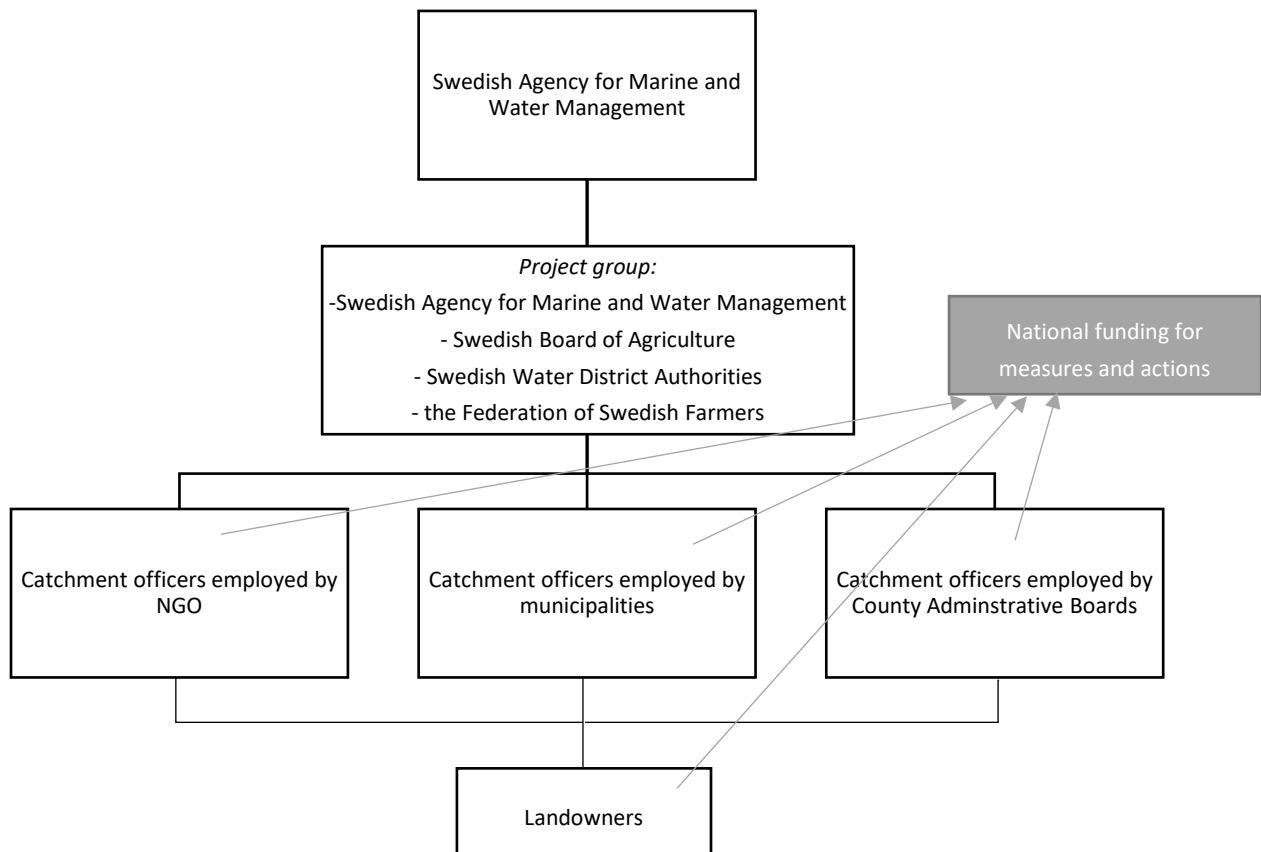


Figure 1 Existing organizational structure of Swedish catchment officers

Future organizational changes

Since the existing structure was just initiated. This structure is the "test" in Waterdrive. The plan is to evaluate this structure in Waterdrive, and compare the differences between outcome (measures taken) by the different catchment officers and if there are differences that depend on where the catchment officers are employed (state vs municipal vs NGO).

Way forward

There is nothing new with the services and actions that the catchment officers are planned to produce. These actions and measures have a long and proven history in Sweden. It is the coordination and way to reach actions/measures that is considered to be new. There is also an expectation that the catchment officers will initiate new collaborations (between different sets of actors) that in turn can lead to actions/measures.

The so called "support function" will be based at SwAM. This webpage with staff will support the catchment officers in their work.

What do you expect in the end of Waterdrive in relation to New Services?

We would like to see a country comparison and overview over how the different countries have organized and funded measures and actions to mitigate nutrient runoff.