

# Robert M. Blasiak

Date of birth: November 9, 1982  
Nationality: USA, Sweden  
Languages: English, German

Status: Married, two children (2015, 2019)  
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## Recent work experience

- May 2017 – current      **Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University**  
Associate Professor (Stockholm, Sweden)  
Research on stewardship of ocean resources, with particular focus on marine areas beyond national jurisdiction. Principal investigator for grants on transforming the seafood industry (SeaBOS), financial risks of climate impacts on seafood production (FinRisk), and sustainable and equitable use of marine genetic resources / biotechnology.
- Oct 2013 – Mar 2017      **The University of Tokyo**  
Research Fellow (Tokyo, Japan)  
Research on how international cooperation and conflict emerge with regard to the management and use of marine ecosystem services.
- Aug 2011 – Mar 2016      **United Nations University**  
Communications Officer (Tokyo/Yokohama, Japan)  
Responsible for communicating research outcomes of multiple programs including the Satoyama Initiative, Fukushima Global Communication Programme, Water and Urban Initiative and Operating Unit Ishikawa/Kanazawa. Multiple overseas trips to organize and present work (e.g. Rio+20, Convention on Biological Diversity COPs, etc).

## Advisory and honorary positions

- Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance** (Board of Directors: 2024-current)  
<https://oceanriskalliance.org>
- Ocean Collective** (Impact Advisory Board: 2024-current)  
<https://www.oceancollective.se>
- Ocean & Climate Platform** (Scientific Committee member: 2021-current)  
<https://ocean-climate.org/en/scientific-and-expert-committee/>
- World Ocean Assessment** (Coordinating Lead Author: 2019-current)  
<http://www.worldoceanassessment.org>
- High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy** (Member, Expert Group; Blue Paper Lead: 2019-2020) <https://oceanpanel.org>
- United Nations University** (Visiting Research Fellow: 2016-2017)  
<http://www.unu.edu>
- The University of Tokyo** (Visiting Research Fellow: 2017-2023)  
<http://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/>
- ICES Journal of Marine Science** (Editorial Board member: 2016-current)  
<https://academic.oup.com/icesjms>

## Education

- 2013 - 2015 **The University of Tokyo (Japan)**  
PhD – Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences  
Thesis title: "Conservation and sustainable use of the oceans: Strategic behavior and unintended consequences (海洋の保全と持続可能な利用：戦略的行動と意図せざる結果)"  
(Supervisors: Nobuyuki Yagi, Hisashi Kurokura)
- 2007 - 2009 **Lund University (Sweden)**  
MSc Degree – International Development and Management  
Thesis title: "Playing Smart: A Game Theory Approach to Aid Coordination in Cambodia" (Recipient of university's Hydén Award)
- 2000 - 2005 **University of Massachusetts at Amherst (USA)**  
BA Degree – Mathematics; Germanic Studies

## Selected grants (total as principal investigator = USD 3,019,225)

- Title:** Financial risks of climate change impacts on seafood industry (*Principal Investigator*)  
**Funder:** Walton Family Foundation  
**Time:** December 2023-December 2026; **Funding amount:** USD 1,200,000
- Title:** Transformative change in the seafood industry: Demonstrating impact of science-industry collaboration (*Principal Investigator*)  
**Funder:** Walton Family Foundation / David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
**Time:** August 2022-July 2025; **Funding amount:** USD 1,200,000
- Title:** The marine biotechnology industry and equitable governance of marine genetic resources (*Principal Investigator*)  
**Funder:** Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development (Formas)  
**Time:** January 2021-December 2025; **Funding amount:** SEK 3,996,344
- Title:** Setting the research and policy agenda for the high seas (*Principal Investigator*)  
**Funder:** Stockholm University (in collaboration with the University of Tokyo)  
**Time:** April 2018-May 2018; **Funding amount:** SEK 50,000
- Title:** Assessing the stability of fisheries cooperation in the context of poleward shifts of fish stocks in the North Pacific and Northeast Atlantic (*Principal Investigator*)  
**Funder:** Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)  
**Time:** April 2016- March 2017; **Funding amount:** JPY 4,550,000

## Selected media coverage of research

### Television interviews

**Al Jazeera** (31 July 2023) "Warming seas leading to environmental disaster"; **ABC News** (20 June 2023) "Titanic submersible goes missing"; **Sky News** (20 June 2023) "Missing Sub"; **BBC News** (20 June 2023) "Underwater sounds heard in search for missing sub"; **Deutsche Welle News** (4 March 2023) The four elements of the negotiations; **Al Jazeera** (4 March 2023) How to protect the high seas?; **Deutsche Welle** (11 November 2022) "Biopiracy: How companies are buying up nature"; **BBC World News** (17 April 2020) "Coronavirus: Finding a vaccine in the ocean?"

### Radio interviews

**BBC Inside Science** (7 June 2018) "Dinosaur auction, Who owns the genes of the ocean life, Cancer immunotherapy"; **Sverige Radio** (7 June 2018) "Patent på havsorganismers gensekvenser"; **Sverige Radio** (8 November 2022) "Marint skydd kan hjälpa klimatet"

### Print coverage of scientific publications

Popular press articles published on research in: NY Times, Financial Times, The Independent, Popular Science, Smithsonian, Le Temps, Le Figaro, Science, Scientific American, Cosmos Magazines, The Conversation, La Vanguardia, The Scientist, Mongabay, etc.

## Peer-reviewed publications

### Summary:

- 69 Peer-reviewed publications
- **Citations:** 2,831, **h-index:** 27, **i10-index:** 46 (Google Scholar: 13 December 2024)
- Publications in prestigious journals including *Science* (3); *Nature* (2), *Nature Biotechnology* (1), *Nature Sustainability* (2), *Science Advances* (3), *Nature Ecology and Evolution* (1), *PNAS* (1), *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* (2)
- Full details: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=-Gy-hR0AAAAJ>

## Selected list of 10 key publications

1. Blasiak, R. and Claudet, J., 2024. **Governance of the High Seas.** *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 49.
2. Blasiak, R., Wynberg, R., Grorud-Colvert, K., Thambisetty, S., Bandarra, N.M., Canario, A.V., da Silva, J., Duarte, C.M., Jaspars, M., Rogers, A. and Sink, K., 2020. **The ocean genome and future prospects for conservation and equity.** *Nature Sustainability*, 3(8), pp.588-596.
3. Blasiak, R., Jouffray, J.B., Wabnitz, C.C., Sundström, E. and Österblom, H., 2018. **Corporate control and global governance of marine genetic resources.** *Science advances*, 4(6), p.eaar5237.
4. Blasiak, R. and Jouffray, J.B., 2024. **When will the BBNJ Agreement deliver results?** *npj Ocean Sustainability* 3(11) 21.
5. Blasiak, R., Jouffray, J.B., Norström, A., Queiroz, C., Wabnitz, C.C. and Österblom, H., 2023. **The Ocean Decade as an instrument of peace.** *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 64, p.101319.
6. Blasiak, R., Jouffray, J.B., Amon, D.J., Moberg, F., Claudet, J., Søgaard Jørgensen, P., Pranindita, A., Wabnitz, C.C. and Österblom, H., 2022. **A forgotten element of the blue economy: marine biomimetics and inspiration from the deep sea.** *PNAS Nexus*, 1(4), p.pgac196.
7. Sigwart, J.D., Blasiak, R., Jaspars, M., Jouffray, J.B. and Tasdemir, D., 2021. **Unlocking the potential of marine biodiscovery.** *Natural Product Reports*.
8. Jouffray, J.B., Blasiak, R., Norström, A., Österblom, H. and Nyström, M., 2020. The Blue Acceleration – The Trajectory of Human Expansion into the Ocean. *One Earth* doi:10.1016/j.oneear.2019.12.016.
9. Blasiak, R., Dauriach, A., Jouffray, J.B., Folke, C., Österblom, H., Bebbington, J., Bengtsson, F., Causevic, A., Geerts, B., Grønbrekk, W. et al., 2021. **Evolving Perspectives of Stewardship in the Seafood Industry.** *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 8, p.676.
10. Blasiak, R., Spijkers, J., Tokunaga, K., Pittman, J., Yagi, N. and Österblom, H. (2017) **Climate change and marine fisheries: Least developed countries top global index of vulnerability.** *PLoS ONE* 12(6): e0179632.