

Fishing in the Margin

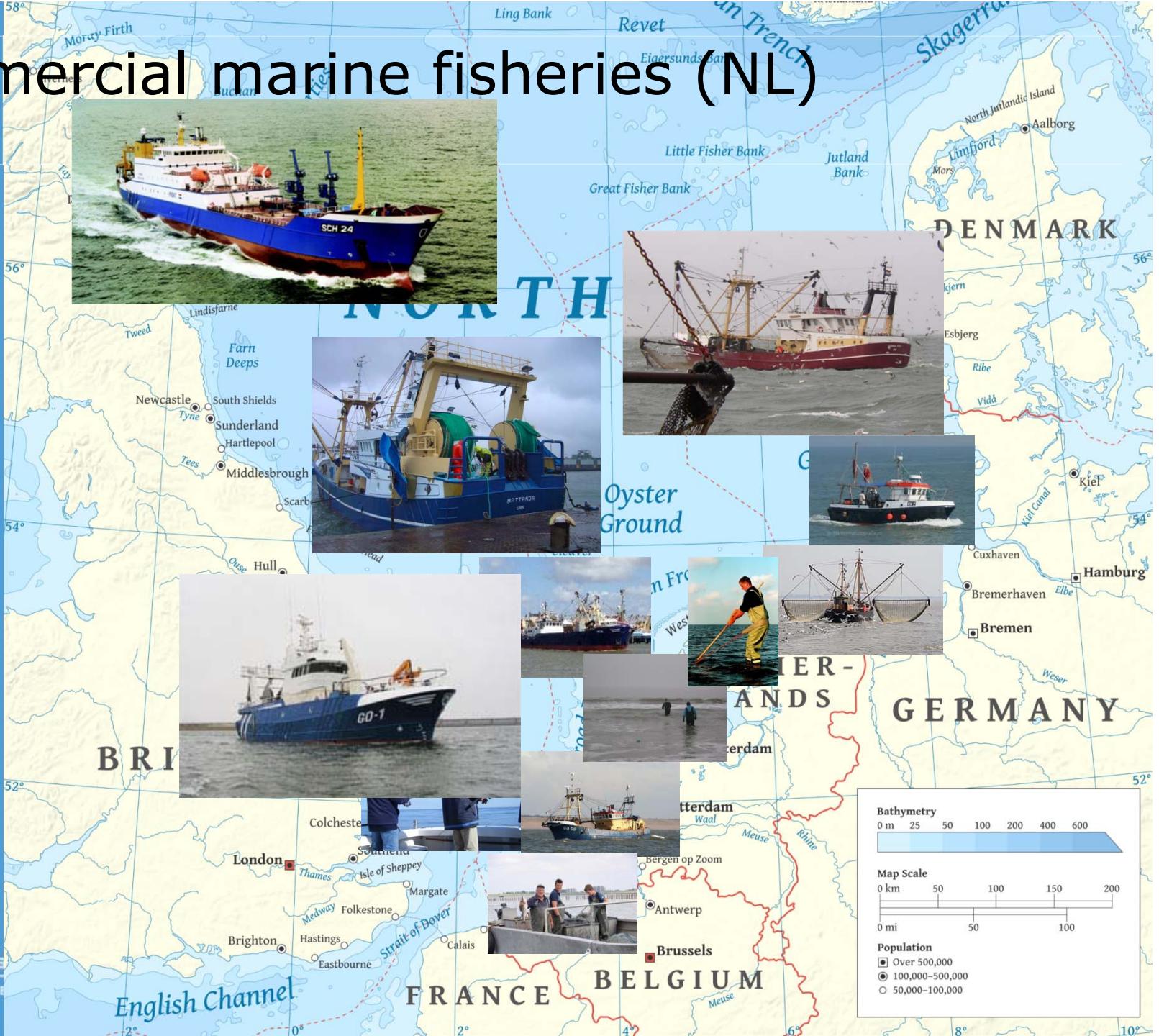
Small-scale fisheries in the Netherlands

MARE, 28-06-2013

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Commercial marine fisheries (NL)



In the past, fisheries research mainly focused on larger fleets

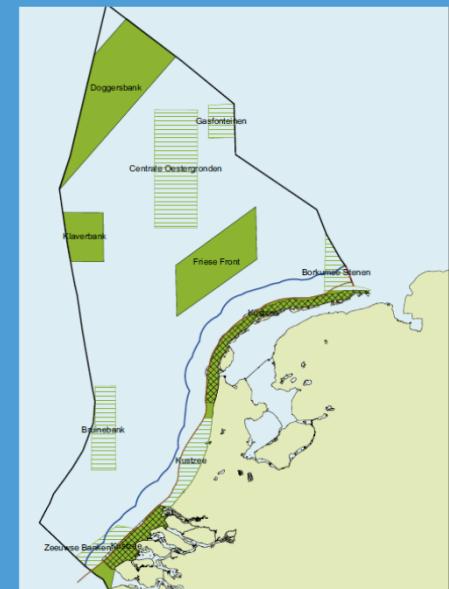
- Because of...

- Fisheries management (focus on quota species)
- Data collection framework
- Official data (logbooks, VMS)



Recently more attention for small-scale fisheries (SSF)

- Due to
 - Sustainable seafood certification
 - Impact Analyses for marine protected areas
 - Fishery Study Groups
 - Reform of Common Fisheries Policy



Result: need for better description of SSF

- For long, small-scale fleet was a rest group: its definition was about what it's not and not what it is.

Dutch fleet (2010)		
sector	Revenue (million €)	Vessels
Cutter fleet	205	308
Pelagic fleet	115	14
Mussel farming	56	56
Oyster sector	3	19
Small-scale fleet	7	*193
<i>Total</i>	386	590

* An additional 145 vessels in-active

But that's not good enough...



How are we getting there

Fisheries-related characteristics		Categories	Small-scale	Large-scale
Social organisation	Sectoral economic	Based on	Local commodity production	Global commodity production
Number of fishing unit			Small scale	Large scale
Native of work	Distance from land and market		Primarily household consumption but some local barter and sale	Household consumption and sale to local, national, and international markets
Distance from land and market	Proportion of market sales		Mostly direct consumption	Mostly processed, including large quantities of fishmeal for non-human consumption
Proportion of market sales	Capital investment		Usually owned by senior operator, or operators jointly; some absentee ownership	Commonly owned by non-operators; often ownership by non-operators
Capital investment	Time of investment		Low to medium capital investment, often financed by operator	Capital investment high, large proportion borne by other than operator
Time of investment	Opinion of operator		No or minimal	Operator
Opinion of operator	Income level		Premium on skill and local knowledge	Skill and experience important, but supported by high technology
Income level	Geography		Very low to low	High power engines, mechanical components, assembled by others, low diversity of target species, electronics and automation
Geography	Craft		Local community or kin-based	Large to vast
Craft	Management		Region, community, or kin-based, with few scientists/managers	Complex, involve in scope, science driven, many scientist-managers
Management	Fishing units		A great many small units	One or few large units
Fishing units	Fisheries data collection		Often none due to difficulty of collection	Relatively straightforward but does depend on authority's capacity
Fisheries data collection	Space and time		Difficult due to features of fisheries and authorities	Common
Space and time	Fishing bases		Relatively near to shore	Exploits all marine areas
Fishing bases	Fishing duration		Few hours to few days	Few days to months
Fishing duration	Fishing activity		Ability to respond to more robust craft and gear	Ability to respond to more robust craft and gear
Fishing activity				

On aggregate, the long-term trend has been for global fisheries to shift in this direction, but this trend is neither inevitable nor irreversible.

Sources: (14, pp.4-5; 20, p.4; 21, p.7; 22, p.76)

Johnson (2006)

IMARES/LEI knowledge

List of criteria I

Check with Fishery Study Group

List of criteria II

Check with National Platform SSF

List of criteria III

Characteristics

Fishing technique

Number / length of gear

Dependency on weather

Catch capacity

Fishing area

Crew size

Owner active in fishing

Market: local/regional/NL/international

Involvement in selling fish

Investments (% private money)

Vessel length

Engine power

Trip length

Part-time / full-time

Combination relevant

Impact on target species: availability vs. catch capacity

Not, according to fishers

Small-scale fishers about SSF

- **Low impact** on the ecosystem.
- **Cautious** fisheries; fishers take care of their gears (e.g. avoid losing them) and fish.
- **Quality** over quantity.
- **Number of fishers in a fleet segment** also relevant.



What next

- Fill in matrix with characteristics for each fishery
 - Decision on final characteristics
 - Check with fishers
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- Result: Set of characteristics describing small-scale fisheries



Discussion

- Selection of characteristics will always be **subjective**
- **Sustainability** part of the selection?
- How does this help?
 - small-scale fishers: it is easier to explain **what they are/represent**
 - Scientists and managers: **full appreciation of whole Dutch fleet** & impact studies

To be
continued...

