

Fishing in the Margin

Small-scale fisheries in the Netherlands

MARE, 28-06-2013

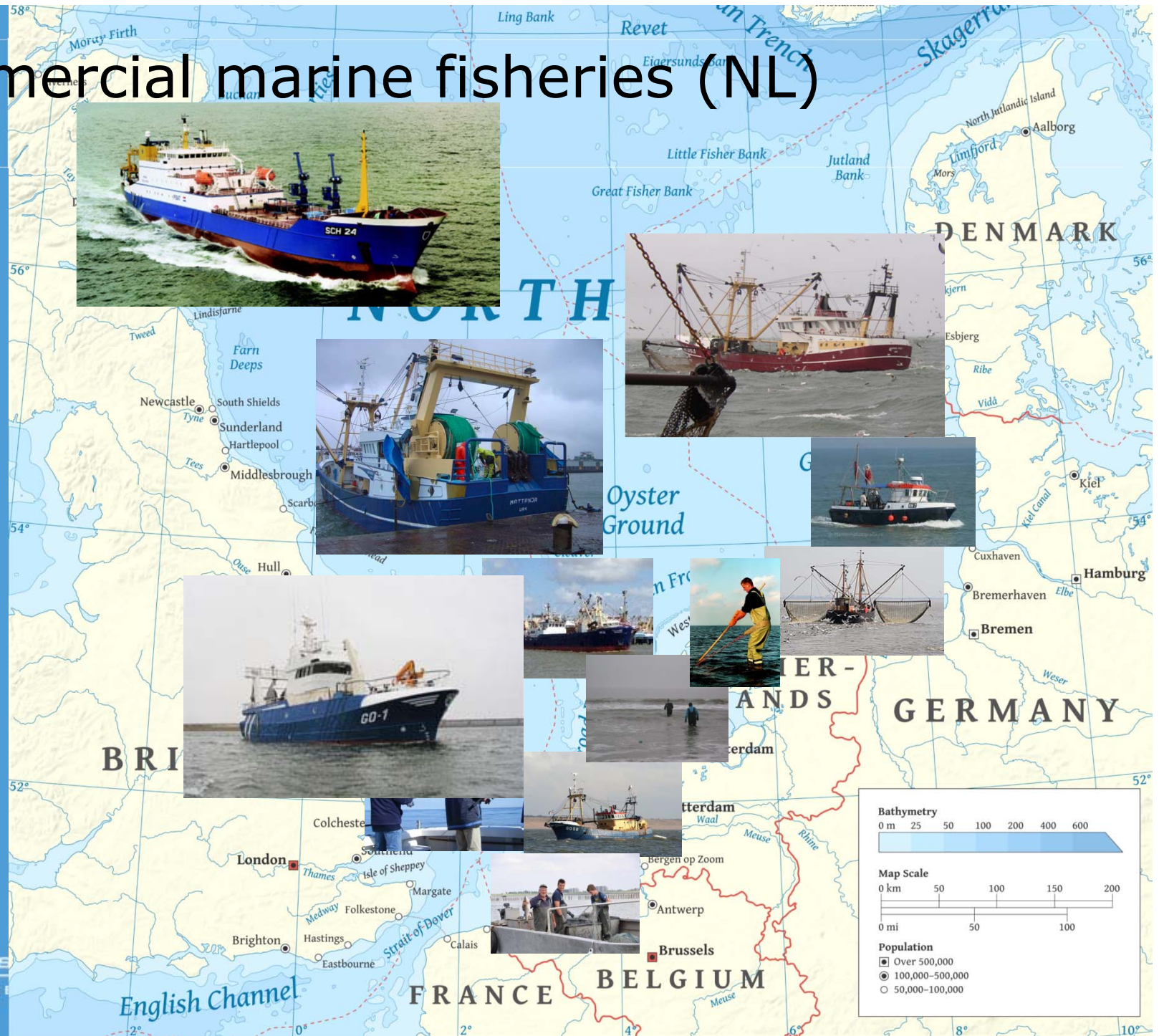
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Commercial marine fisheries (NL)



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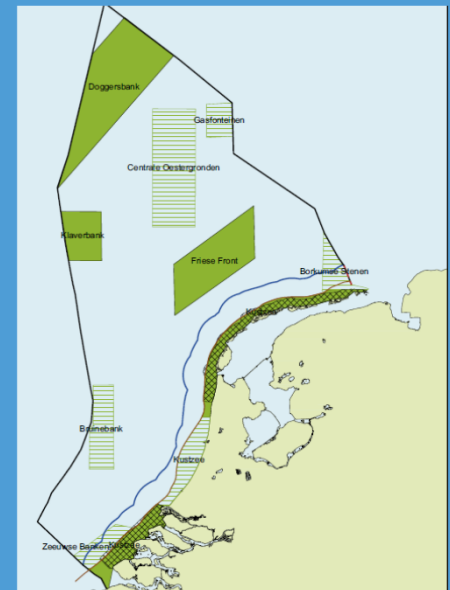
In the past, fisheries research mainly focused on larger fleets

- 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>	<i>386</i>	<i>590</i>

* 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		Subsistence	Commodity production
Socio-economic		Small groups, with some specialisation and some division of labour; importance of household and community	Highly specialised, often with higher division of labour
Nature of fishing unit		Part-time multi-occupational, catch shared	Full-time, professional; greater prevalence of wage-labour or salaries
Nature of work		Primarily household consumption but some local market and sale	Household consumption and sale to local, national, and international markets
Distribution and market		Mostly direct consumption	Mostly processed, including large quantities of fishmeal for non-human consumption
Production		Individual or group ownership and operation; occasional absentee ownership	Usually owned by senior operator, or operators jointly, some absentee ownership
Ownership		Capital investment low, although often high investment of labour time	Low to medium capital investment, large proportion borne by other than operator
Investment		N/A or minimal	Highest diversity of target species and techniques, and thus high skill and knowledge needs
Operational knowledge		Premium on skill and local knowledge	Small with low power engines
Capital knowledge		None or small and non-motorised	Often hand made and operator-assembled, mainly non-mechanised
Capital knowledge		Very low to low	Many machine-made components, often operator-assembled, high diversity of gear types; manual and mechanised gear
Capital knowledge		Local community or kin-based	Regional, community, or kin-based, with few scientists/managers
Management units		A great many small units	Usually many small units
Regulation		Customary	Usually state regulated
Fisheries data collection		Often none due to difficulty of collection	Difficult due to features of fisheries and authorities
Spatial and time		Highly dispersed	Dispersed
Fishing location		On or adjacent to shore	Relatively near to shore
Fishing duration		Few hours	Few hours to few days
Seasonality		Seasonal	Extended seasons due to more robust craft and gear

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 loosing 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
-
- 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...



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