

The need for social science in fisheries management and research

#CFRN_AGM5

17 November 2015, Marloes Kraan



Structure of the talk

- Why social science is (should be) a crucial part of fisheries management & research
- How it can be more integrated
- GAP2 case on discards – why perceptions are so important.
- Conclusions



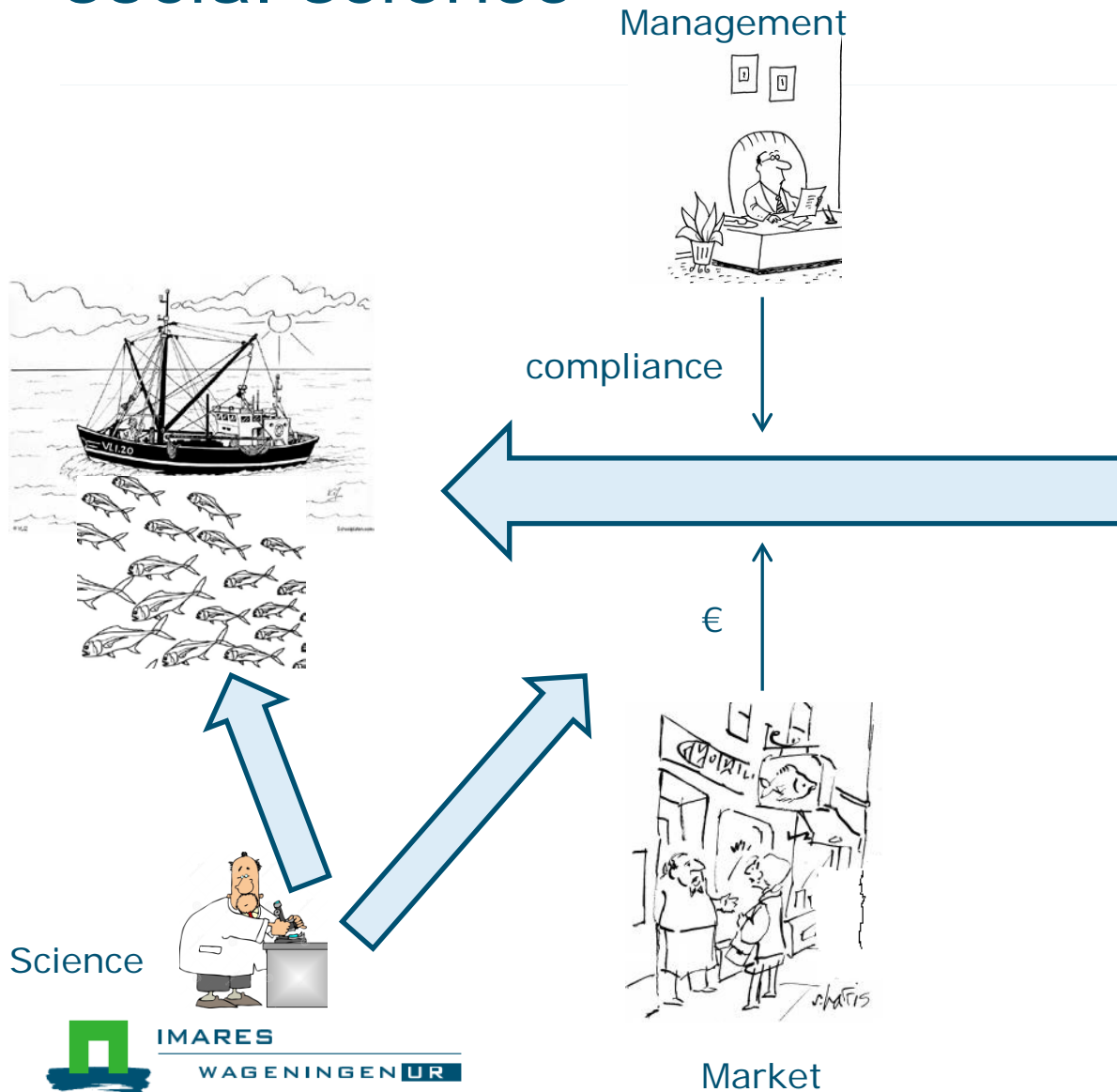
Fisheries science and management

- Fisheries science:
 - research for fisheries management
 - Fish stocks
 - Ecosystem
 - Economy
 - Social science
- Fisheries management:
 - managing ...
 - what...?
 - Human behaviour



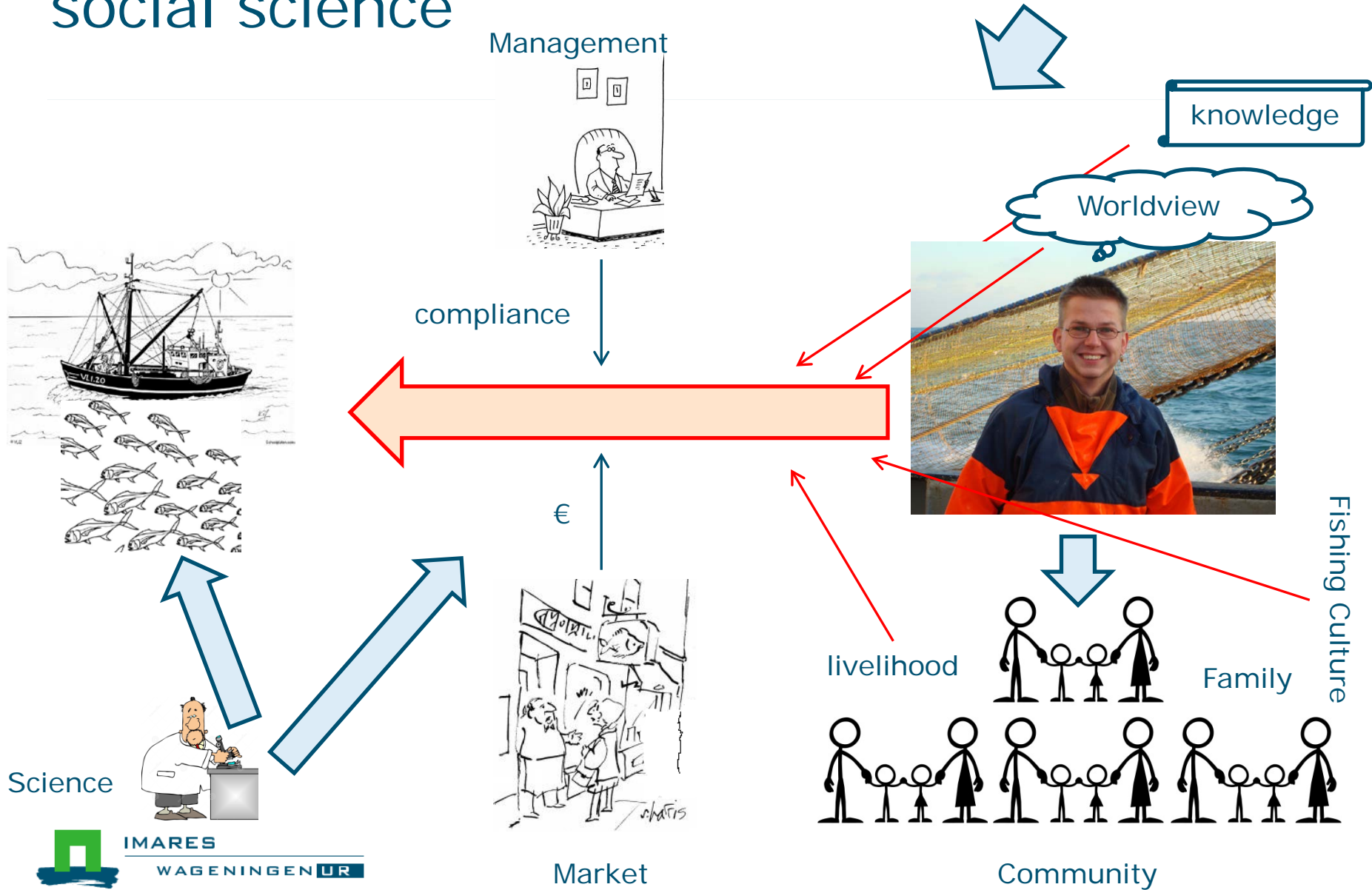
Fisheries research without social science

NGO's



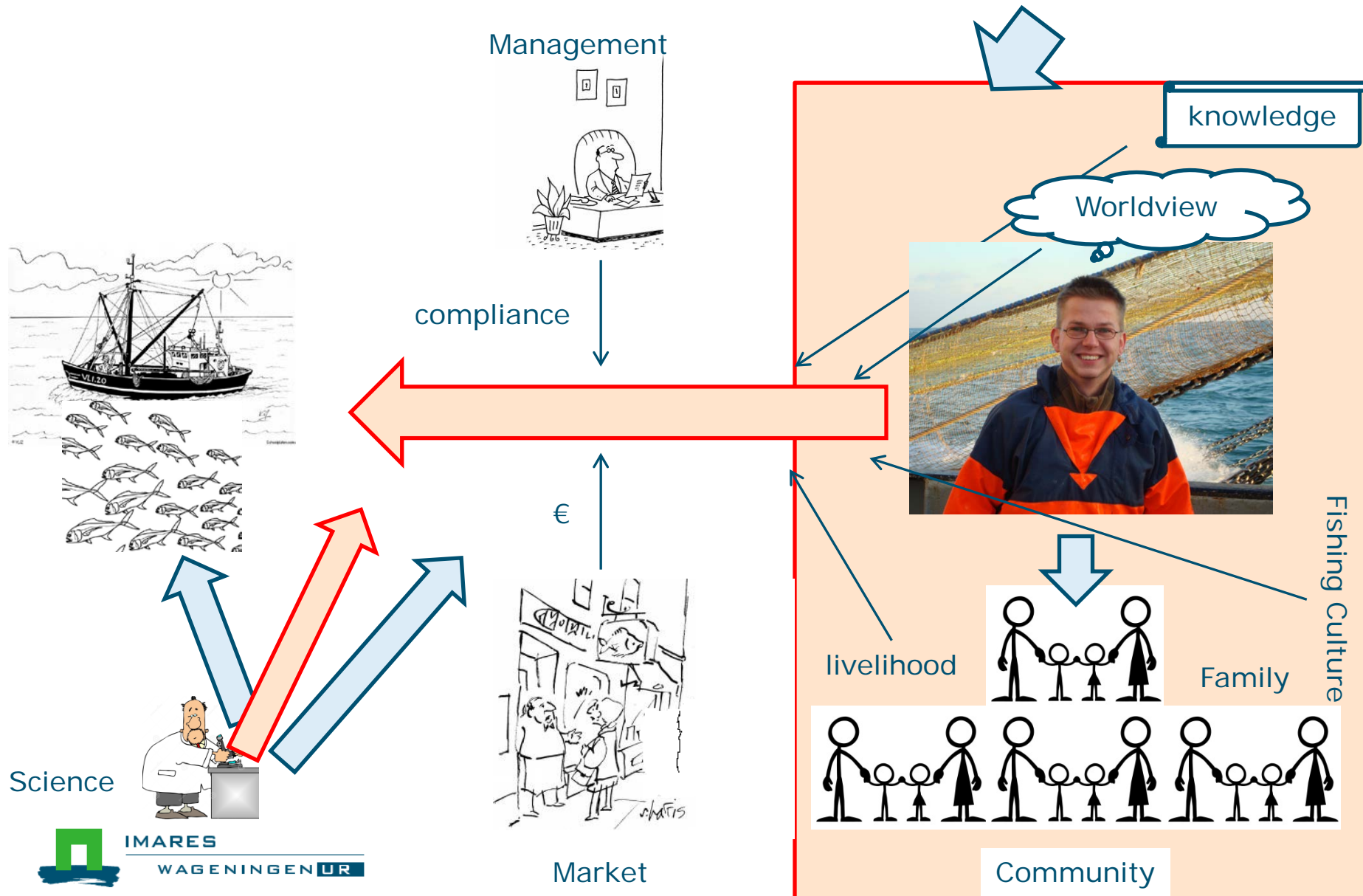
Fisheries research with social science

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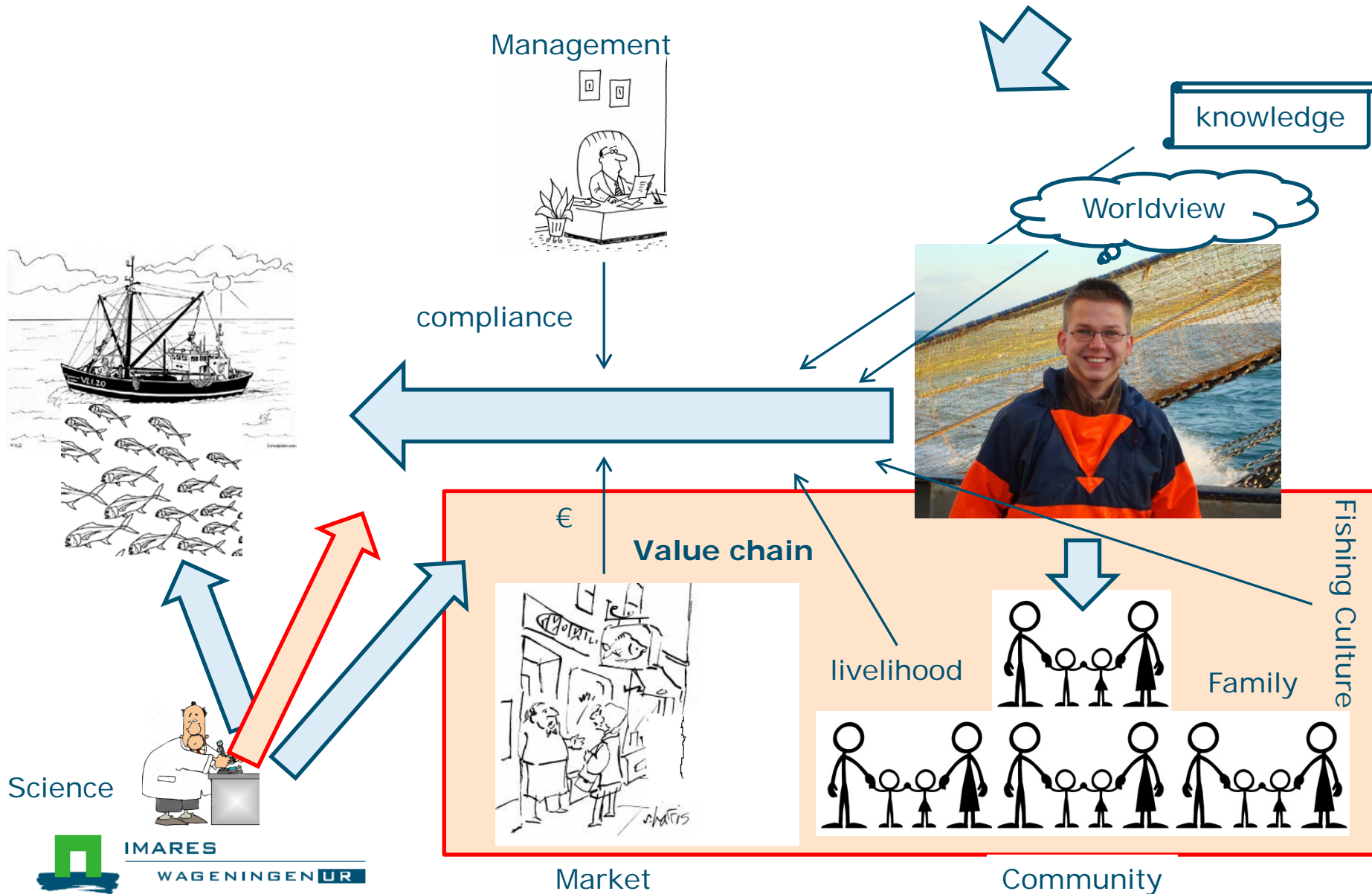
Fields of study

NGO's

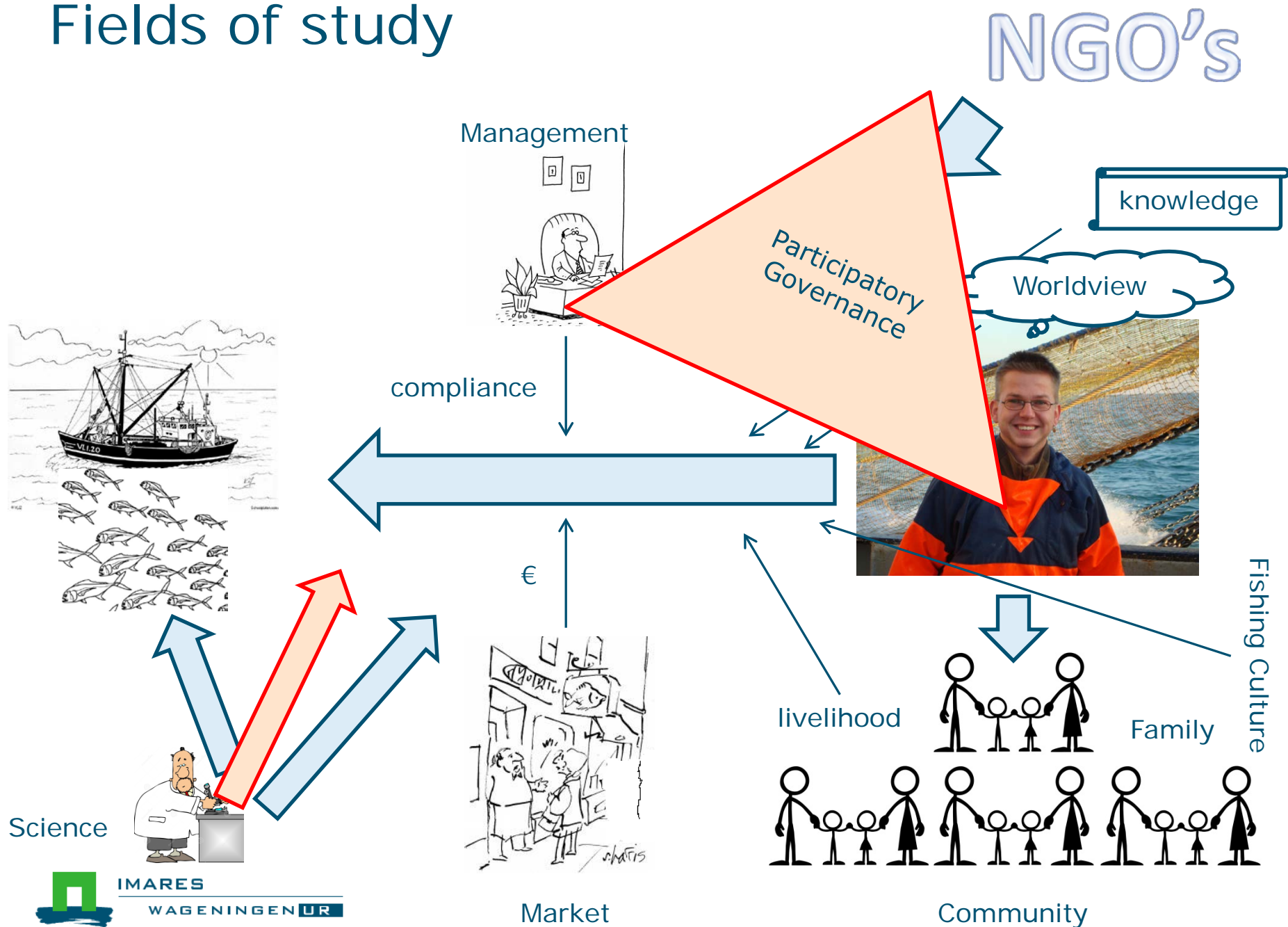


Fields of study

NGO's

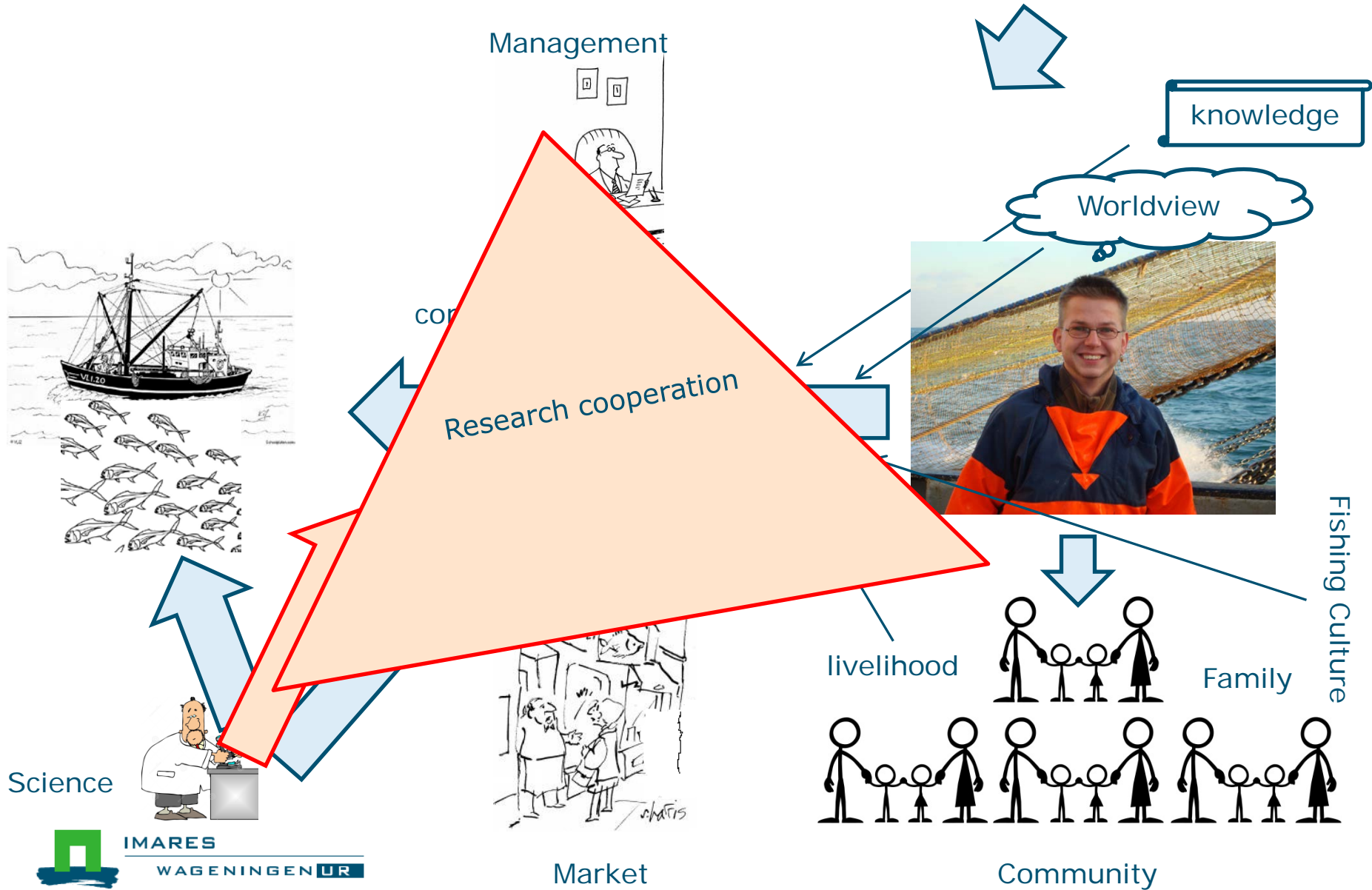


Fields of study



Fields of study

NGO's



Key aspects of social science

Actor

System



Understand
the meaning
of social
action

From *their*
perspective

1. Why to people do what they do, say what they say?
2. How does the system work?

The system...

- Society: culture, norms, values, roles, power, status...
- Fisheries governance is all about **making hard choices**, not only based on 'rational' science but also matter of politics, power.
- Social science role is also to study these processes
....not always appreciated
- Some social scientists choose to focus on the marginalised -> empowerment
- Social scientists sometimes feel to be marginalised themselves



Social science application in fisheries research

■ Daniel Pauly at MARE conference 2005



"social scientists don't play a role in fisheries management / science because "social scientists: (1) neglect[ing] in their field work key variables, such as catch levels, important to any understanding of fisheries; and (2) often conducting and reporting on locale-specific field work without attempting broader (and admittedly risky) generalisations -- the elements of a 'model' -- that are imperative for actual policy making". (MAST 2006)".



Responses to Daniel



- Svein Jentoft: *"First let me note that, like small-scale fishers, fisheries social scientists are of course well aware that they are a **marginal group**. We hardly play any role in informing fisheries policies at various levels, and we do find this to be a paradox given that policy formation and governance are typically social science specialties. This often makes some of us feel a bit disillusioned and perhaps even a little bitter from time to time, and we ask ourselves why we bother".*
- Rob van Ginkel: context matters
- Nathalie Steins: also large scale fisheries need understanding
(MAST 2006)

Why 10 years later, 'marginal' social science is changing...

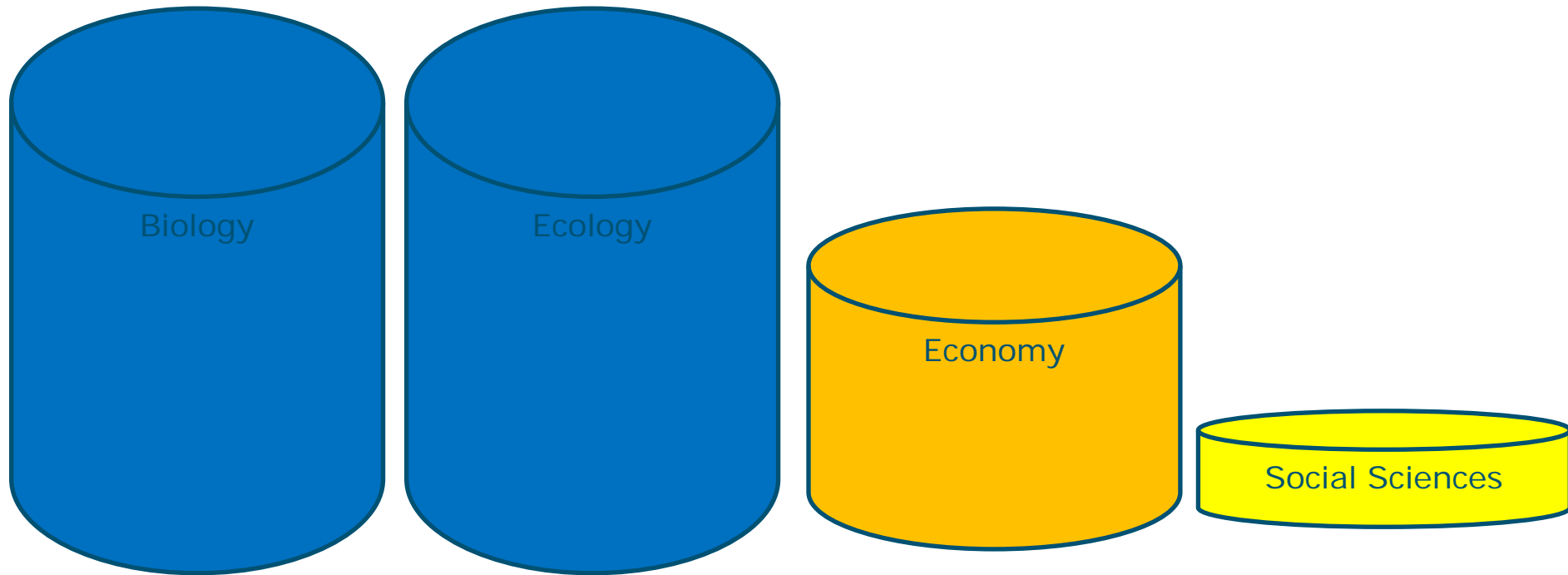
- Call for ecosystem based management, *integrated* assessments
- Sustainability: *people* planet profit
- Call for *participation* in research projects
- Buzz words are there: stakeholder participation

- Challenges:
 - EU no social objectives
 - Budget cuts government (so no room for *extra* research)
 - Beware of window dressing

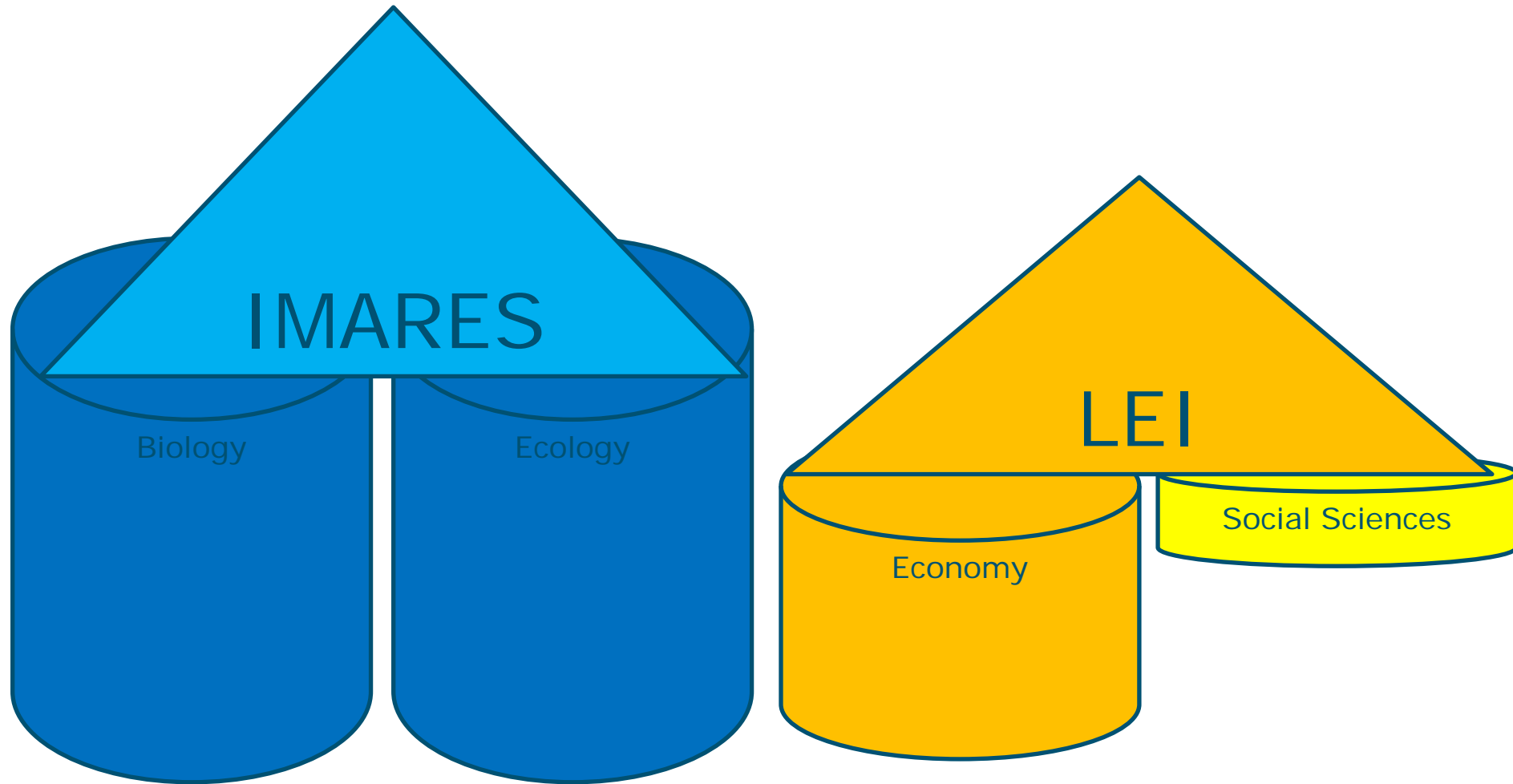
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The pillars of applied marine research



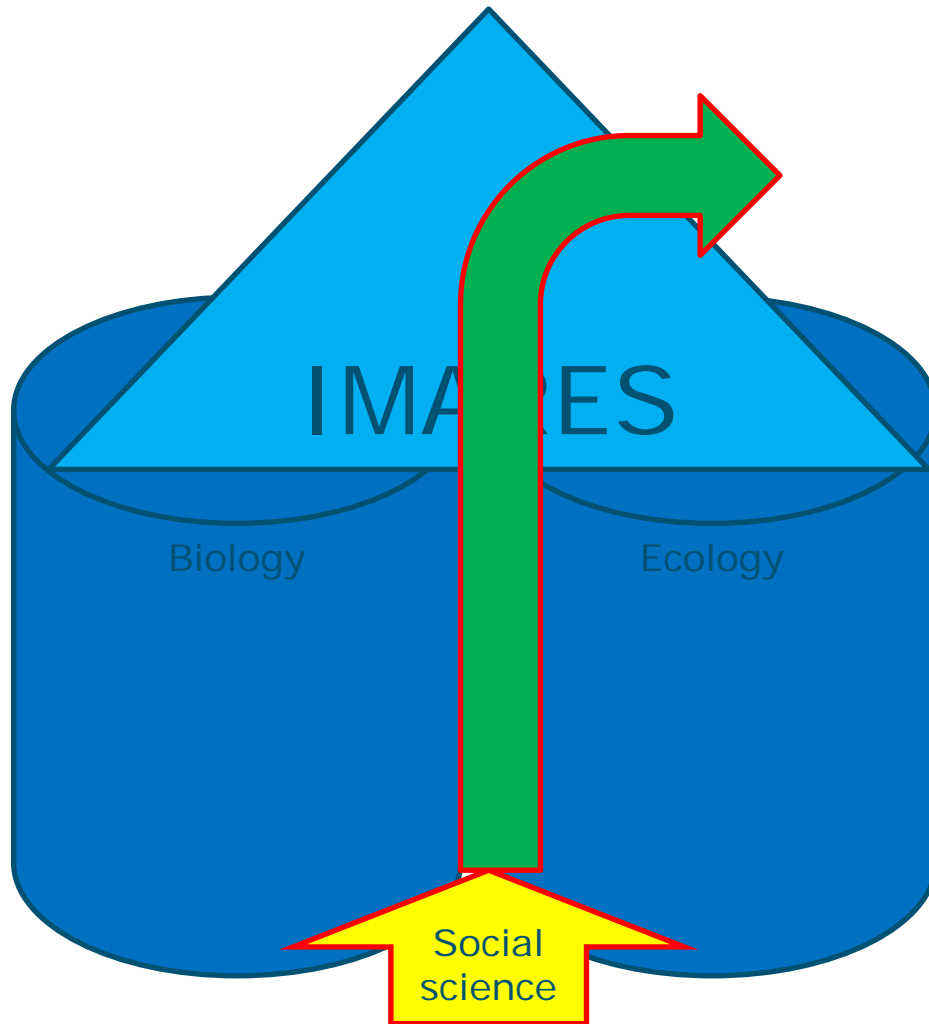
So where should I work to have impact?



Choosing for 'the biologists'

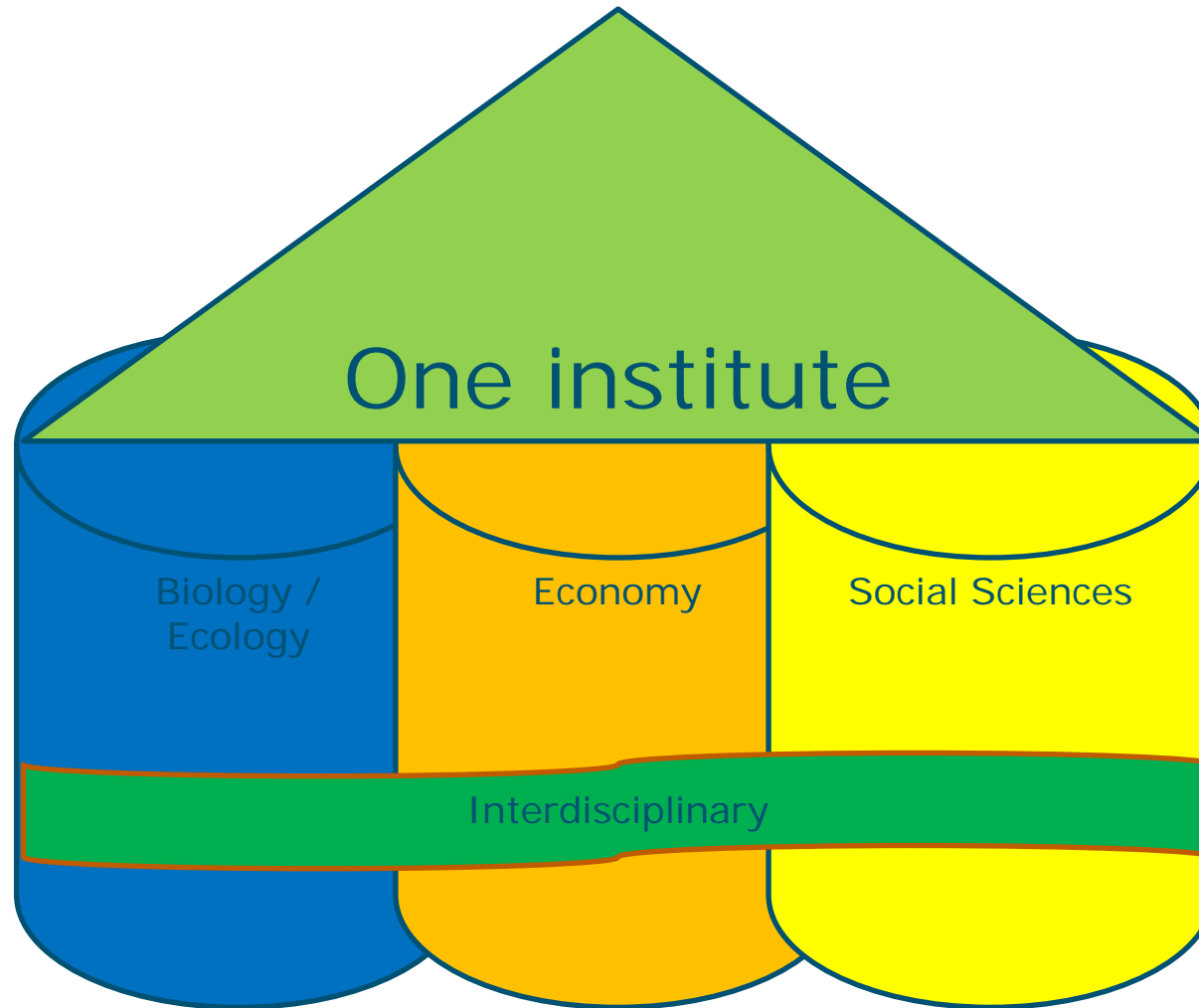


Slow progress

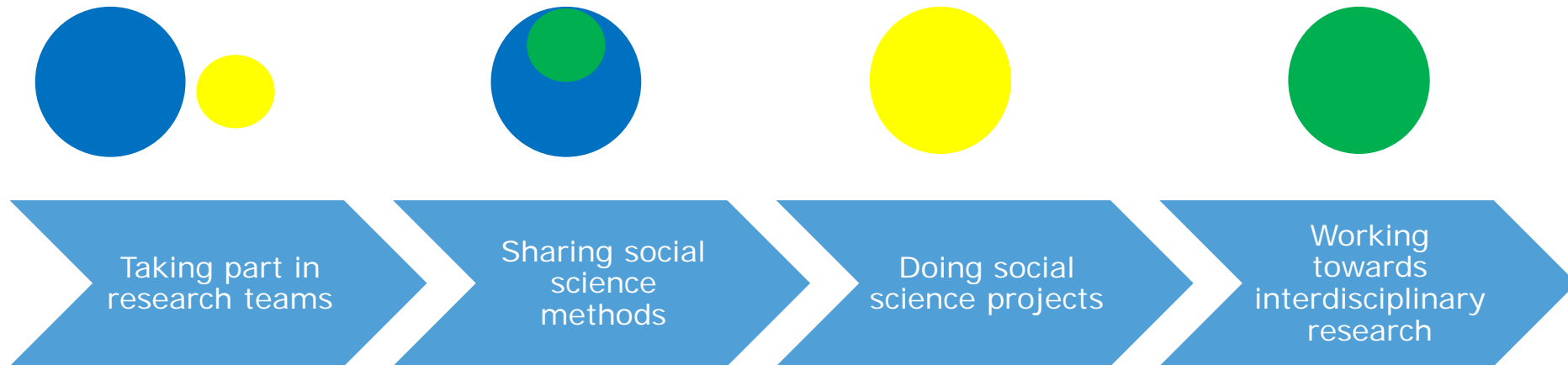


- From 'add on' social science in projects to
- development of interdisciplinary work
- "Let's ask the fishermen."

The ideal picture



Advantages of working together



Add on social science

- *Social science workpackages
- *Projects in cooperation with the Fishing industry

Some questions require social science

Changing methodology

Interviews -> how
Stakeholder meetings -> how

Some questions require a new approach

Three directions of work as social scientist working from within



Social science methods
for natural scientists



Social science research:
i.e. on perceptions



Interdisciplinary
research

The course – why?



Methodological toolbox



Research cooperation



Stakeholder meetings

Natural scientists asking fishers...



How to verify this anecdotal fisher's knowledge?



How can we trust them?



In the meantime in Europe... ...the landing obligation



A screenshot of the GAP (Connecting Science Stakeholders and Policy) website. The main header features the GAP logo and a navigation menu with links: HOME, ABOUT, CASE STUDIES, OUTPUTS, TOOLBOX, CALENDAR, EXCHANGE, and NEWS. The featured article is titled "Netherlands – Self-Sampling and Discards" with the subtitle "WORKING WITH INDUSTRY TO INVESTIGATE SELF-SAMPLING AND PERSPECTIVES ON DISCARDS." Below the title, there are sections for "QUICK LINKS" and "CASE STUDIES IN DEPTH". The "QUICK LINKS" section includes an "AIM" section describing the collaboration between fishermen and scientists to improve discard information in Dutch flatfish fisheries. The "CASE STUDIES IN DEPTH" section lists several other projects: Denmark – Herring Management, Estonia – Marine Spatial Planning, France/Spain – Tuna FAD Fisheries, Germany – Joint Fishery Management, Italy – Fish and Fishing Effort, Malta – Trawl Industry Management, Netherlands – Self-Sampling, and Norway – Monitoring Co. A circular logo with a fish and the text "FISH FIGHT" is overlaid on the bottom right of the screenshot.

Dutch case study in the GAP2 project

Context 1: Discards



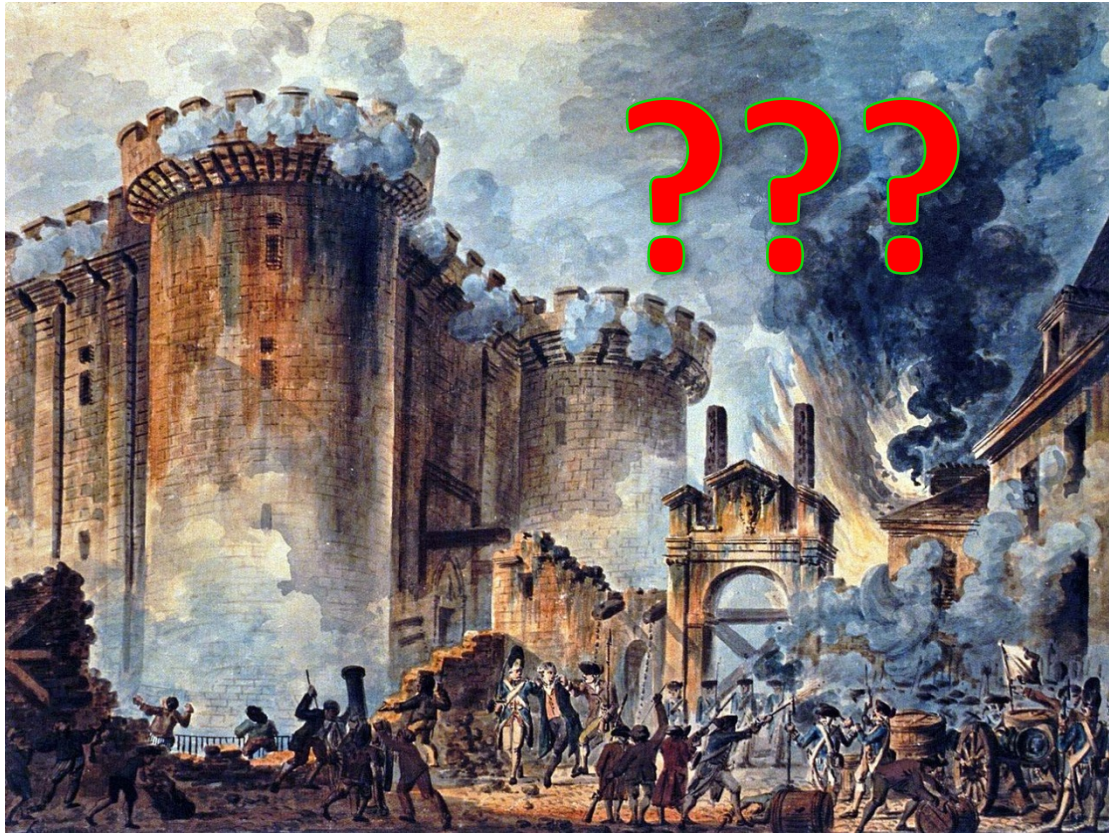
- Not a black-white story
- Discards result of complex interplay of rules, regulations, market demand, technology and decisions of the skipper



Context 2: Cooperation is crucial



Context 3: The landing obligation is a **revolution**



- Radical change of the system
- BUT
- Goal is unclear
- Consequences are unclear
- Governance structure is unclear

Three questions



- What are discards to fishermen?
- Contested policy
 - Why cooperate?
 - How?
- What is the line of reasoning (perceptions) of policy makers and of fishermen?



Discards to fishermen: their reasoning



William @Willwieringen

4h

Zo is het ! Niet anders ! #spreadthewords
#zegneetegendediscardban pic.twitter.com/G20MbB8Yuh

 View photo  Reply  Retweet  Favorite  More



Visserij Noordwest @Vis_Noordwest

4h

RT @willwieringen: Zo is het en niet anders !!! #discards
pic.twitter.com/DGiLe03I9w #visserij #aanlandplichtNEE

 Hide photo  Reply  Retweet  Favorite  More



1

RETWEET



You shouldn't take along young fish
As it should be in the sea.

Support us!

- 0% discards = no fishing
- "If I see 400% discards in my catch, I am happy as it is a sign of a lot of new young fish in the sea".
- If the stock is doing well, why should discarding then be a problem?
- Compare to other industries; on chicken farms all males get killed; with seedlings on a farm, many are not used.

Discards to fishermen: discards are age old...



Then they sat down and
collected the good fish
in baskets,
but threw the bad away

Cooperation: NL has a long history of cooperation



- Horizontal society – Polders
- Export product
- Research cooperation
- But... the landing obligation?



LO: Two options for the fleet



- 'On the table' or 'at the table'



LO: options for the ministry



- Top down management (control)
- Cooperate



So what was said?



"Explain to me why you think it will not work! I need your 'evidence'"

"You have no idea what this discard ban will

Why should we 'prove' the policy will not work, if you have never evaluated existing policy?"

The GAP...

The gap between ministry and fishers



■ Fishers

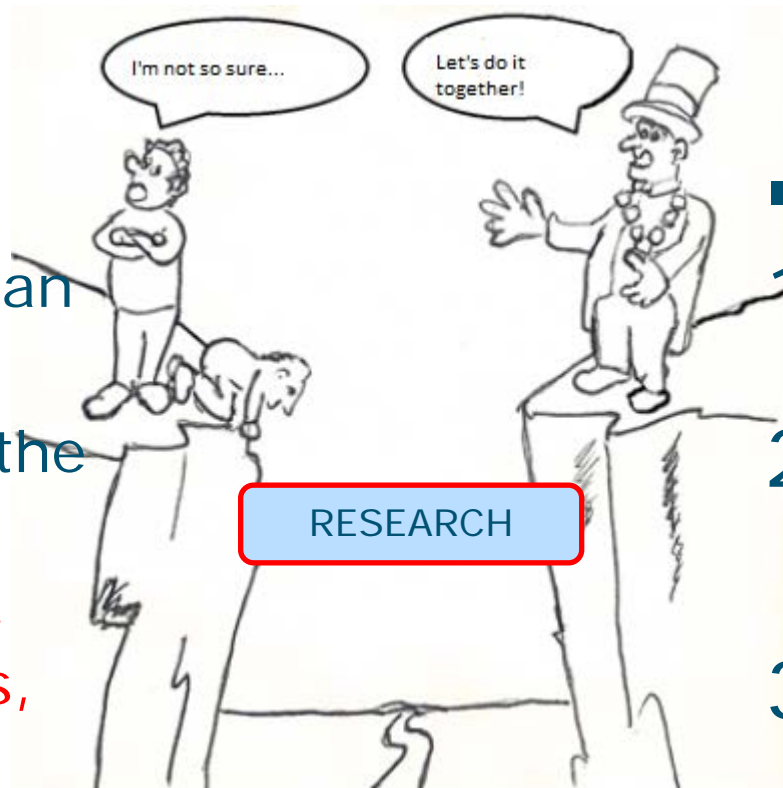
1. 'the discard ban is impossible'
2. Let's discuss the principles

■ Ministry

1. 'the discard ban is a fact'
2. We will not have a discussion on the principles

Fisher representative: *'we need to make the impossible, possible'* 27-9-2013

The gap between ministry and fishers



■ Fishers

1. 'the discard ban is impossible'
2. Let's discuss the principles
3. Tell about the impossibilities, problems and dilemma's

■ Ministry

1. 'the discard ban is a fact'
2. We will not have a discussion on the principles
3. Seek for room to manoeuvre in the implementation

The gap between ministry and fishers



■ Fishers

Tell about the impossibilities, problems and dilemma's



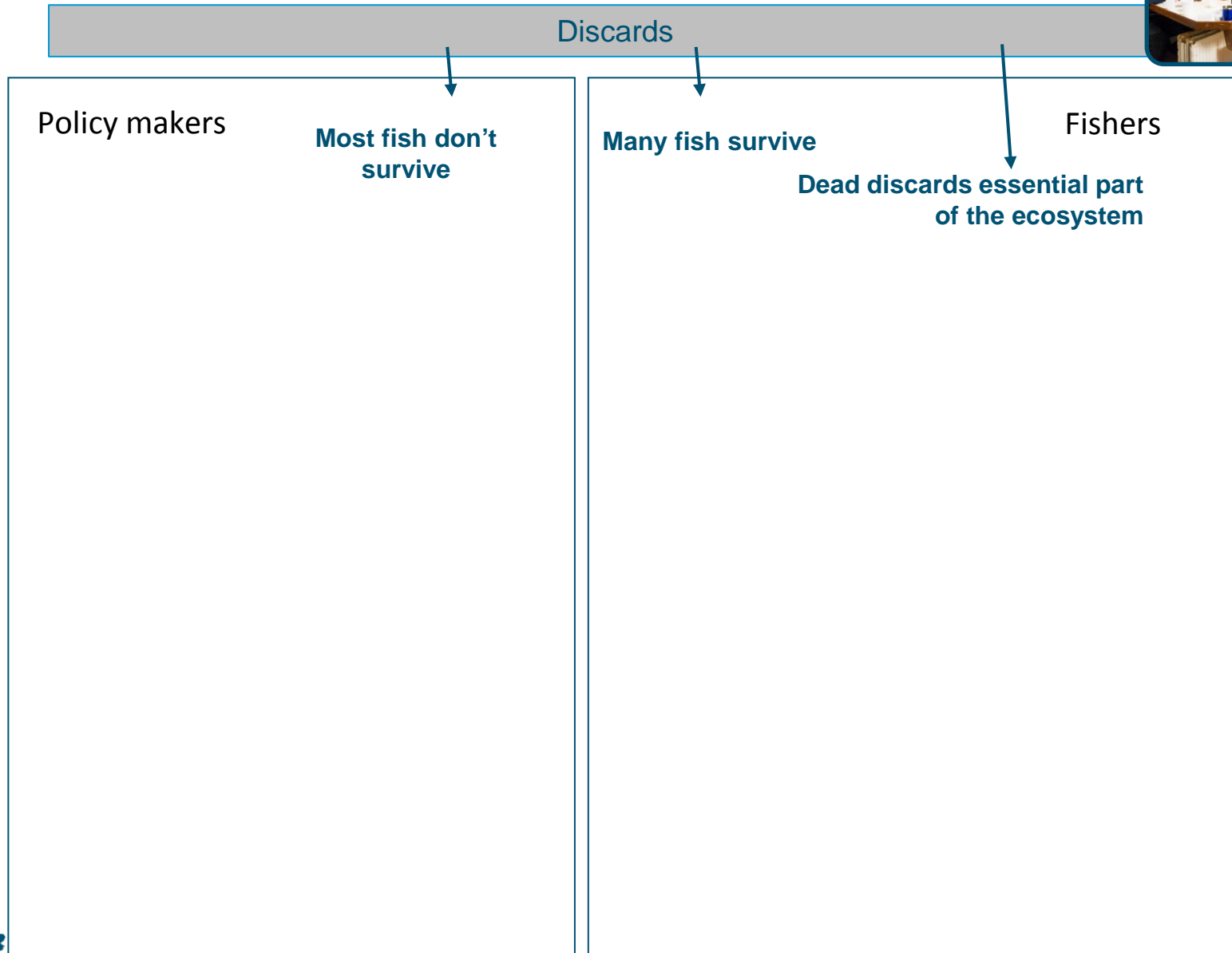
■ Ministry

Seek for room to manoeuvre in the implementation

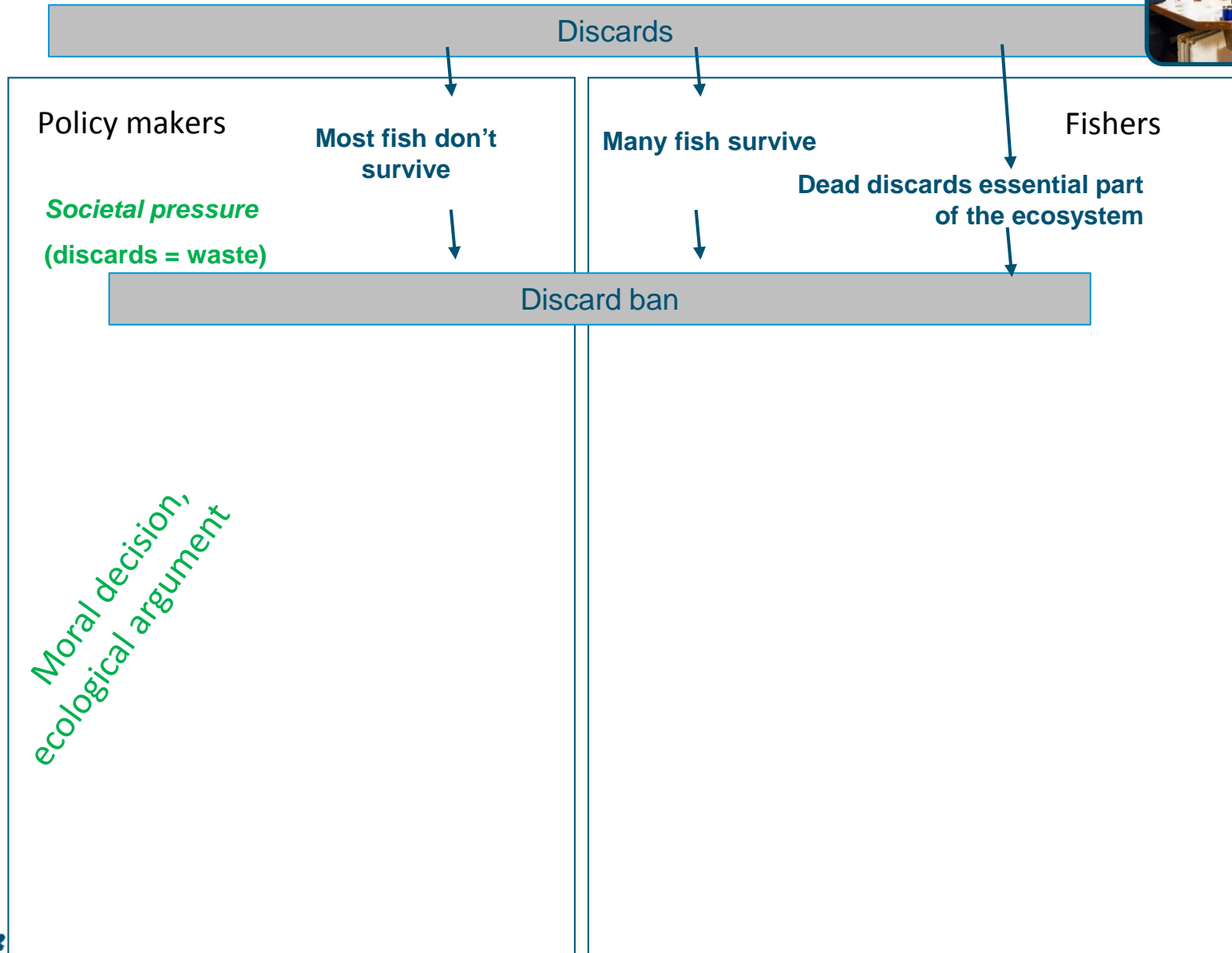
Problems:

1. Research directed at proving it is impossible (exemptions)
2. NL needs to renegotiate about the outcomes in the region
3. Fleet is left aside and is not preparing for the change
4. There are some big elephants in the room...

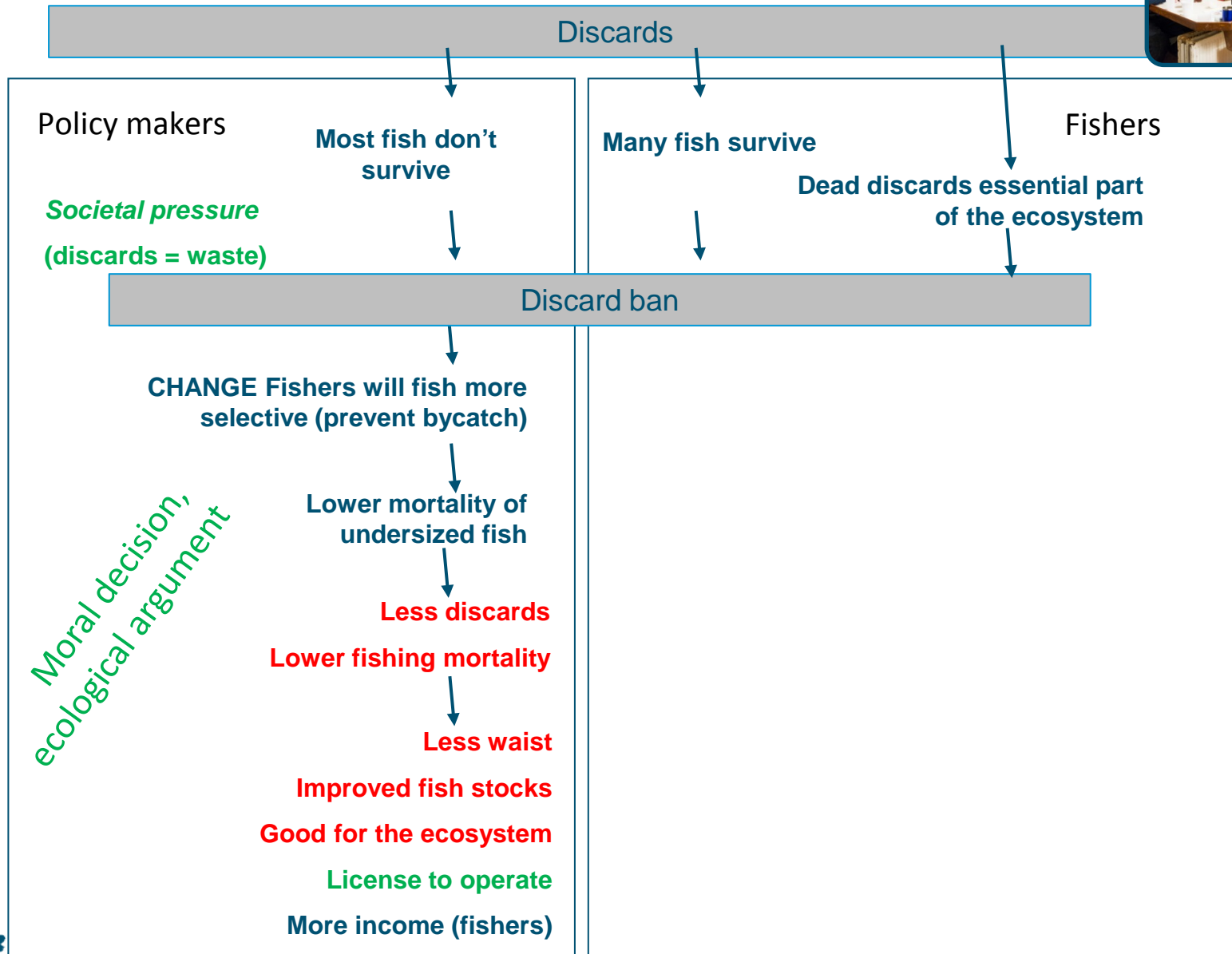
Differences in perceptions



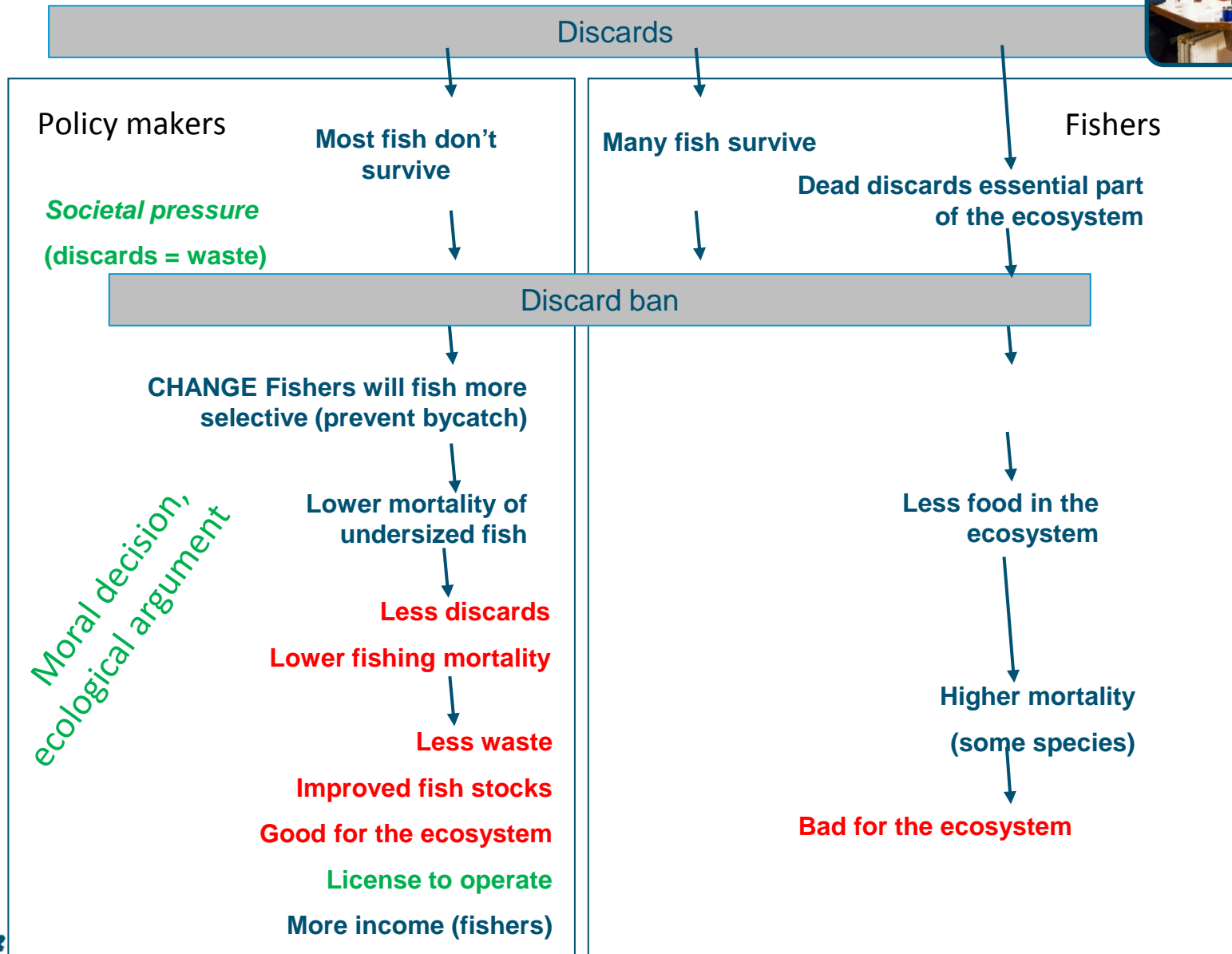
Differences in perceptions



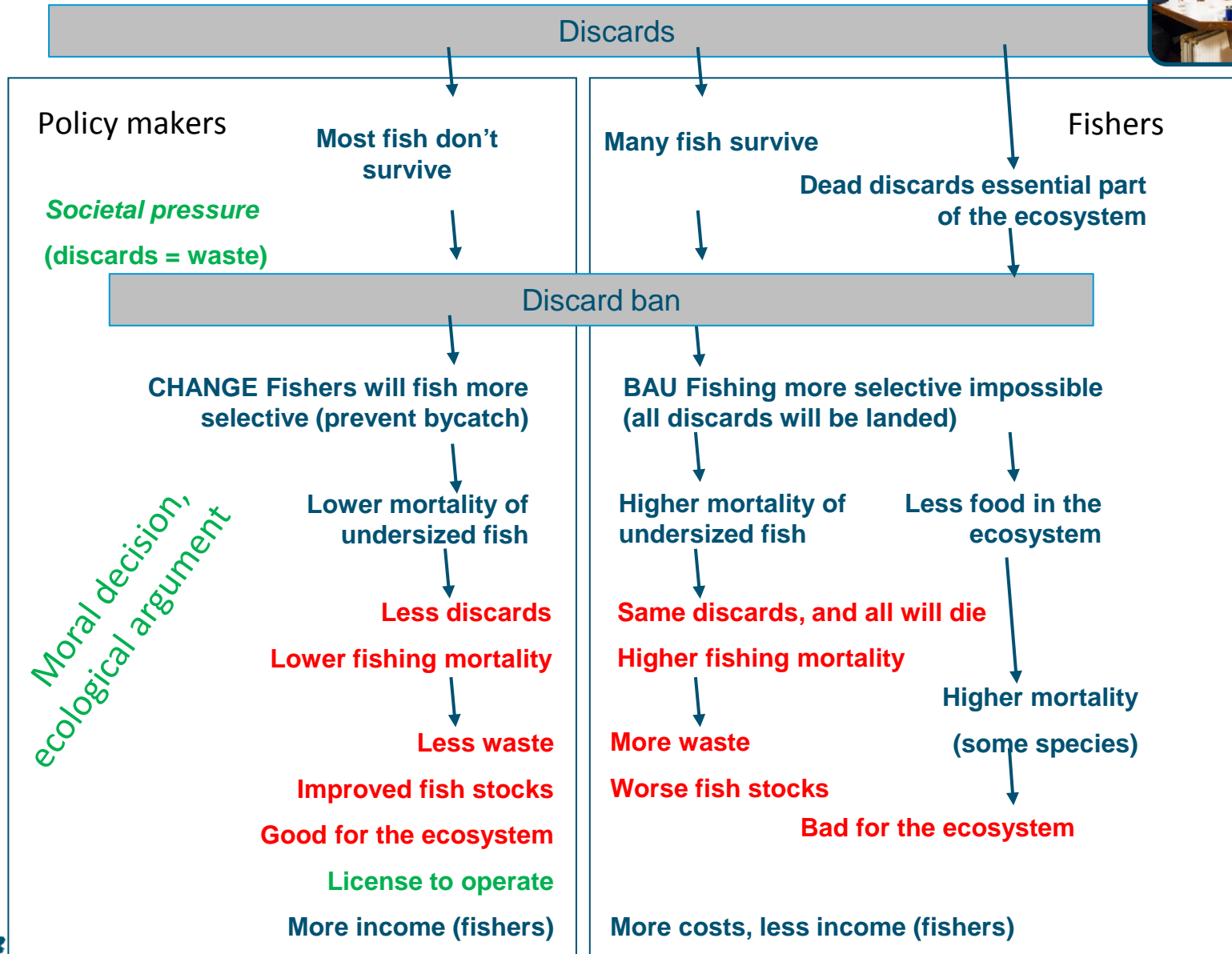
Differences in perceptions



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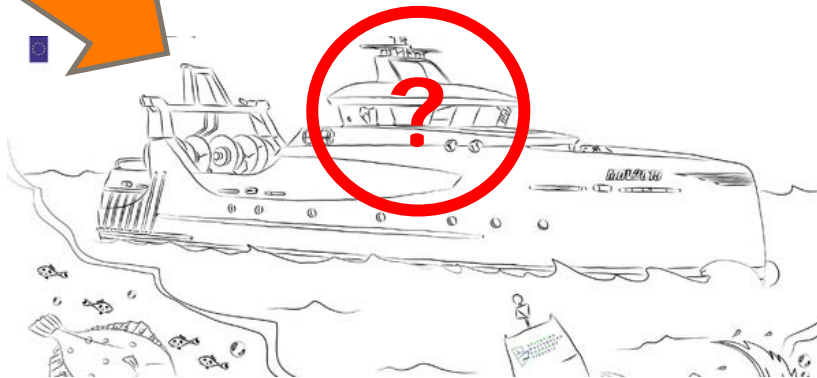


Current research misses a crucial element



Adapt the gear

before



during

after

Survival of fish

Using landed discards

Improve handling on board

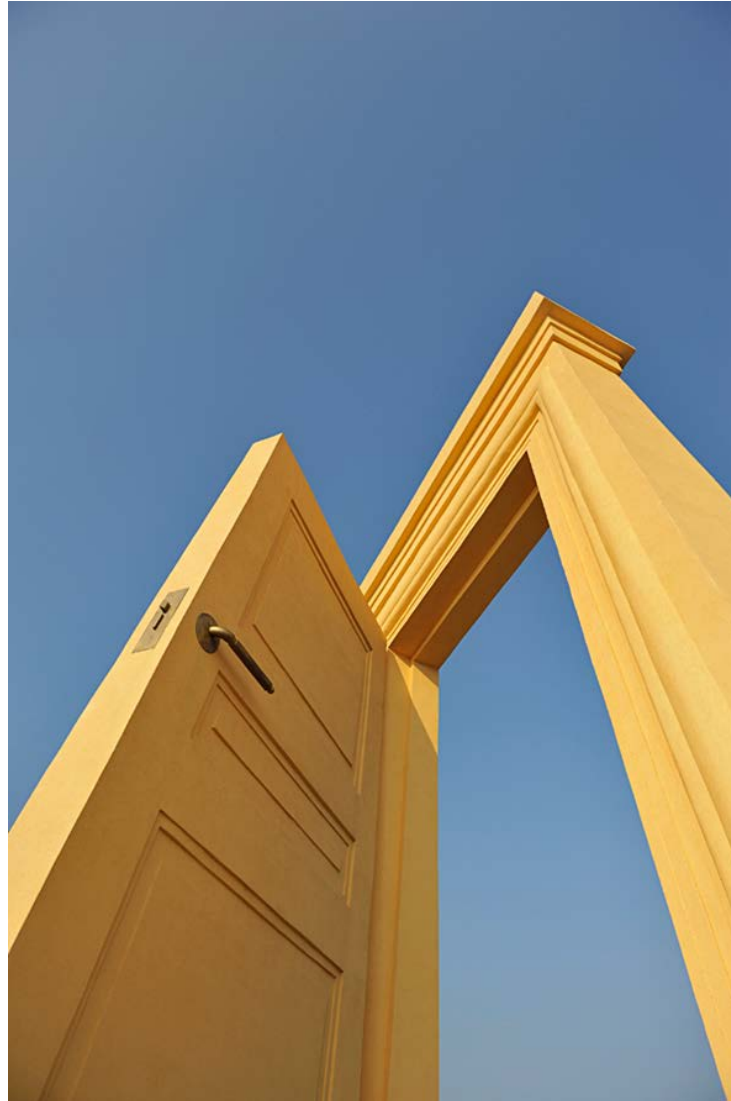
Conclusions

The need for social science in fisheries research and policy...



Conclusions on the use of social science

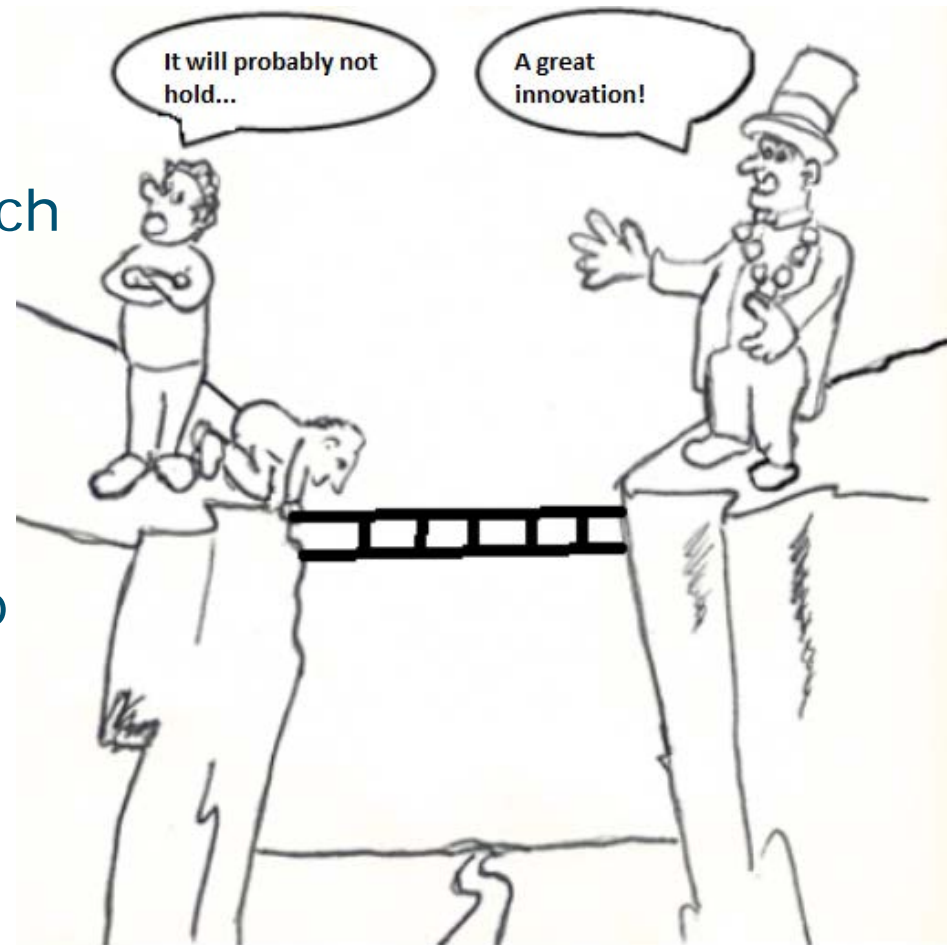
- It is an open door
- the human factor is *important* in research, *crucial* for management



- The door is open
- social scientists, interdisciplinary scholars - the time is ripe – be strategic

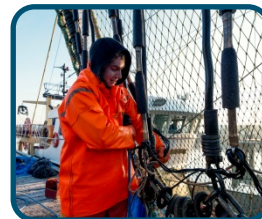
Conclusions on cooperation

- Cooperation requires discussing the goal(s), defining the problem and discussing possible outcomes together
- Cooperation = teamwork; each partner has his/her expertise
- Cooperation is constructed, needs trust, speaking same language, invest in relationship



Conclusions on participatory processes

- Sharing knowledge – how to organise the right process?
- “extracting” fisher knowledge / perceptions
 - Social science has to offer:
 - Light model: methods
 - More fundamental: reflection & theory
 - Fishing = political
 - Knowledge is not neutral
 - What is the role of science?
- Participatory research / management: do it right (for real) or don't do it!



Thank you!

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www.gap2.eu

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www.imares.wur.nl

www.marecentre.nl



Marloes Kraan and Marieke Verweij (2016) **Implementing the landing obligation in the Netherlands; an analysis of the gap between fishery and the ministry**. In P. Holm, M. Hadjimichael and S. Mackinson, (eds) Bridging the gap: Collaborative research practices in the fisheries. Springer.