



Distribution and potential nursery function of the Dutch Wadden Sea for tope sharks (*Galeorhinus galeus*)

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MOTIVATION

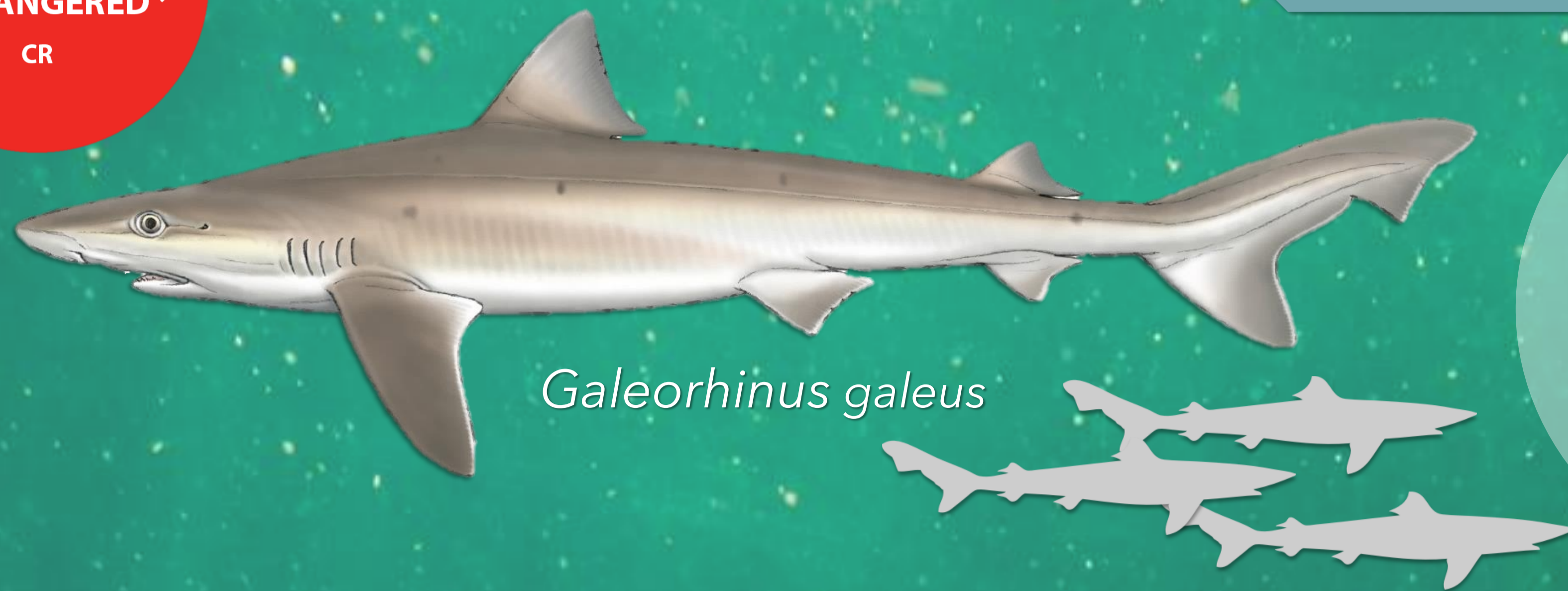
CONSERVATION CONCERN:

Tope sharks are currently facing population declines (ICES 2020).

In addition to fisheries capture, degradation of potential nursery areas could negatively affect recruitment (Walker et al., 2006).

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

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Galeorhinus galeus

LOCALISING TOPE PUPPING AND NURSERY AREAS IN NW EUROPE

POTENTIAL NURSERY

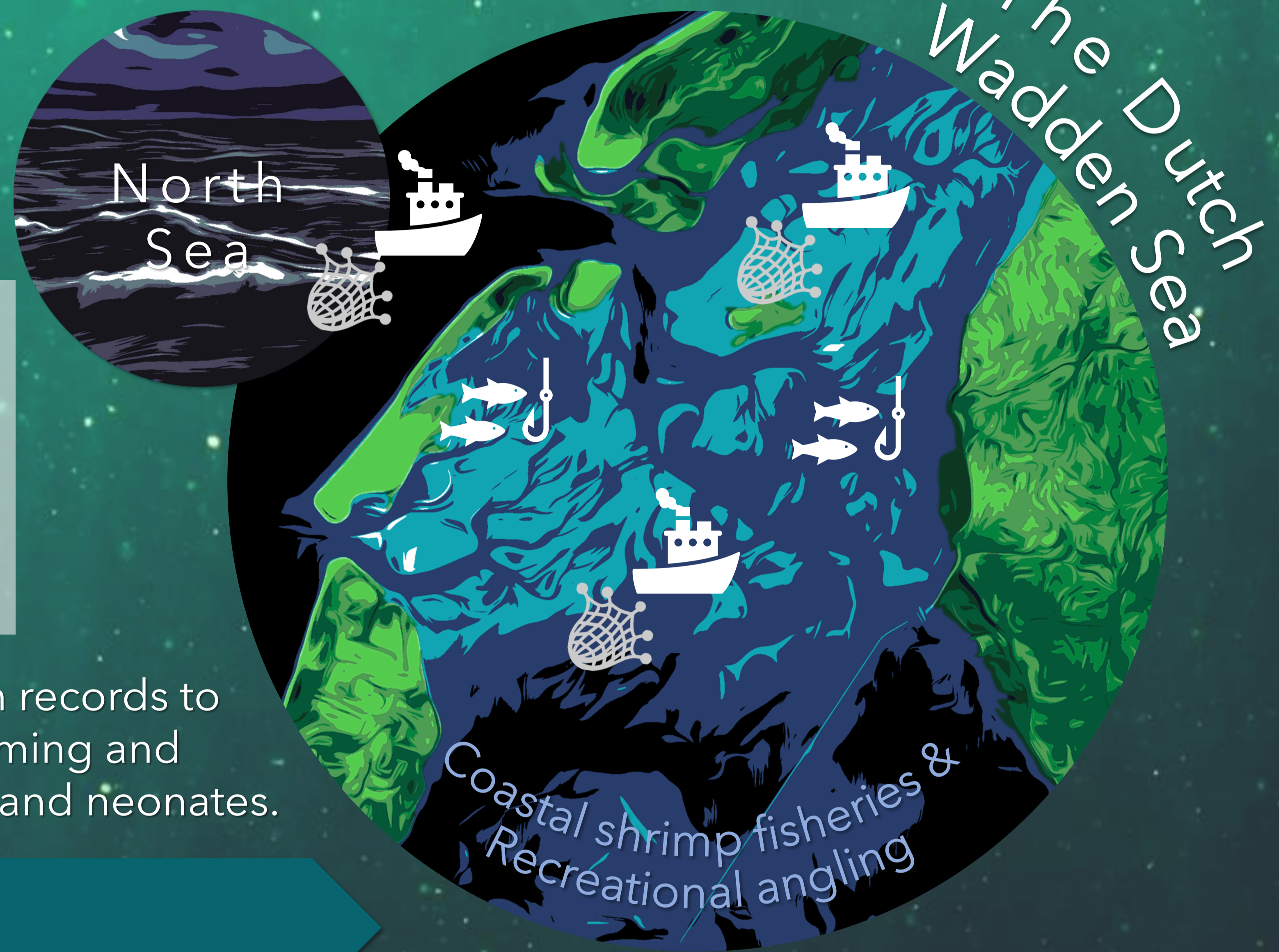
THE DUTCH WADDEN SEA

Commercial and recreational catch records

Historical records (1970s) report large numbers of sharks captured in Dutch waters during the summer months.

This is corroborated by recent captures (2016-2022).

GOAL: Use updated catch records to determine the timing and distribution of adults and neonates.



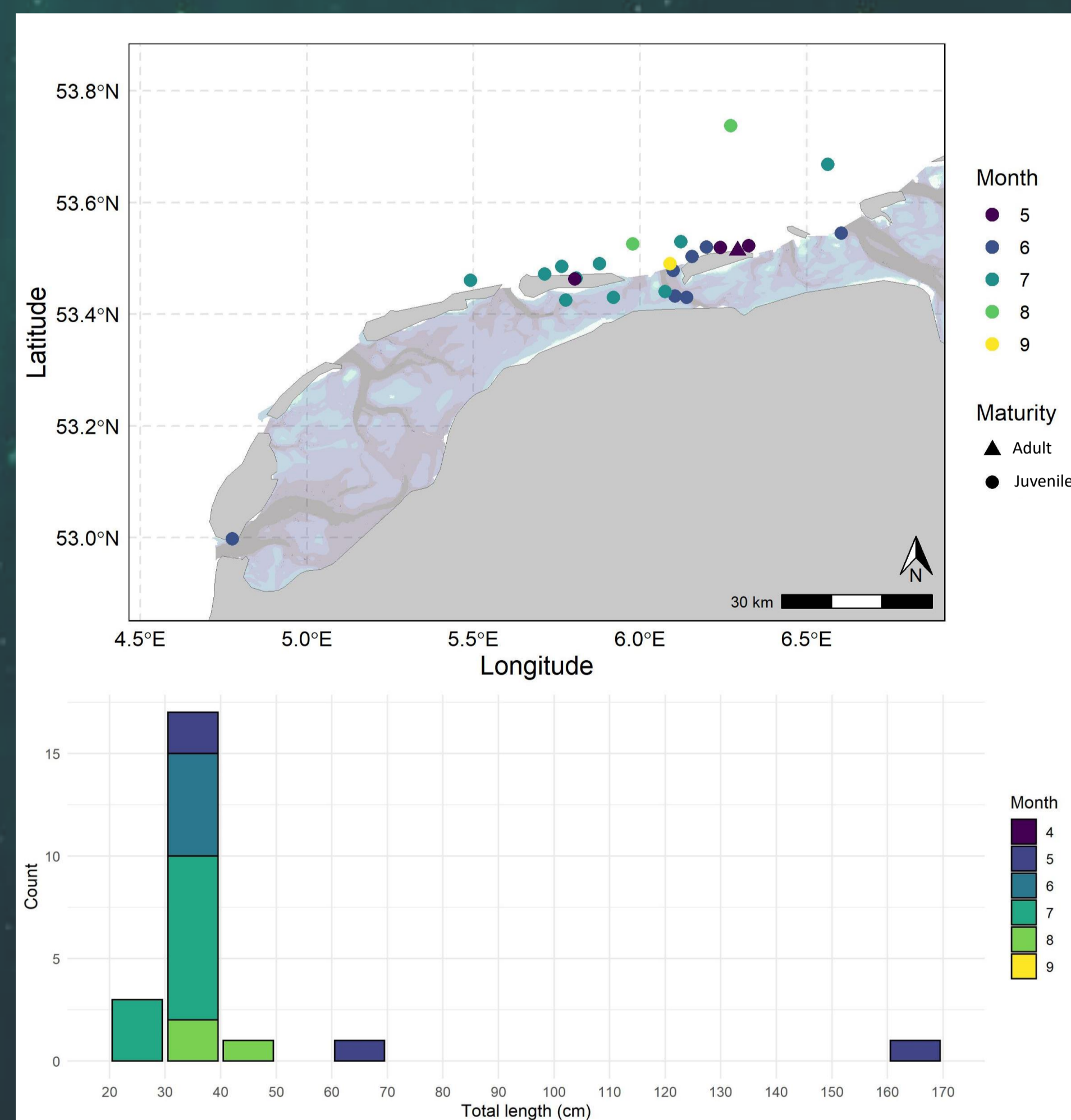
FIRST RESULTS

NEW CATCHES MAINLY NEONATES!

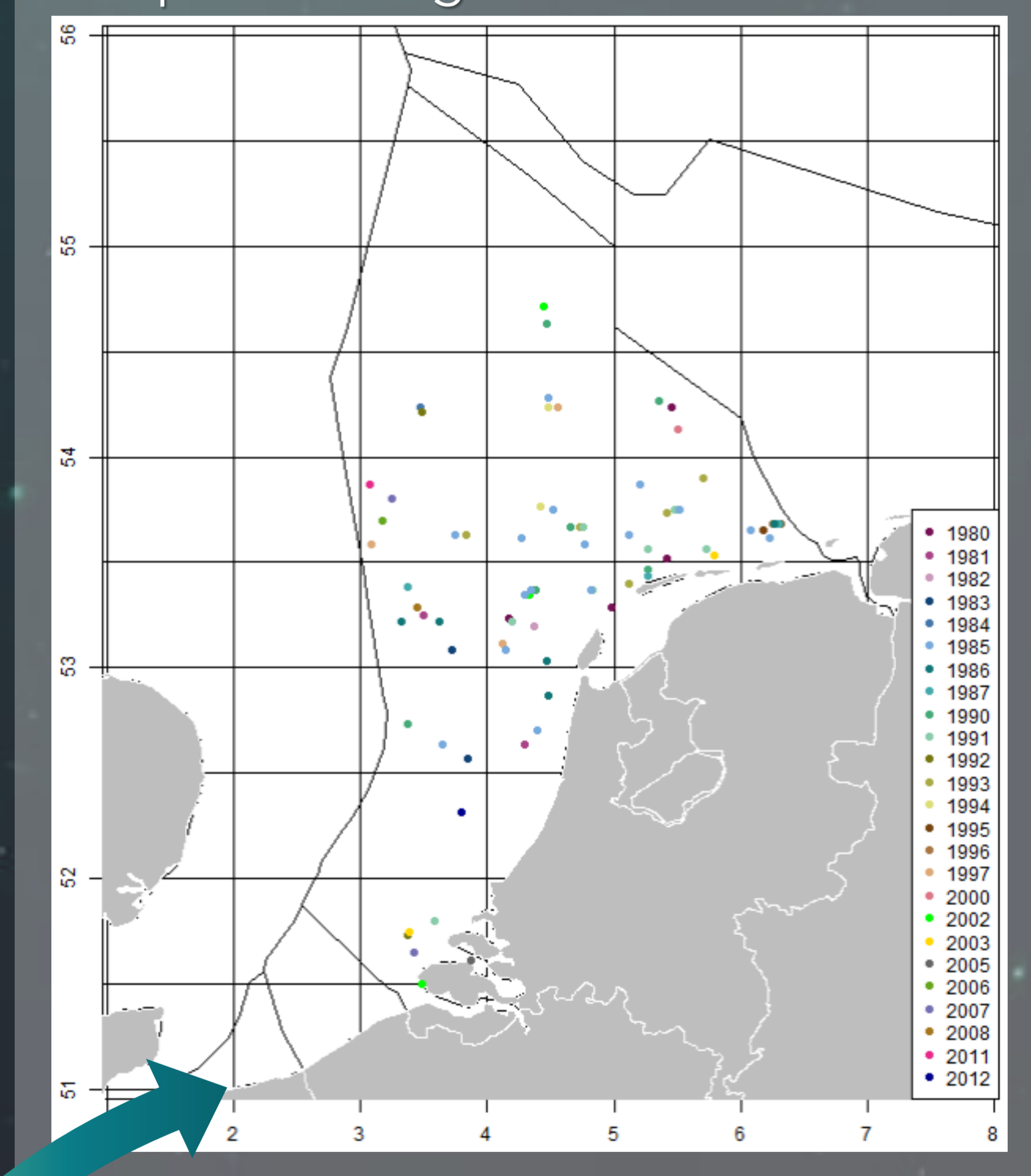


Compiling new & archived catch records

to look at location and shark size.



Batsleer et al. 2020 report: <https://doi.org/10.18174/536932>



IS THE DUTCH WADDEN SEA AN IMPORTANT PUPPING GROUND FOR TOPE?

Examination of additional catch records and corresponding environmental conditions will improve our understanding of the factors driving tope occurrence and pupping in Dutch waters.

FUTURE WORK



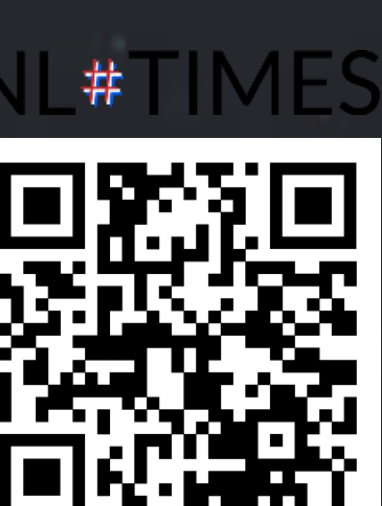
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NL#TIMES