

How to Strike the right Balance

Sea Bottom Protection (Natura 2000 and EMFD) A Fishing Industry Point of View



EP Intergroup on “Climate Change,
Biodiversity, and Sustainable Development”

23 June 2016

*Pim Visser, executive officer VisNed
president of EAPO*

VisNed and its portfolios

National Dutch Association of Producer Organisations in Demersal Fisheries

- *Fishery Policy*
 - *All CFP related issues*
- *Spatial Planning*
- *Sustainability, Market Issues + Certification*
- *Social and Technical Issues and Innovation*
 - *Innovations improving sustainability*



Variety in vessel types and sizes



It's about fishermen and their families



Supplying proteins for a growing population



Traditional Fishing Area



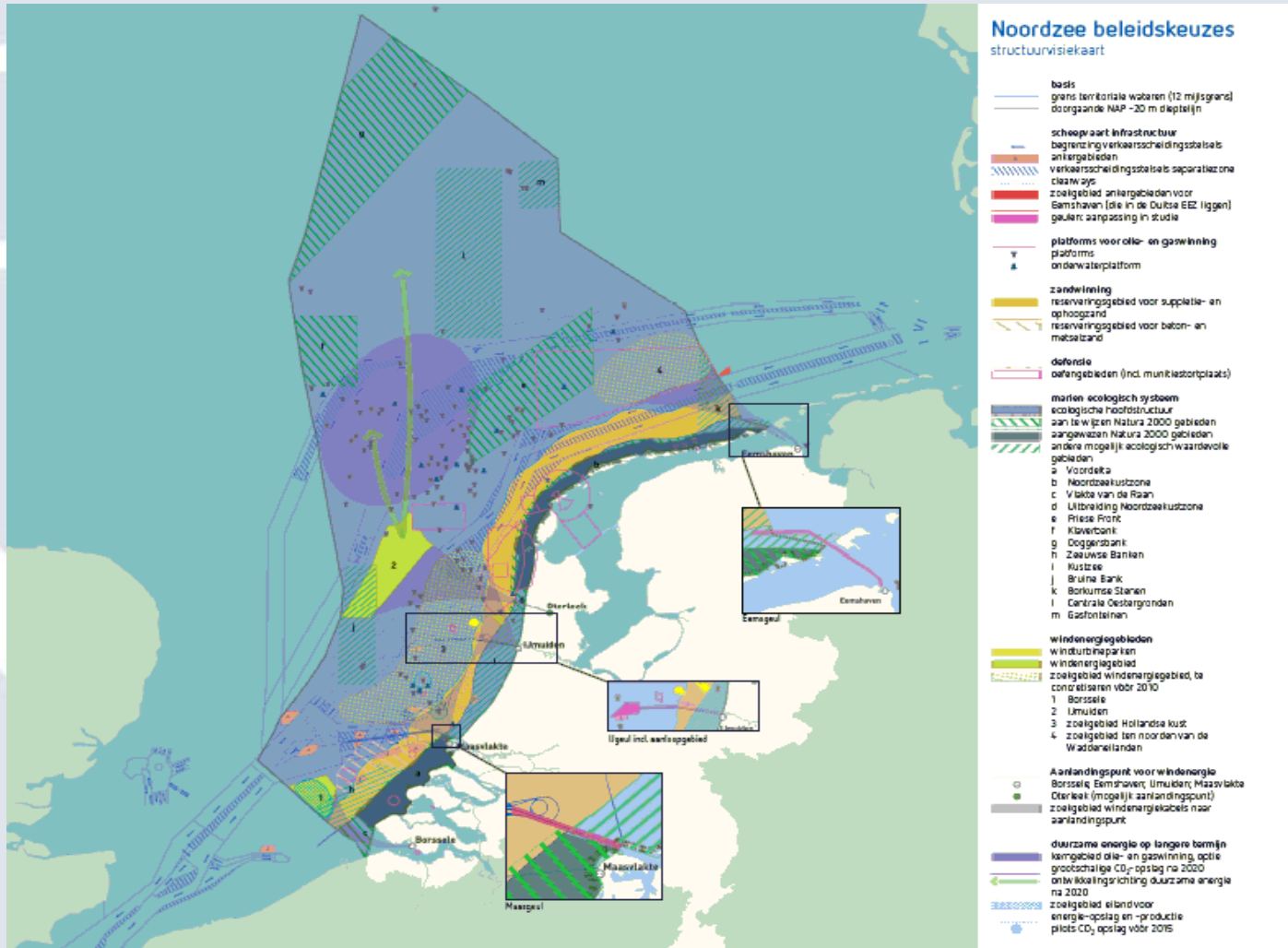
VISSERS MET TOEKOMST

British and Dutch fought at the Doggerbank in 1781

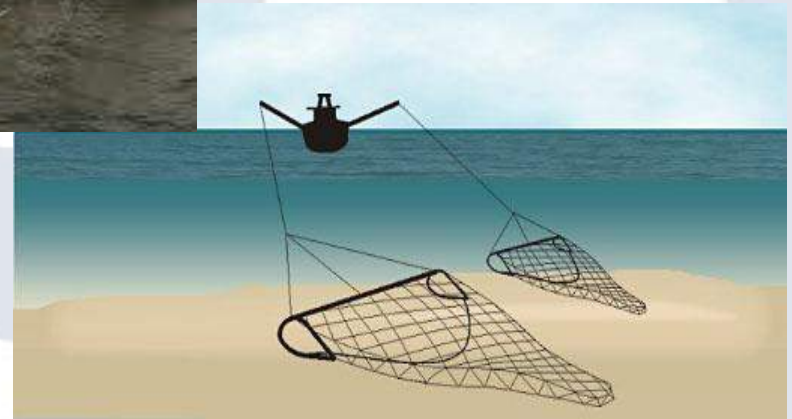


VISSERS MET TOEKOMST

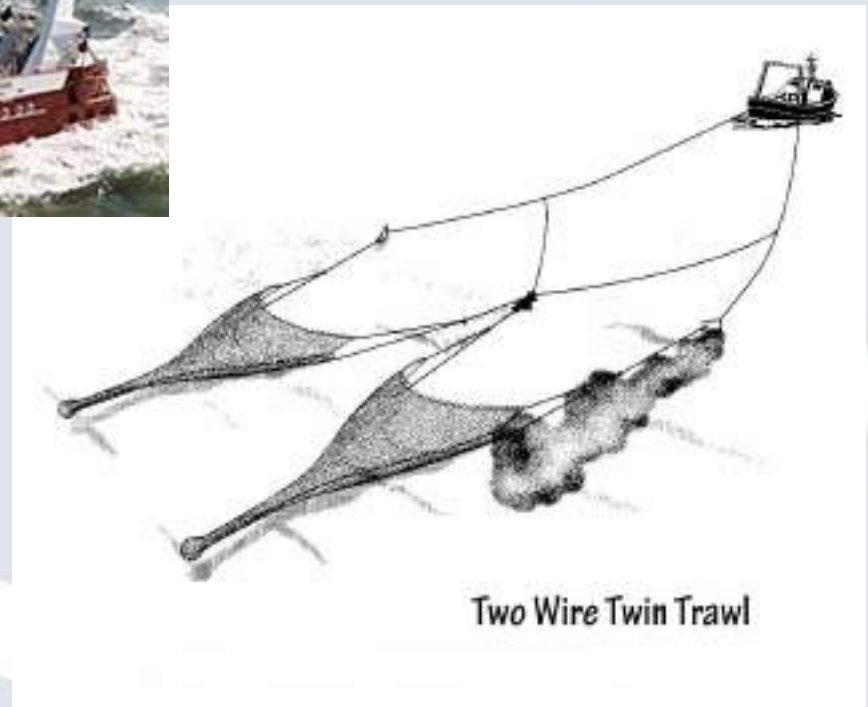
Part of Multiple use of Dutch CS



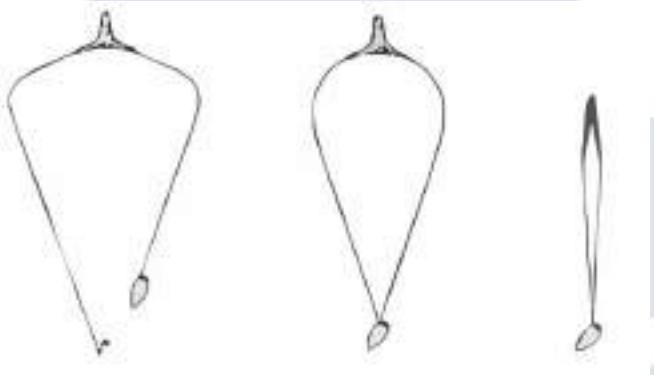
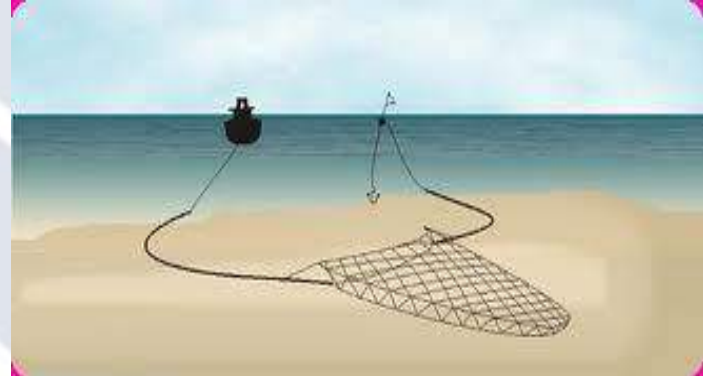
Traditional beamtrawl with tickler chains



Twin rigged otter trawl



Scottish seine net or fly shoot



FISHING ON A SQUARE INCH



Fishing requires space

- Fishing is never subject to planning
 - Wind, Temperature, Weather
- Fishing is not Farming at Sea but Hunting
- Hunting requires a sufficiently large hunting area
- Because fish is highly mobile
- Displacement of activities is highly detrimental

Striking the balance Answering three questions

- What are we protecting?
- Why are we protecting it?
- How will we be protecting it?

Striking the balance Answering three questions

Protection Habitats \neq Closing for fisheries

CFP and N2000 and EMFD

- **Measures in CFP context only**
- **N2000 legislation designed for land**
 - **Strict definitions**
 - **Can be adapted if required**
 - **NL created special Doggerbank Habitat type.....**
 - **No room to manoeuver**
 - **Selective application**
 - **No soc ec considerations**
 - **Excuses**
- **MSFD no definitions**
 - **Now into Phase 2, still no definitions**
 - **Socio Economic considerations poorly developed**

Fish Indicators

- CFP Leading
- ICES Advice binding
- B_{msy} can not be a leading consideration
- Size Age structure valued in relation to F_{msy}
- Mixed Fishries approach,
 - single species approach unworkable
 - Working with msy-ranges is essential

Fish and Environment Relate to Fisheries Management

- DG ENVI and DG MARE
- EP ENVI committee and EP PECH committee
- Member States Environmental and Fisheries Departments

Some slides from Benthis Project

- Slides are kindly supplied by the BENTHIS project
- They are to illustrate the development
- Benthis Project 2013-2017
- Research work finished now in advice phase



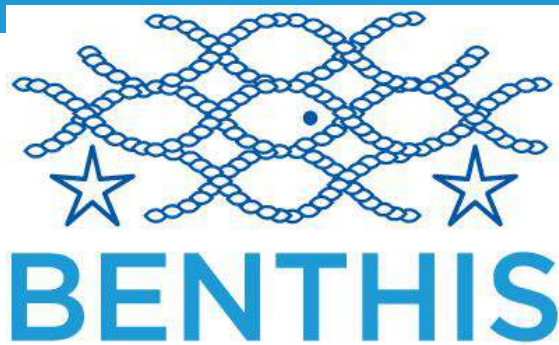
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SYNTESA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



WITTRUP SEAFOOD A/S



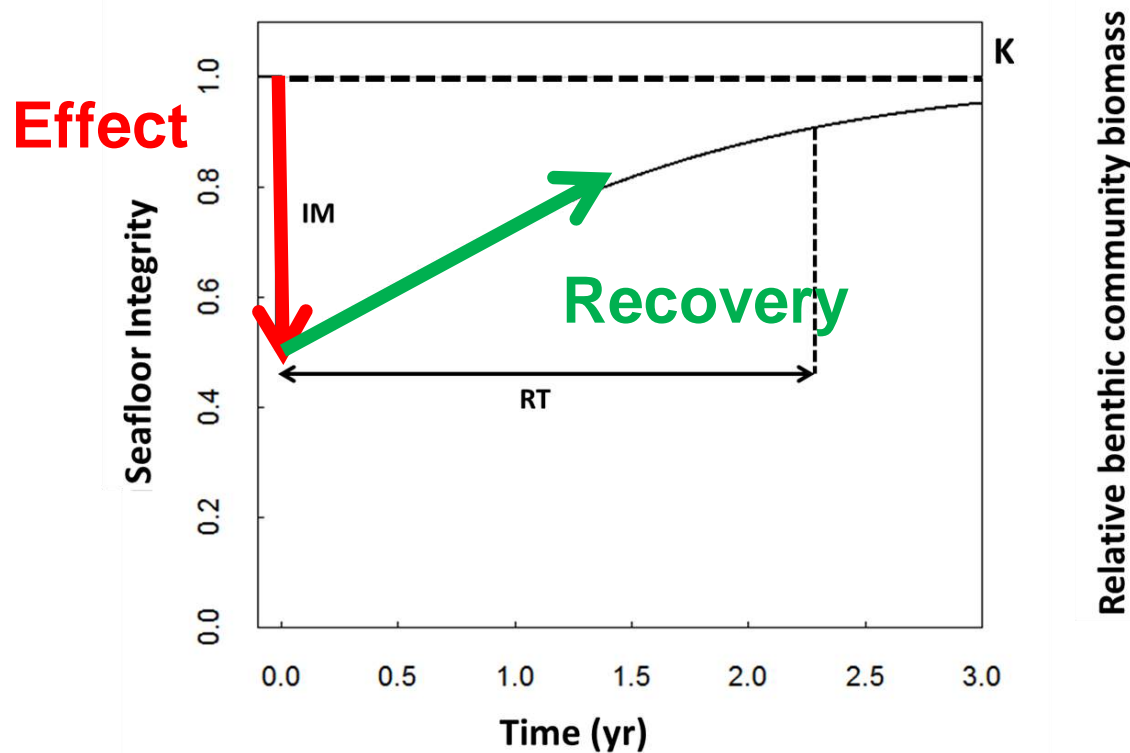
Fishing Impact and Seafloor Integrity



Indicators Seafloor Integrity

- MSFD Descriptor 6 Seafloor Integrity:
 - D6.1 “Physical damage, having regard to substrate characteristics”
 - D6.2 “Condition of benthic community”

Condition of benthic community: A Risk-based Approach



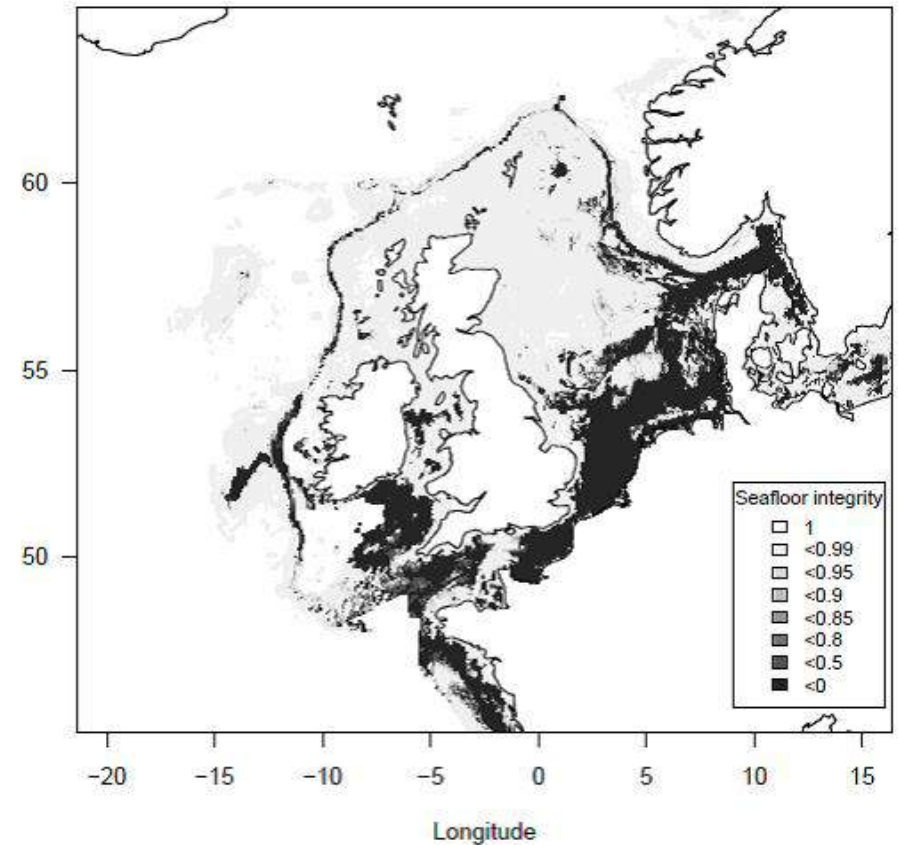
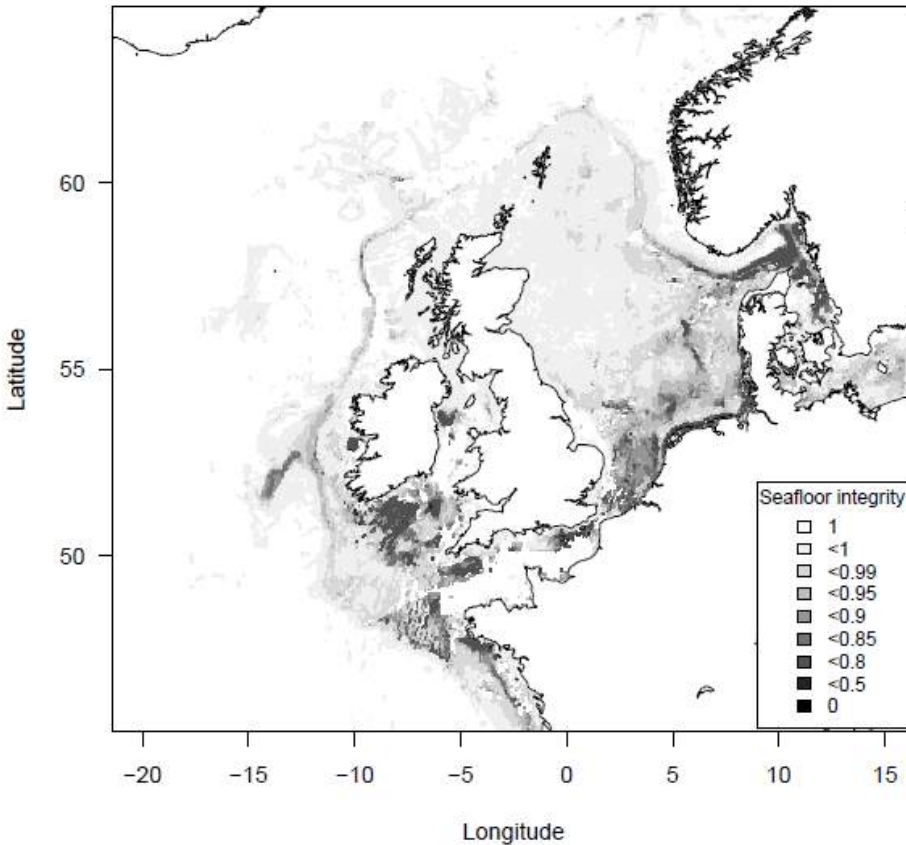
– Vulnerability = $f(\text{Exposure, Sensitivity})$

– Sensitivity = $f(\text{Effect, Recovery})$

Seafloor Integrity Maps

Population Dynamics

Longevity

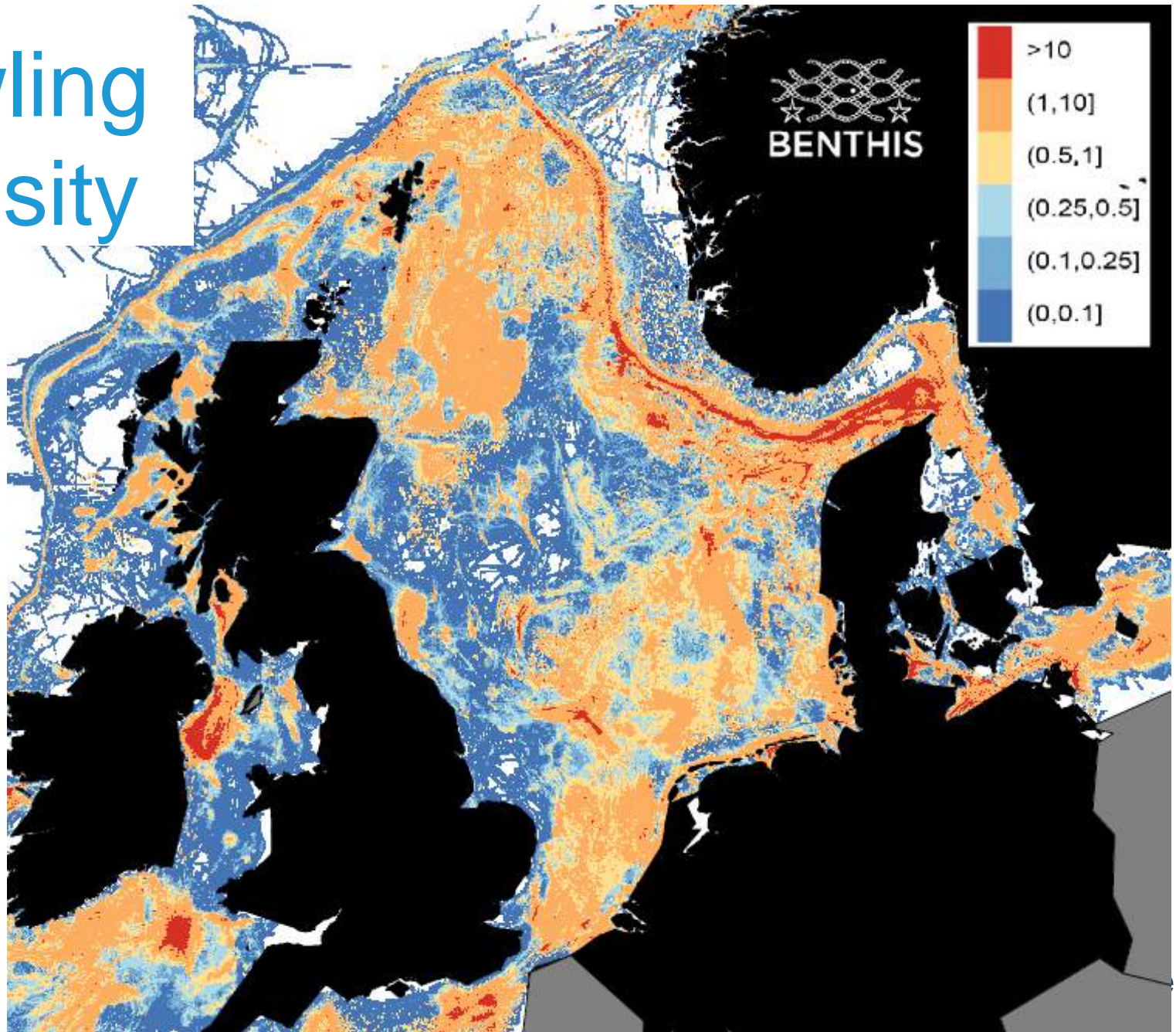


Integration Indicators

- D6.1 “Physical damage, having regard to substrate characteristics”
 - Population Dynamics
 - Longevity
- D6.2 “Condition of benthic community”

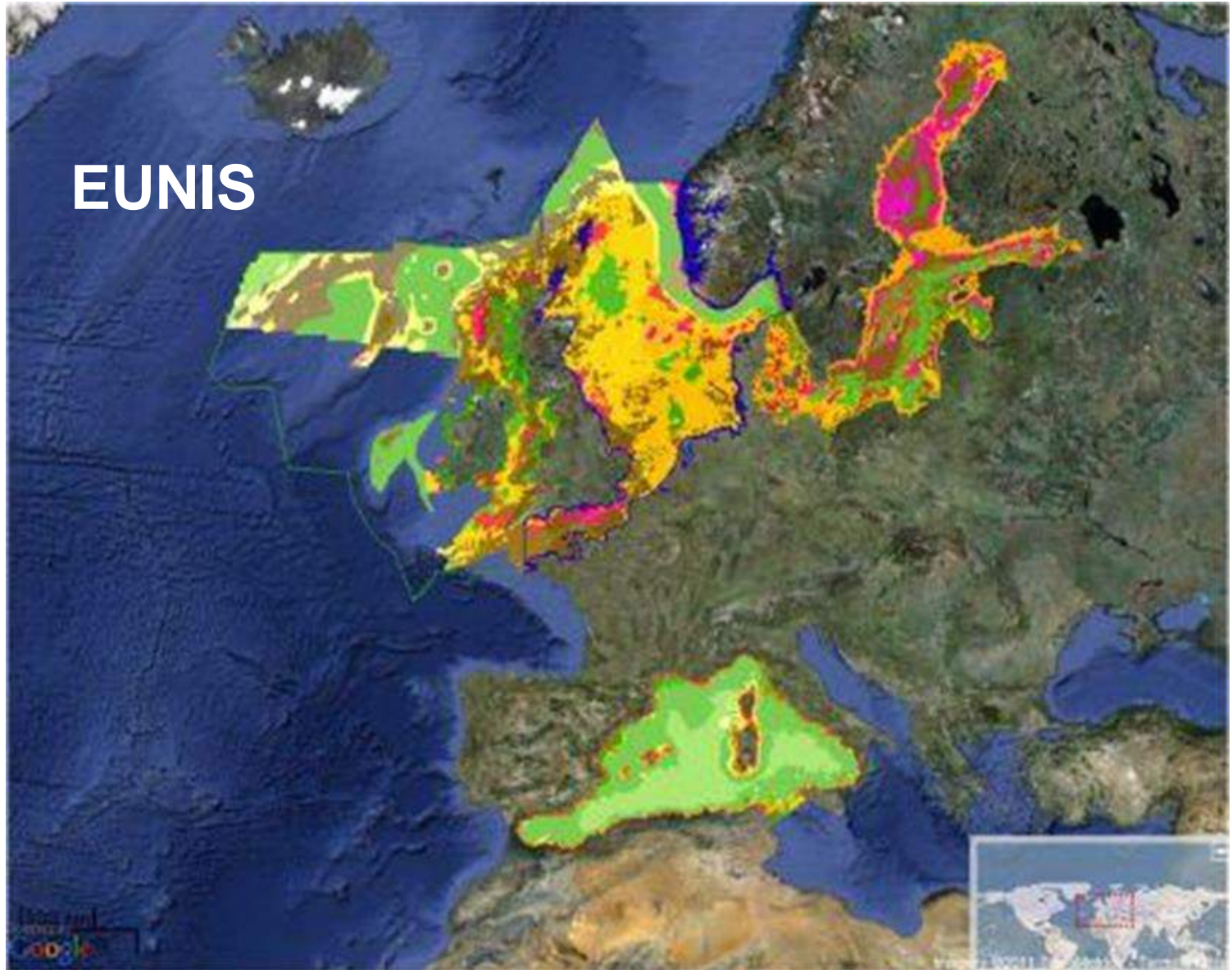
Seafloor Integrity criteria & methods	Risk \approx Vulnerability		
	Exposure	Sensitivity	
		Effect	Recovery
D6.1: Population Dynamics	Fishery footprint	Implicit: Only relevant traits	Implicit: Only relevant traits
D6.1: Longevity			Explicit: Longevity
D6.2: Condition		Relevant traits to be determined	Relevant traits to be determined

Trawling intensity

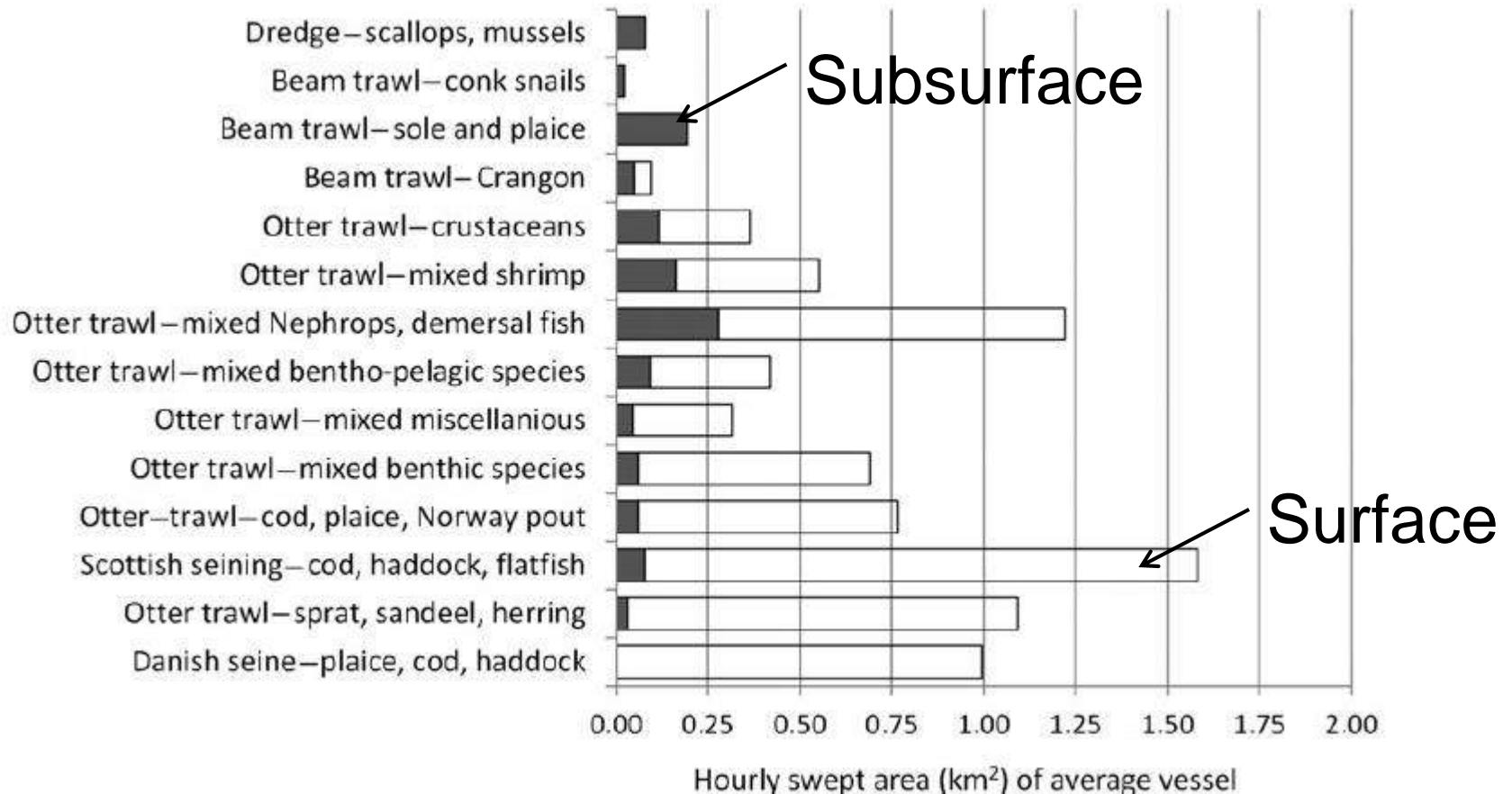


Sea bed habitat types

EUNIS

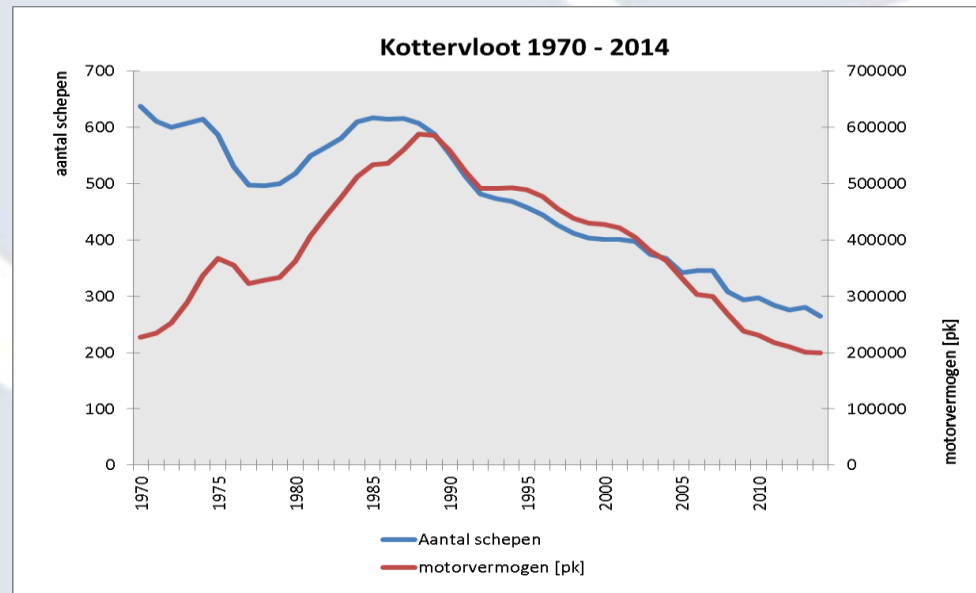


Footprint by gear type area swept per hour of trawling



Beamtrawl fleet development since 1970

	<u>1990</u>		<u>2015</u>
Nr of vessels	588	↓↓	276
Engine power	586.000	↓↓	212.000
kW days	>40.000.000	↓↓	≈ 21.000.000



Fishery Credit Systems (FCS)

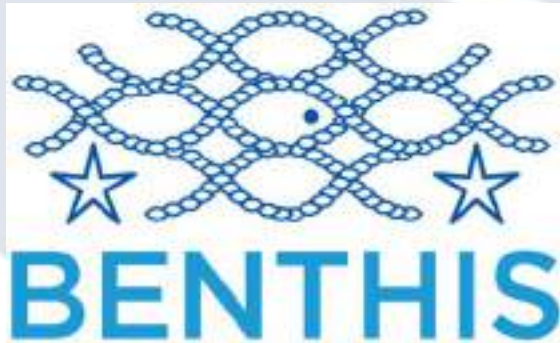
Incentivizing change in fishers behaviour



Benthis from Opinions to Fact Based Judgement

- Seafloor integrity discussions before Benthis
 - Expert Opinions only
 - Bias and prejudged
 - Black and white only
- Seafloor integrity discussions with Benthis outcomes
 - We see many shades of grey
 - Complicating management discussions
 - Need for applicable toolbox
- Beware: Over simplification leads to unfair decisions

Need to continue this work



- Wealth of data
- Need for enhancement
- Need for dissemination
- Development of toolbox
- Need for continuation

The (only) way forward for the fishing sector

- Fisheries confronted with a plethora of proposals
 - N2000 EMFD and Windfarms
- NGO's and Industry to sing from the same page
 - Are seas a sustainable source of protein or wilderness
- Fishing Industry must engage in all processes
 - balance between food and nature
 - keep fishers motivated
 - Invest in scientific capabilities
 - National organisations working together internationally

How to Strike the right Balance

Sea Bottom Protection (Natura 2000 and EMFD)

Use the correct indicators!

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