



# A systematic review and meta-analysis on the effects of mobile bottom fishing on the benthos



Dr. Kathryn Hughes  
Prof. Michel Kaiser  
Dr. Jan Hiddink



Trawling Best Practices Group  
<http://trawlingpractices.wordpress.com/>

# Trawling Best Practice Project

<http://trawlingpractices.wordpress.com/>

## Trawling

Finding common ground on the scientific knowledge regarding best practices

[HOME](#) [STUDY COMMITTEE](#) [PROJECT PROPOSAL](#) [MEETINGS](#) [DATASETS](#) [RESULTS](#) [COMMENTS](#) [MEMBERS ONLY](#)



Photo: Allan Hicks

One of the most contentious issues in management of marine fisheries is the use of mobile bottom contact gears, trawls and dredges. About 25% of world fish catch comes from the use of these gears and catch from trawls is an important element of food security in much of the world. At present, a continental shelf area approximately equivalent to 3 times the area of Brazil is affected by mobile bottom contact gear. Trawls can dramatically

### WHAT'S NEW

The report from the second meeting of the working group is now available [click here](#)



# Funders...Thank You!



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# Systematic Review: A tool for evidence based practice

- A method used commonly in medical science and only relatively recently in ecology
- Aims to summarise, appraise and communicate results and implications from a collection of primary research
- A systematic Review should be

–Reliable

–Repeatable

–Robust



**The 3 R's**  
**Reducing the risk**  
**of bias**



# Systematic Review

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## LIMITATIONS

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Need a well-defined question  
Need access to literature (incl. grey)  
Can be relatively costly

## ADVANTAGES

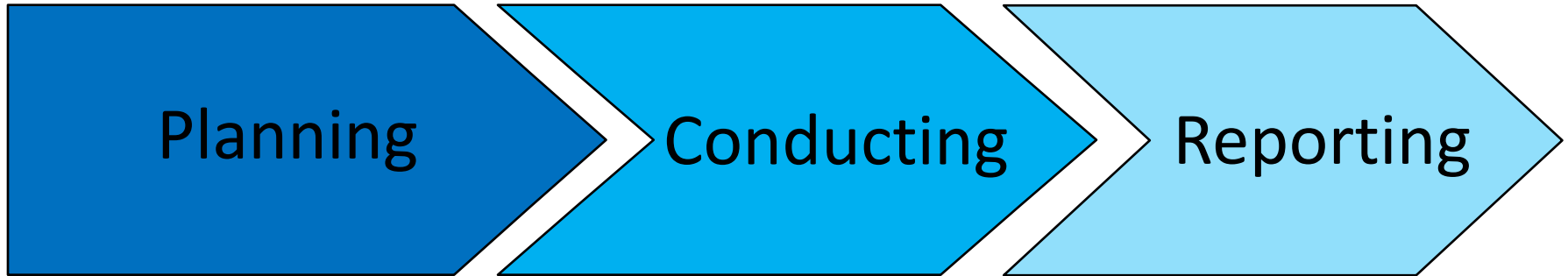
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Can use all previous types of synthesis  
Can be updated  
Transparent, objective, repeatable: robust to criticism  
Formal methodology to follow  
Minimization of bias  
Systematic search and capture of evidence  
Critical appraisal of quality of evidence

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# Process Flow



- Question
- Protocol

- Searching
- Article Screening
- Data Extraction
- Critical Appraisal
- Synthesis

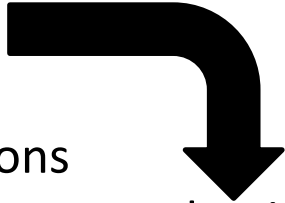
- Final Review
- Dissemination



# Research Questions: Stakeholder Engagement...

- Stakeholder consultation
  - 1:1 discussion (WWF, MSC, industry groups)
  - Formal consultative process



- 
- 108 separate questions
  - 4 categories (ecosystem productivity; Direct effects; Operational; Management indicators)
  - 22 questions were highlighted as answerable by the TBP project
  - All 22 questions were used to shape the primary and secondary research questions for the systematic review



# Primary Research Question

To what extent does mobile bottom fishing affect the numerical abundance or counts, biomass and diversity of benthic biota?



Image taken from:

"IESA-FAO.ORG; Water and Agriculture. Posted on 17.02.2014" Taken on 16.06.14

<http://iesa-fao.org/macrozoobenthos-indicator-environmental-pollution.html>



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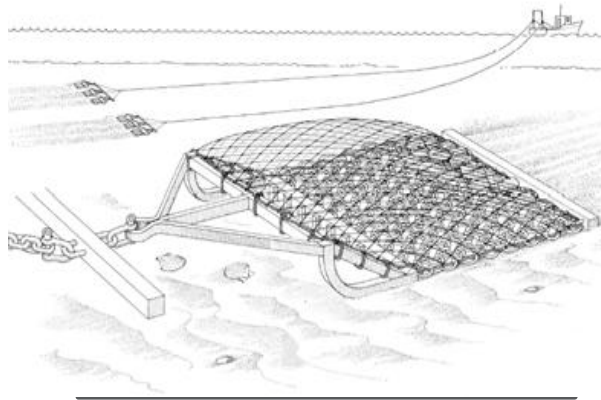
# Secondary Research Questions

How does the following influence the effect mobile bottom fishing has on marine benthic biota...

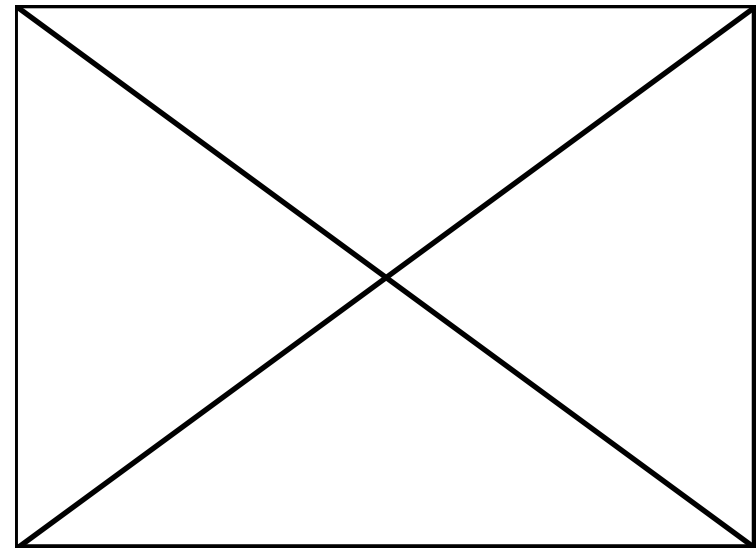
1. Gear

2. Habitat

3. Gear x Habitat



Images of trawl gear taken from Jennings et al. 2001  
© S. R. Jennings

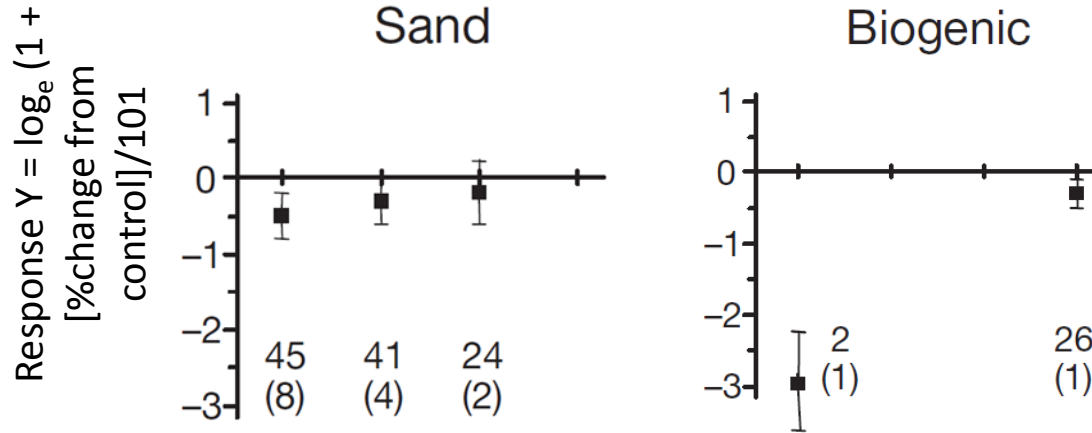


Video From: Bangor University, Fisheries and Conservation Science Group – Harriet Solmonsens  
<http://fisheriesconservation.bangor.ac.uk/vidimg.php.en?menu=9&catid=10958&subid=0>

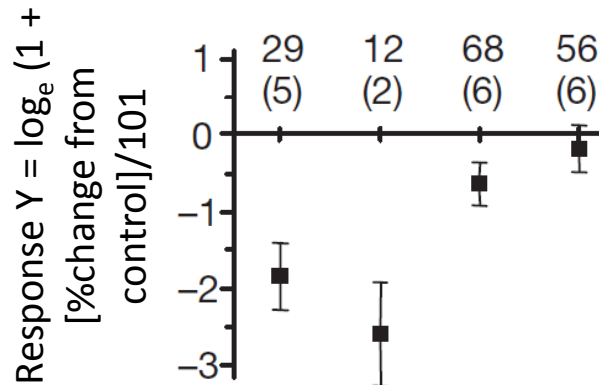


# Secondary Research Questions:

Scallop Dredging



Intertidal Dredging

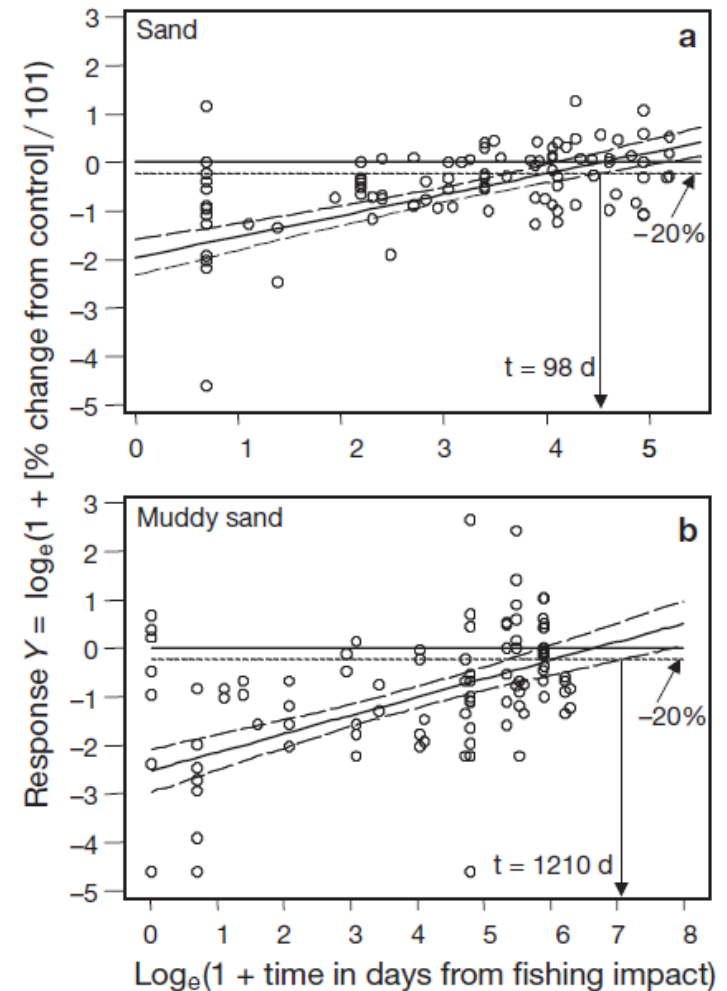


Taken from  
Kaiser *et al.* 2006



# Secondary Research Questions:

4. How might species diversity affect the resilience (including recovery potential) of a community to bottom fishing activities?



# Search strategy

\*fauna\* OR \*benth\* OR scaveng\* OR by\$catch OR maerl OR coral\* OR biota OR biogenic OR (hard AND bod\*) OR (soft AND bod\*) OR \*flora\* OR \*invertebrate\* AND

← Population

\*trawl\* OR ((bottom OR mobile OR towed OR commercial OR benthic OR demersal) AND fishing) OR harvest\* OR \*dredg\* OR digging OR (bait AND collect\*) OR \*raking OR scallop drag\* OR dragging AND

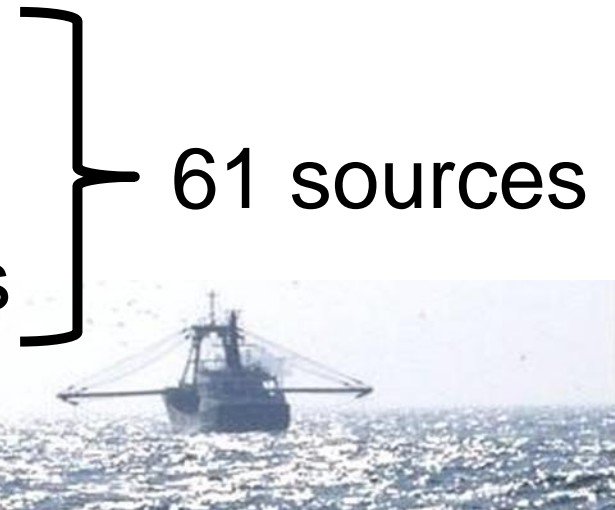
← Intervention

(experiment\* OR comparative OR BACI OR ((differ\* OR known OR gradient OR range OR vari\* OR change OR contrasting OR distinct) AND (fishing OR trawling OR dredging OR dragging OR disturbance) AND (pressure OR level OR amount OR frequencies OR intensities OR histories)) OR ((trawled OR fished OR disturbed OR harvest\* OR heavily OR within OR impact OR inside OR after OR following OR treatment OR trial) AND (un\$trawled OR non\$fished OR un\$fished OR un\$disturbed OR un\$harvested OR non\$harvested OR lightly OR outside OR before OR prior OR adjacent OR control OR reference OR protected OR MPA OR closed)))

← Comparator

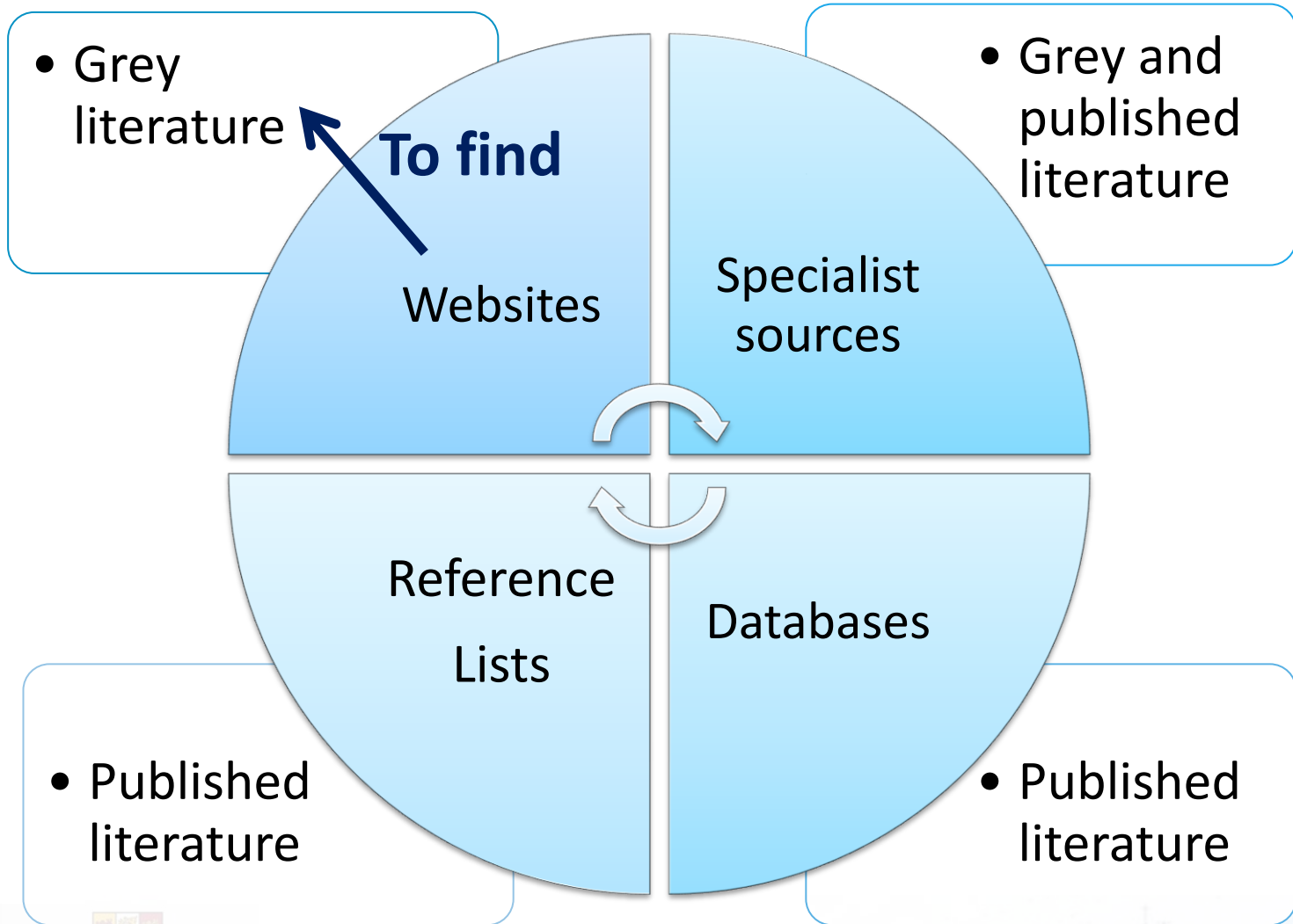
- 3 Websites
- 23 Databases
- 35 Specialist sources

} 61 sources





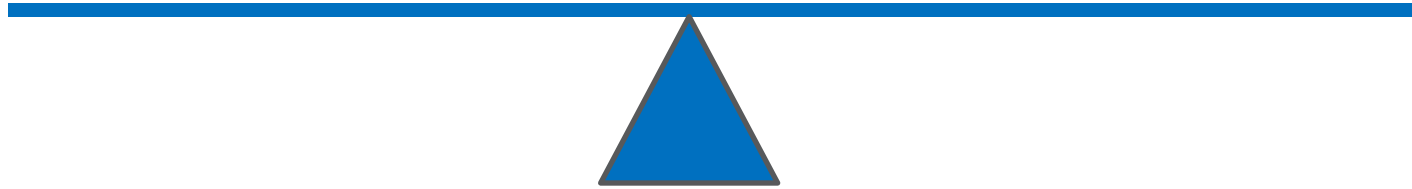
# Search strategy



# Search strategy

Sensitivity

Specificity



- 98 different search “phrases” were tested for suitability using Web of Science
- Web of Science produced c. 20,000 references, all of which were exported
- Each website differs – adapt the search string accordingly
- Overall 7 different variations of the search string was used
- All searching must be recorded to ensure repeatability and transparency



# Search strategy

Meta-data 1.xlsx - Microsoft Excel

Source		Website				Default settings				Biases				Searches			Final Search				Documents											
Source	Title	General website	Website used	Subscription used?	Subscription required?	Search Type	Timespan	Where in the article does the search happen?	How are results ranked	Library	Other	Geographic bias present	Language bias present	Document type bias	1	2	3	Search term used box 1	Search term used box 2	Search term used box 3	Notes on search	Date and Author of search 1	Number of Hits of search 1	Notes	% relevant hits in first 50	Number of hits exported to Endnot	Name of library	Saved Docs	Screenshots of results	Communication		
3	Database	Web of Science	http://wokinfo.com	http://wokinfo.com	Yes	Yes	Advance	1950-present	Topic (Title, abstract)	Publication	All	Auto-suggest	Perhaps	Yes	Peer-reviewed	See	NA	NA	NA	"fauna" OR "trawl" OR "experimental"	NA	KMH 30.04.20	59111	This increase	NA	20197	WoS	WoK	C	N	Y	
4	Database	Science Direct	http://www.sciencedirect.com	http://www.sciencedirect.com	Yes	Yes	Expert Search	All Years (1950-2014)	Title, Abstract	Relevance	All	Expert search	TBC	133	col	Journals	Full	NA	NA	NA	Title-Abstract	NA	Originally	KMH 08.05.20	1464	The results	NA	1464	SciDir_2	SciDir_2	N	N
5	Database	Directory of Open Access Journals	http://www.doi.org	http://www.doi.org	No	No	Advance	1880-	"Search All" in	Relevance	All	Advanced	Yes - c	Yes - l	Yes or	NA	NA	NA	"fauna" OR "trawl" OR "experimental"	NA	NA	NA	KMH 08.05.20	68	50	100	50	DOAJ_2	N	N	N	
6	Database	Copac	http://copac.org.uk	http://copac.org.uk	No	No	Advance	Requested	Subject - this is	Relevance	All	NA	TBC	If the search	???	???	???	NA	NA	NA	"fauna" OR "trawl" OR "experimental"	NA	KMH 01.05.20	28927	On the first	TBC	TBC	COPAC	N	N	N	
7	Database	Scopus	http://www.scopus.com	http://www.scopus.com	No	No	Advance	1950+	Title (by writing)	Relevance	All	UK and Irish Universities	UK and	Town	Higher	NA	NA	NA	"trawl" OR "trawling" OR "experimental"	NA	NA	NA	The search	KMH 02.05.20	166	Consistent	100	50	Index to Theses	Index to Theses_2.tif - screenshot	N	N
8	Database	Index to Theses	http://www.theses.org.uk	http://www.theses.org.uk	No	No	Advance	TBC	All but the full	Relevance	All	29 libraries	The advanced	TBC	???	???	???	NA	NA	NA	"fauna" OR "trawl" OR "experimental"	NA	KMH 02.05.20	17610	When I re	62	1493	DigDiss	DigitalDiss2.doc - the list of	N	N	
9	Database	Digital Disserts	http://search.proquest.com	http://search.proquest.com	Yes	Yes	Advance	TBC	???	Relevance	All	Oalster, Wc	There does	???	???	???	NA	NA	NA	"trawl" OR "trawling" OR "experimental"	NA	The advanced	KMH 13.05.14	8336	There was	NA	50	Worldcat	Worldcat	Y	N	
10	Database	Worldcat	http://worldcat.org	http://worldcat.org	Yes	No	Basic	?	???	Relevance	All	Oalster, Wc	???	???	???	NA	NA	NA	"fauna" OR "trawl" OR "experimental"	NA	The advanced	KMH 13.05.14	2698	I repeated	NA	300	Oceanic J	Screenshots	Y	N		
11	Database	Oceanic Abstracts	http://www.oceanicabstracts.com	http://www.oceanicabstracts.com	Yes	No	Advance	1971+	Abstract	Relevance	All	Oalster, Wc	???	???	???	NA	NA	NA	"fauna" OR "trawl" OR "experimental"	NA	NA	KMH 13.05.14	750	A search	100	50	PubMed	N	Y	N		
12	Database	PubMed	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed	No	No	Basic (advanced)	1800+	???	Relevance	All	PubMed	Advanced	???	???	???	NA	NA	NA	"trawl" OR "trawling" OR "experimental"	NA	NA	KMH 13.05.14	133	Results w	NA	NA	NA	N	N		
13	Database	Science Access	http://www.scienceaccess.com	http://www.scienceaccess.com	No	No	Advance	1930+	in the title (optional)	Relevance	All	All Sources	NA	???	???	???	NA	NA	NA	"trawl" OR "trawling" OR "experimental"	NA	KMH 18.02.14	437	As per the	NA	50	Science.gov	NA	N	N	N	
14	Database	National Research Archive	http://www.nra.gov.uk	http://www.nra.gov.uk	No	No	Advance	1870+ (All years)	Full text	Rank	???	Limited to	???	???	???	NA	NA	NA	"trawl" OR "trawling" OR "experimental"	NA	NA	KMH 19.02.14	437	As per the	NA	50	Science.gov	NA	N	N	N	
15	Database	National Research Archive	http://www.nra.gov.uk	http://www.nra.gov.uk	No	No	Advance	1870+ (All years)	Full text	Rank	???	Limited to	???	???	???	NA	NA	NA	"trawl" OR "trawling" OR "experimental"	NA	NA	KMH 19.02.14	437	As per the	NA	50	Science.gov	NA	N	N	N	
16	Database	National Research Archive	http://www.nra.gov.uk	http://www.nra.gov.uk	No	No	Basic (no subscription)	1995+	All documents	Relevance	All	There is no	???	???	???	???	NA	NA	NA	"trawl" OR "trawling" OR "experimental"	NA	There is no	KMH 11.03.14	36	NA	NA	NA	NA	N	N	N	
17	Database	JSTOR	http://www.jstor.org	http://www.jstor.org	No	No	Advance	???	Abstract	Relevance	All	The comp	???	???	???	NA	NA	NA	"trawl" OR "trawling" OR "experimental"	NA	Wildcards aren't allowed	KMH 11.03.14	355	As before	100	50	JSTOR	No	N	N	N	
18	Database	Greenfile data	http://web.eprints.org	http://web.eprints.org	No	No	Advance	1981-2014	Abstract or Article	Relevance	All	NA	???	???	???	NA	NA	NA	"fauna" OR "trawl" OR "experimental"	NA	The previous	KMH 19.05.20	417	100	50	GreenFile	GreenFile	Y	N	N		
19	Database	E-Print network	http://www.eprints.org	http://www.eprints.org	No	No	Advance	1990+	Title	Relevance	All	The title of	???	???	???	NA	NA	NA	"trawl" OR "trawling" OR "experimental"	NA	NA	KMH 11.03.14	136	The search	NA	NA	Name of	No	N	N	N	

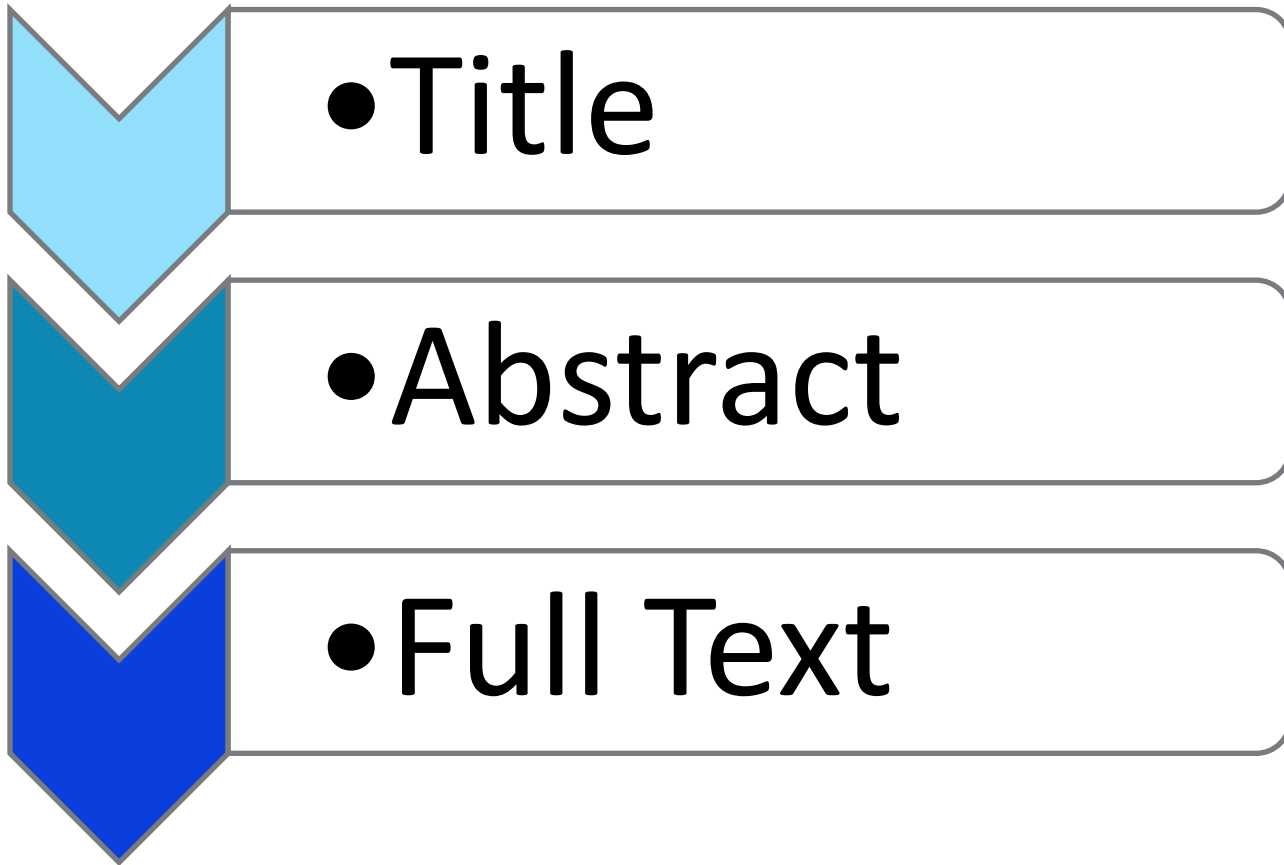
- Repeatable
- Reliable
- Robust



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# Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria





# Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

**Relevant subjects(s):** Marine benthic biota (flora and fauna)

**Types of exposure:** Experimental or comparative bottom fishing activities

**Types of comparator:** No or less exposure to bottom fishing gear

**Types of outcome:** Measurable effect (i.e. change and no change are both effects, so non-significant results will be included) in a component of benthic biota (species, taxon, trophic group etc.)



# Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

- The Kappa statistic – formal measure of agreement between reviewers
- Tests the level of consistency with the inclusion/exclusion criteria
- Applicable usually on the abstract and full text stage
- We have tested the kappa statistic also with the title stage

**0.4 – 0.59**

**FAIR AGREEMENT**

**0.6 – 0.74**

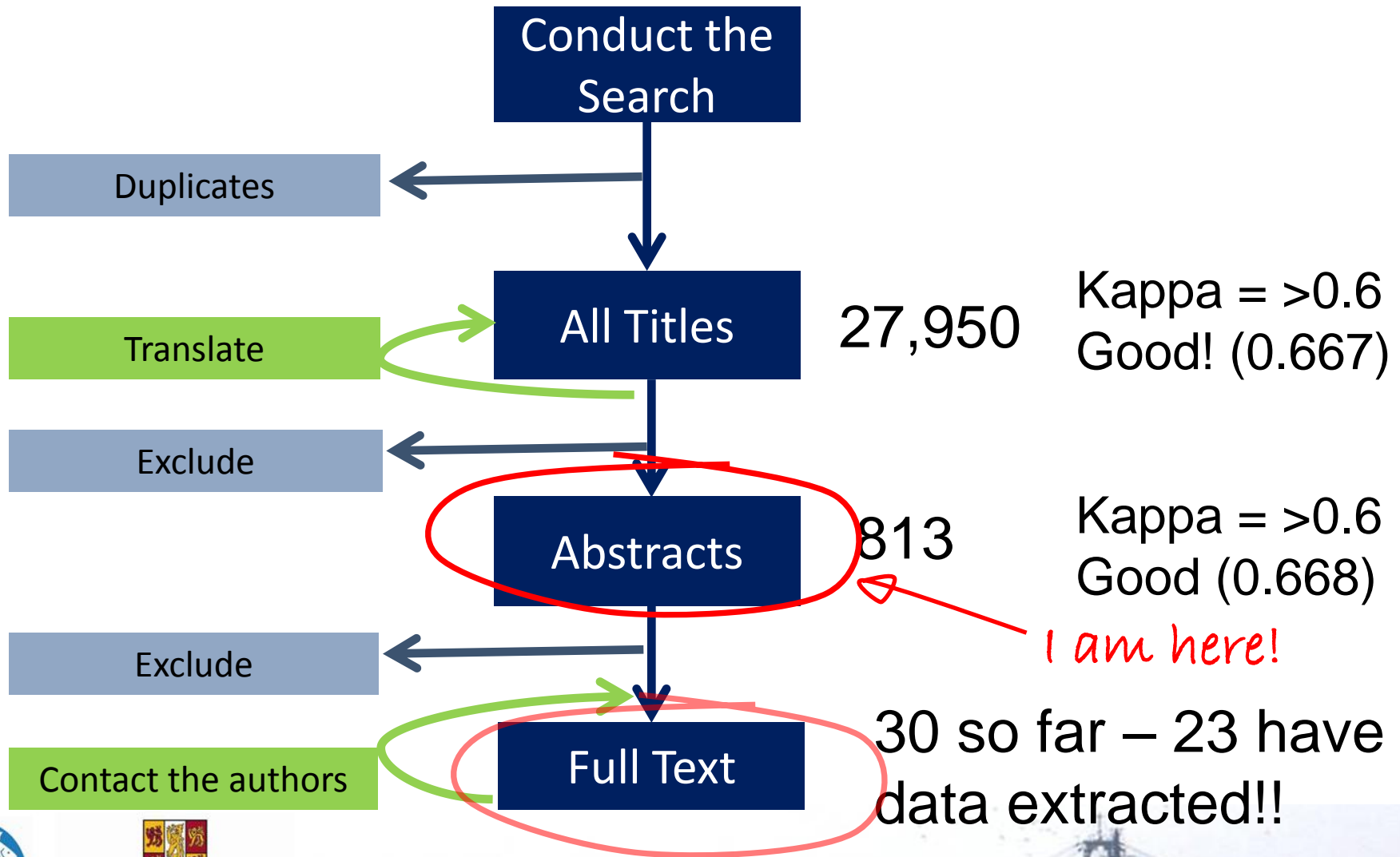
**GOOD AGREEMENT**

**0.75 +**

**EXCELLENT AGREEMENT**



# Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria



# Impacts of otter trawling

## Large-scale re

Seabed morphology, sediment grain size and macrobenthic  
affected by fishing

Contribution to the Theme Section 'Evolutive

*Ecological Applications*, 19(3), 2009, pp. 761–773  
© 2009 by the Ecological Society of America

# Effects of demersal southern Africa:

# Trawl disturbance on benthic communities: chronic effects and experimental predictions

L. J. Atkin

HILMAR HINZ,<sup>1</sup> VIRGINIA PRIETO, AND MICHEL J. KAISER

<sup>1</sup>Marine Research Institute, and <sup>2</sup>Zoology  
<sup>3</sup>Department of Environment

*School of Ocean Sciences, University of Wales, Bangor, Menai Bridge, Anglesey, LL59 5AB United Kingdom*

2040 SE Marine Blvd  
Newport, Oregon 97156

## Effects of e

<sup>2</sup>Alaskan Observers, 1  
130 Nickerson, #201  
Seattle, Washington

*Abstract.* Bottom trawling has widespread impacts on benthic communities and habitats. While the direct impacts of trawl disturbances on benthic communities have been extensively studied, the consequences from long-term chronic disturbances are less well understood. The

Ellen L.R. Kenchington<sup>a,\*</sup>, Kent D. Gilkinson<sup>b</sup>, Kevin G. MacIsaac<sup>a</sup>,  
Cynthia Bourbonnais-Boyce<sup>a</sup>, Trevor J. Kenchington<sup>a</sup>,  
Stephen J. Smith<sup>a</sup>, Donald C. Gordon Jr.<sup>a</sup>

and Agriculture, Isle of  
and Coastal Studies Ltd.



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# Critical Appraisal

Design – (BACI, CI...)

Outcome measures – appropriate and accurate?

Baselines measure – appropriate and present?

Comparator – suitable and present?

Randomisation – between treatments

Heterogeneity – were the groups being compared fundamentally different in essence?

Level of replication – is this suitable, are replications confounded

Internal Validity – Study Quality

External validity – Generalisability

Understand potential bias, how this impacts the effect shown in the study and assess the impact on the overall conclusions

Gold Standard not always achieved – compromise is often necessary

Bias does not mean poor research



# Critical Appraisal

**Table 3 Variables assessed and criteria used for critical appraisal of included studies**

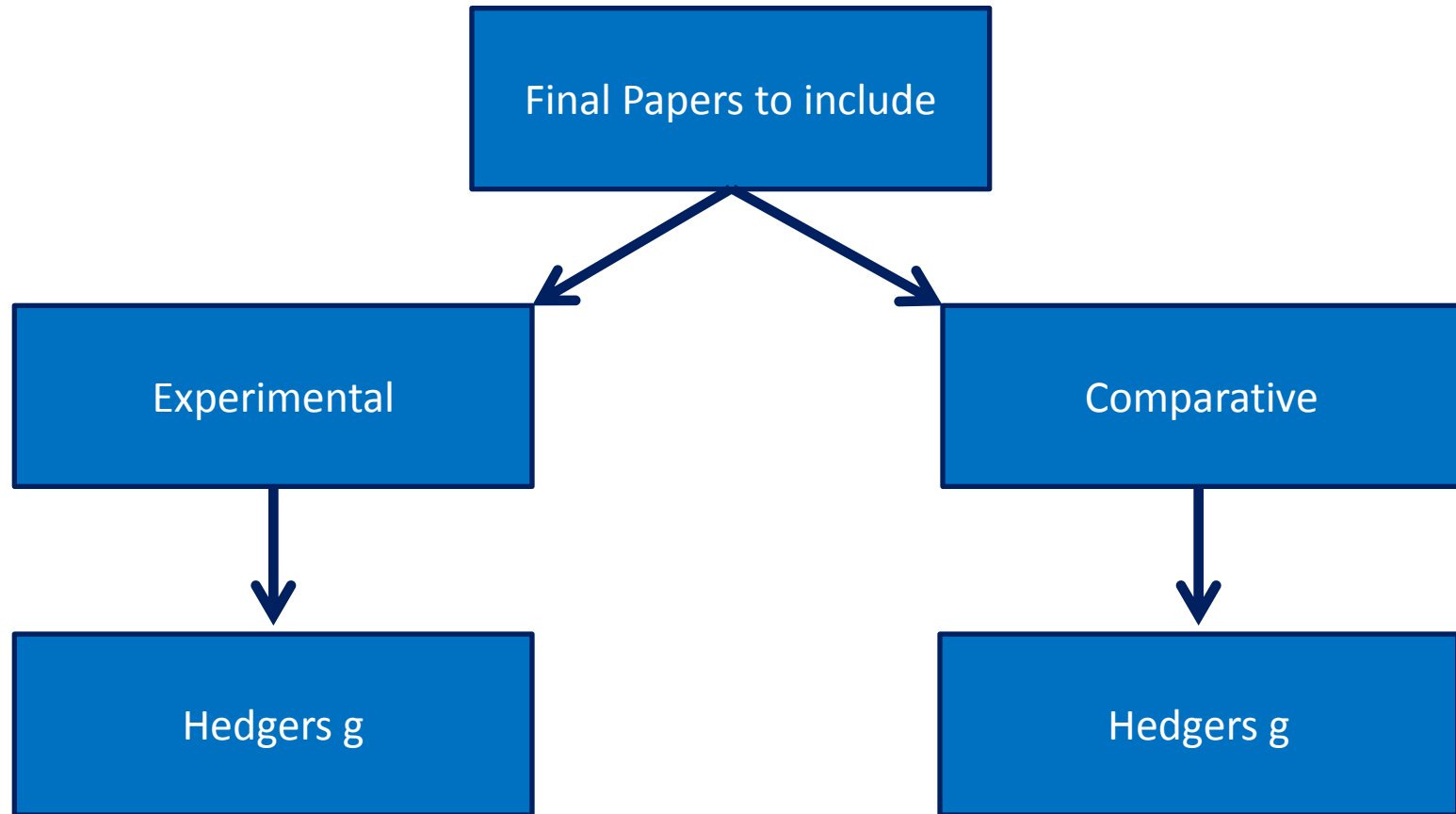
		Low Susceptibility to Bias	High Susceptibility to Bias
Study design	Study season, length	Long (>3 months) study period, multiple seasons	Short (<3 months) study period, winter measurement
	Intervention timescale	Long-term intervention maintained for multiple years	Intervention in place for <2 years
	Replication, randomisation	Replication at level of intervention, large sample size (>3), some degree of randomisation in sample selection	Pseudoreplicated, low sample size (<3), no randomisation
	Control matching	Control and treatment/exposure samples well-matched (i.e. close in proximity but low chance of spillover effects)	No evidence of matching, potentially influential differences between treatment and control
	Clarity and detail of methods	General study design very clear and repeatable	Some missing information
Specific methodology	Eddy covariance measurement details	Full description of methodology, accounting for wind direction/speed	Some missing methodological detail, no accounting for wind direction/speed
	Flux chamber measurement details	Full description of methodology, measurement disturbance mitigation measures	Some missing methodological detail, no mitigation for measurement disturbance
	Soil porewater/air measurement details	Full description of methodology, representative sampling	Some missing methodological detail, sampling unlikely to be representative of variability in environment
	Surface water measurement details	Full description of methodology, representative sampling	Some missing methodological detail, sampling unlikely to be representative of variability in environment
Bias	Potential measurement bias	Measurement bias unlikely or evidently not present	Bias likely as a result of methodology
	Presence of confounders	No obvious confounders stated or evident, or stated but adequately accounted for	Confounders stated and unaccounted for or likely to be present

*Unclear classification given to any study where substantial details within the methods are either unclear or missing.*

Haddaway et al. 2014 Environmental Evidence 3: 5



# Analysis



# Analysis...Effect size

$$d = \frac{\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2}{S_{within}}$$

$$S_{within} = \sqrt{\frac{(n_1 - 1)S_1^2 + (n_2 - 1)S_2^2}{n_1 + n_2 - 2}}$$

$$Vd = \frac{n_1 + n_2}{n_1 n_2} + \frac{d^2}{2(n_1 + n_2)}$$

$$SEd = \sqrt{Vd}$$

$\bar{x}_1$  Sample mean (control)

$\bar{x}_2$  Sample mean (treatment)

$n_1$  Sample size (control)

$n_2$  Sample size (treatment)

$S_1$  Std Dev (control)

$S_2$  Std Dev (treatment)



# Analysis...Effect size

Hedgers  $g$  – Correction factor for small sample sizes “ $J$ ”

$$J = 1 - \frac{3}{4df - 1}$$

$$g = J \times d$$

$$Vg = J^2 \times Vd$$

$$SEg = \sqrt{Vg}$$





# Summary

Planning

Conducting

Reporting

- ~~• Question~~
- ~~• Protocol~~

- ~~• Searching~~
- Article  
Screening
- Data Extraction
- Critical  
Appraisal
- Synthesis

- Final Review
- Dissemination



# Summary

- A systematic review and meta-analysis is a timely update from previous reviews (Collie et al. 2000 & Kaiser et al. 2006)
- Experimental AND comparative studies will be used
- The whole process is repeatable, reliable and robust and transparency is paramount throughout
- Stakeholders have been involved in the question formulation
- SR & MA is an appropriate method for summarising large bodies of information the results of which can be used as a management tool for decision making in policy and management



# Funders...Thank You!



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