



# **The North Sea Case**

***Sea Bottom Protection (Natura 2000 and EMFD)***  
***Fishing Industry Stakeholder Involvement***



***ICES Mseas Conference***

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***president of EAPO***

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# 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



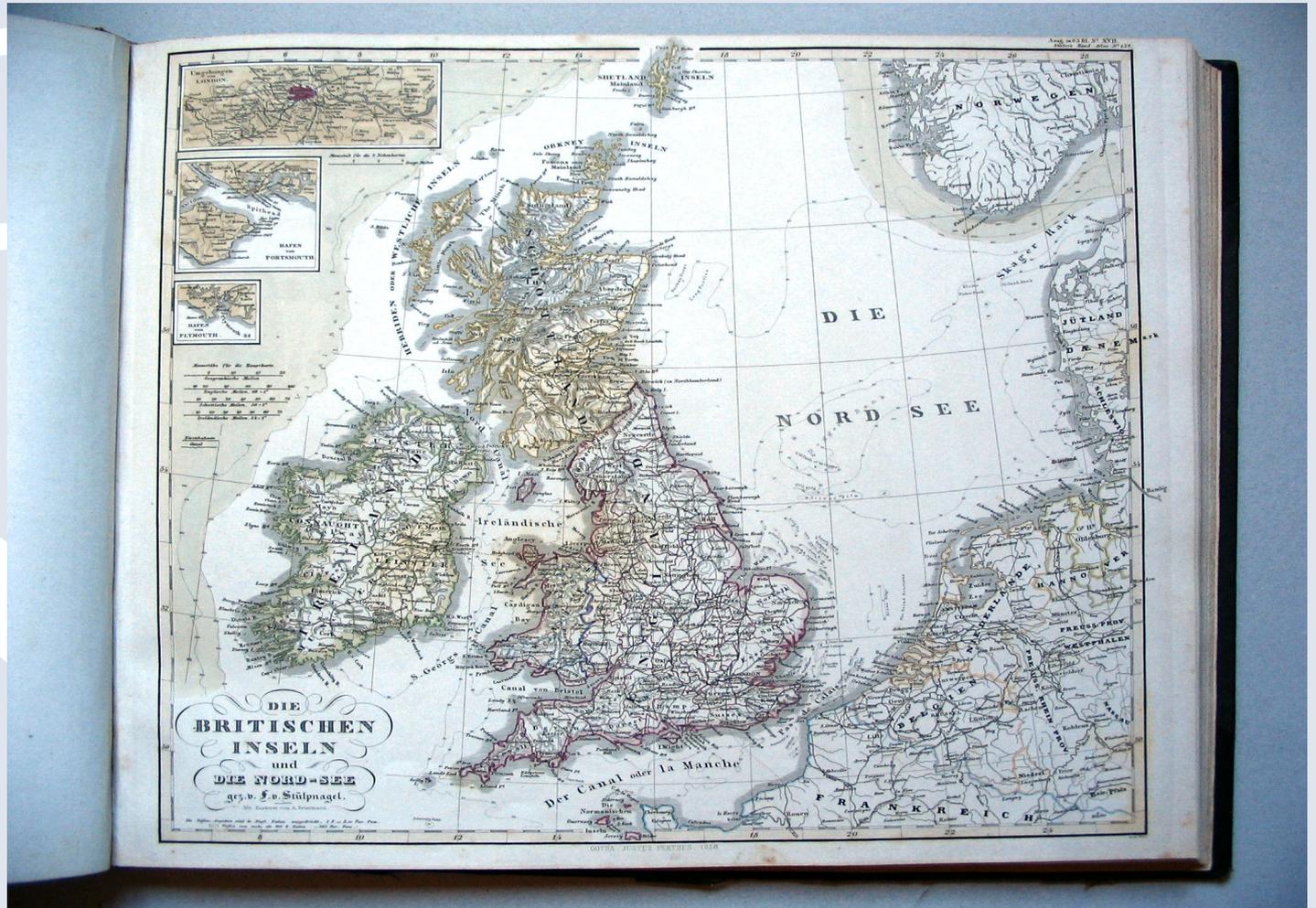
# It's about fishermen and their families



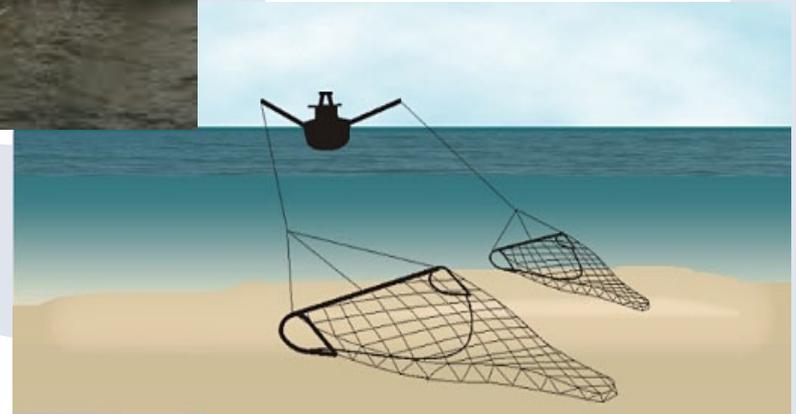
# Supplying proteins for a growing population



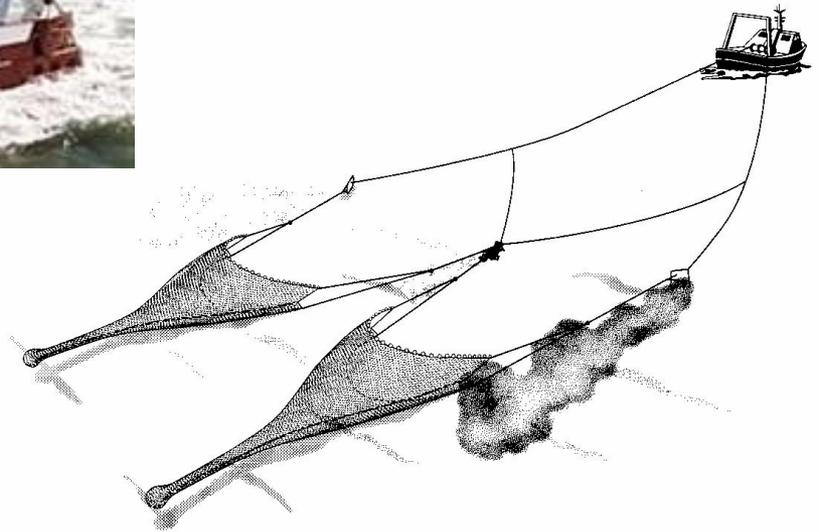
# Traditional Fishing Area



## Traditional beamtrawl with tickler chains



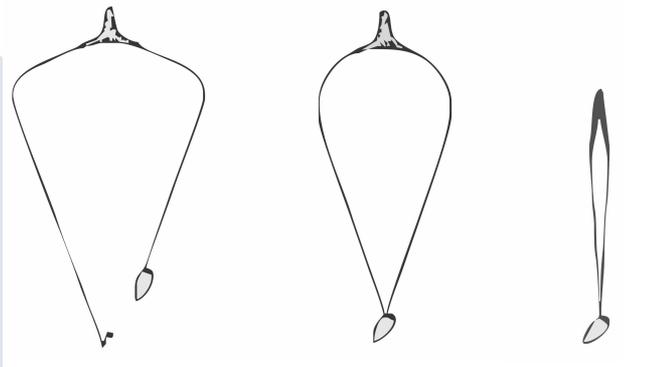
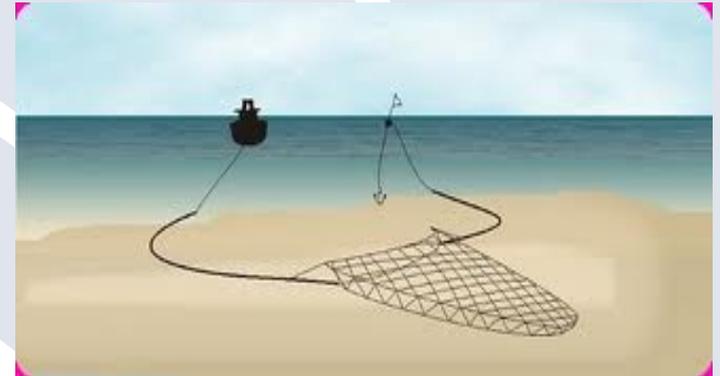
## Twin rigged otter trawl



Two Wire Twin Trawl



## Scottish seine net or fly shoot



## British and Dutch fought at the Doggerbank in 1781

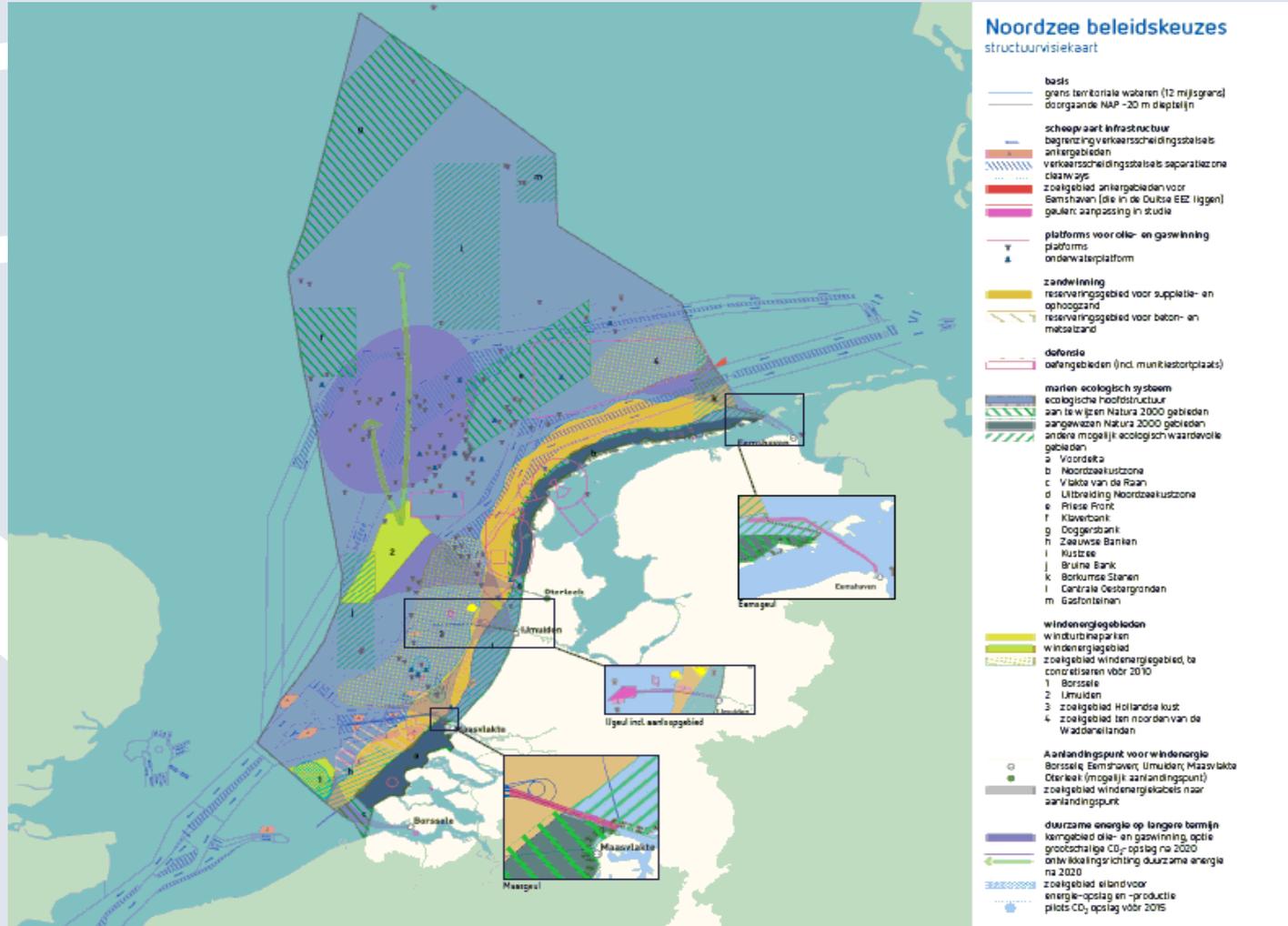


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## Another type of '4 nations war' started in 2010



# Part of Multiple use of Dutch CS



# FISHING ON A SQUARE INCH

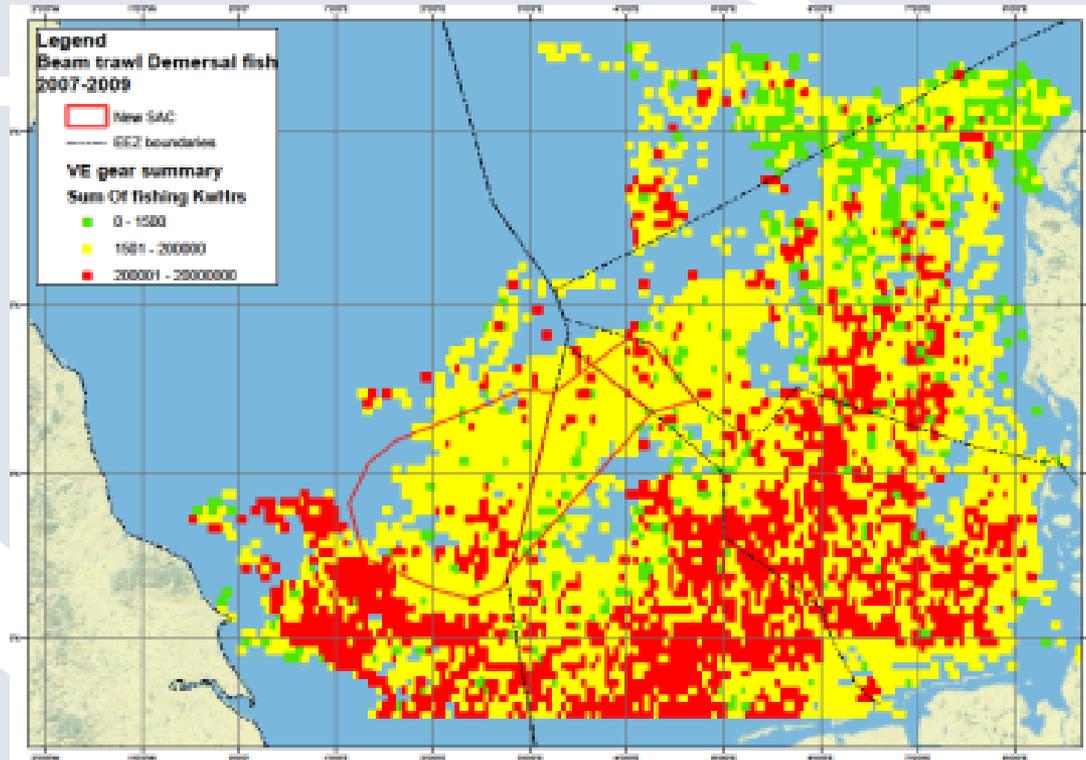


## Fishing requires space

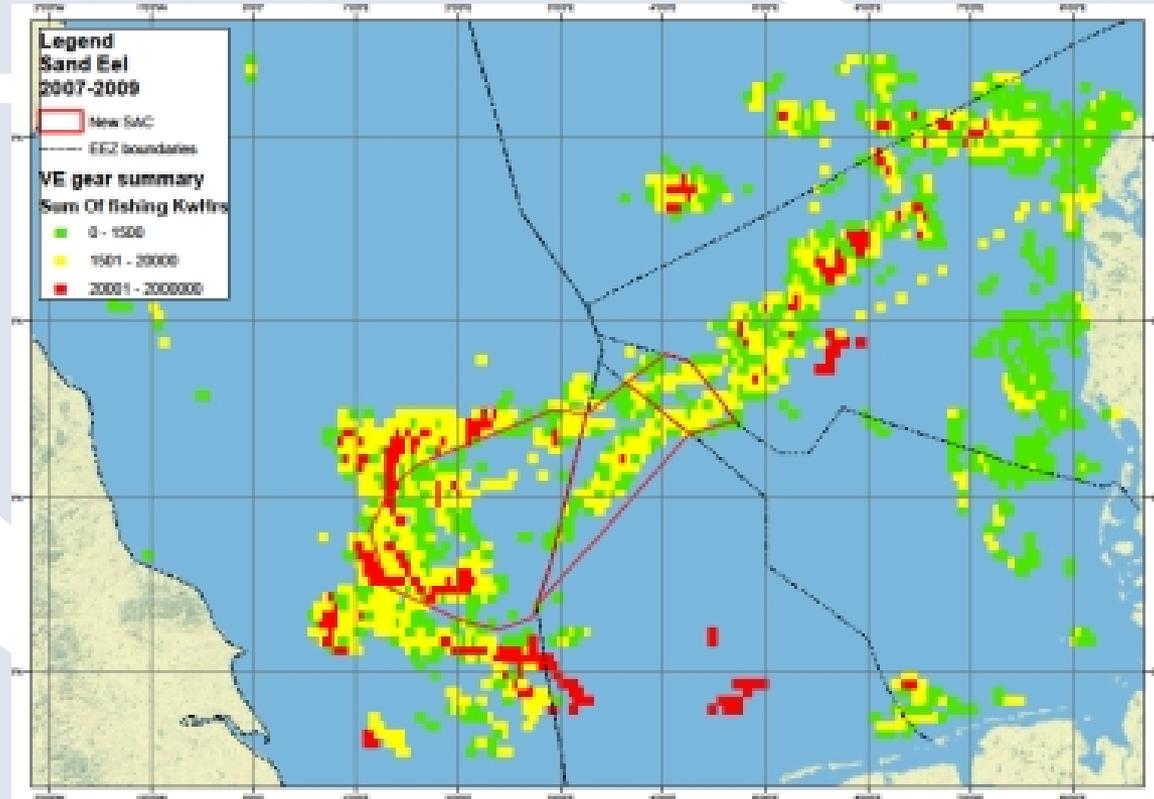
- ***Fishing is never subject to planning***
  - Wind, Temperature, Weather
- ***Fishing is not Farming at Sea but Hunting***
- ***Hunting requires a large hunting area***
- ***Because fish is highly mobile***
- ***Displacement of activities is highly detrimental***

# Fishing activity 2007-2009

(when Plaice quota were at a minimum)  
(seasonal March-October)

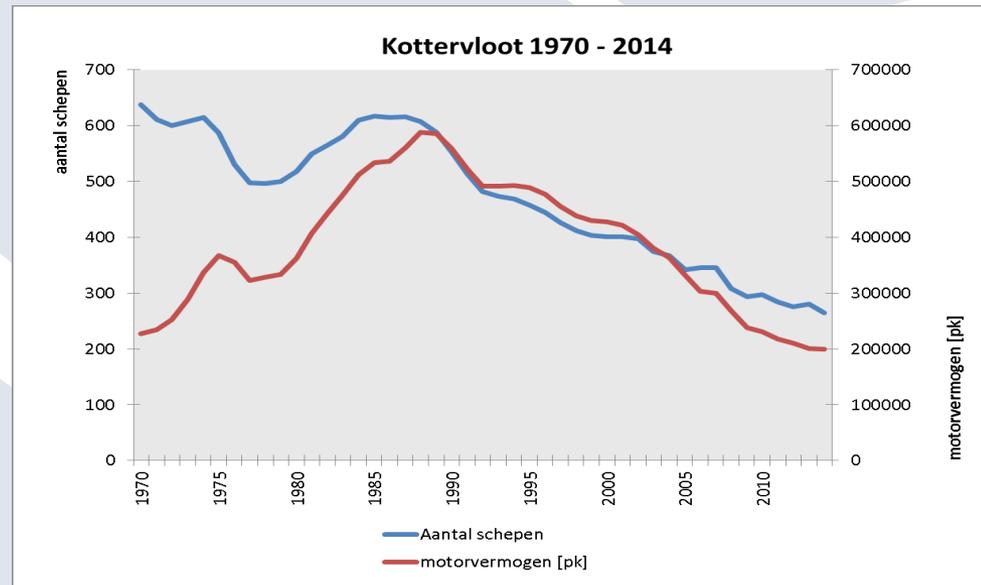


## Danish Sandeel fisheries (now also for human consumption) (seasonal April-August)

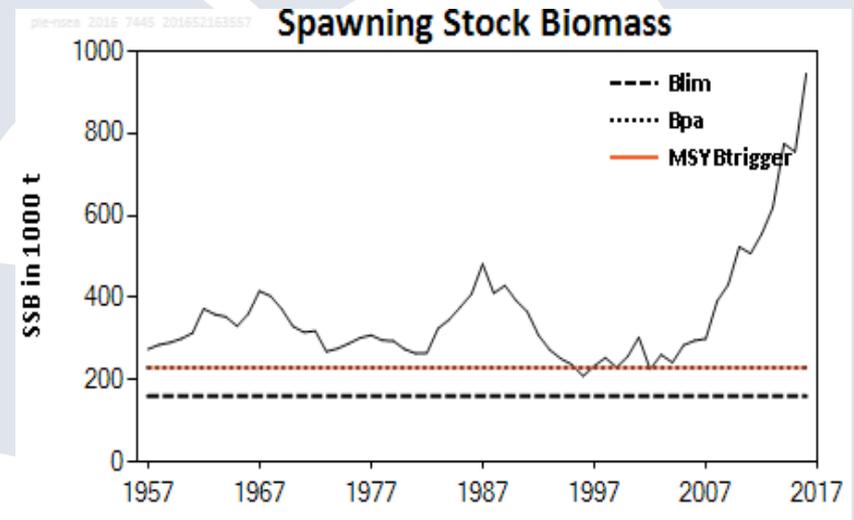
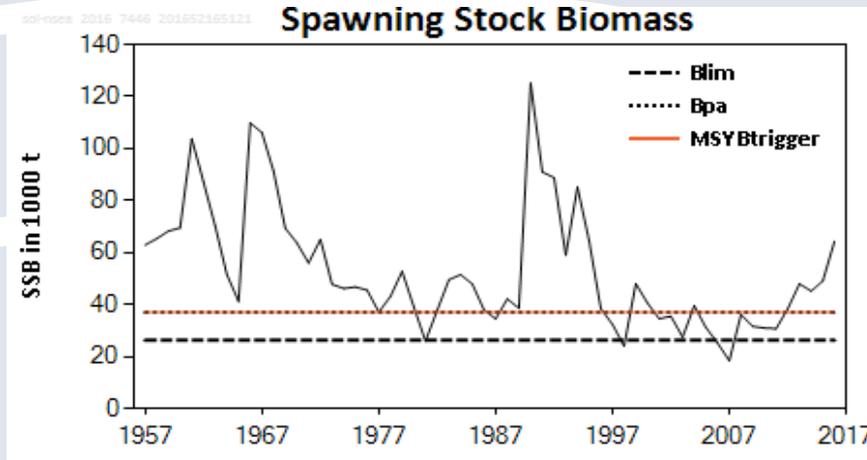


## Beamtrawl fleet development since 1970

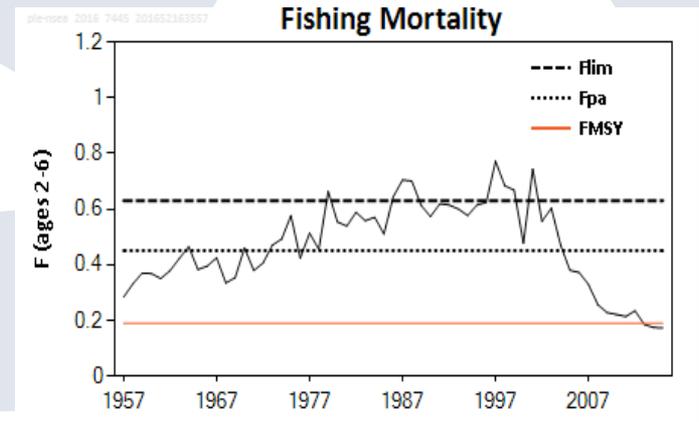
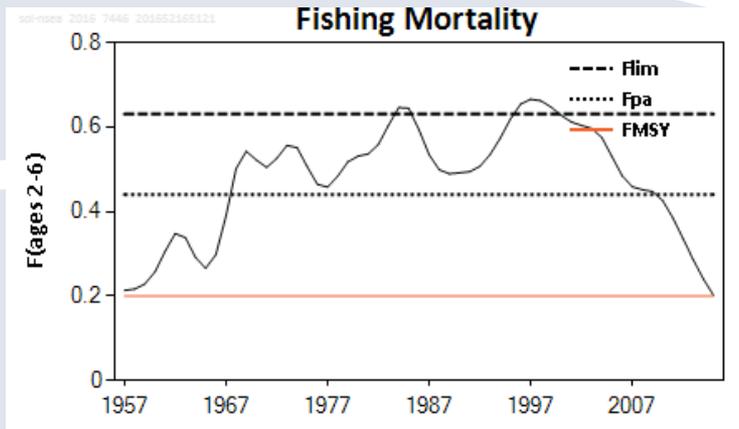
|               | <u>1990</u>           |    | <u>2015</u>         |
|---------------|-----------------------|----|---------------------|
| Nr of vessels | <b>588</b>            | ↓↓ | <b>276</b>          |
| Engine power  | <b>586.000</b>        | ↓↓ | <b>212.000</b>      |
| kW days       | <b>&gt;40.000.000</b> | ↓↓ | <b>≈ 21.000.000</b> |



# Target/bycatch species Sole and Plaice



# Target/bycatch species Sole and Plaice



## The Doggerbank N2000 process

- *Have you ever heard of Christobal Colon*
- *aka Christophorus Columbus*
- *he was and adventurer and courageous*
- *When he left he did not know where he went*
- *After arrival he did not know where he was*

## The Doggerbank N2000 process

- ***First Dutch N2000 process in the EEZ***
  - No legal basis until very recently (5 years later)
  - Some experience with N2000 inside 12 nm
  - Non aggression pact with NGO's
  - Experience Cockles and Mussels Waddenzee
- ***Germany carried out EMPAS project <2008***
  - we have never heard from it since
  - But the hidden agenda was present
- ***UK first phase of designation***
- ***DK Doggerbank is not qualifying***

## The Doggerbank N2000 process

- ***Recognition of international aspects***
  - eg at Centre for Marine Policy symposium
- ***NSRAC brought the matter up***
- ***The Netherlands took initiative***
- ***Running trains had to change course***
  - But they were on different tracks
  - To different destinations
  - And their locomotives had different voltages
- ***With Columbus in the driving seat***
- ***But this is wisdom in hindsight***
  - More about this later!

## The Doggerbank N2000 process

- ***Making mistakes is only human***
  - Not learning from them however is stupid
- ***TQM is based on admitting mistakes***
  - With the purpose of learning
  - To prevent making them again and again!
  - Do not be afraid of admitting

## About the Stakeholders

- *Many beginners mistakes*
- *Grossly overestimated their capabilities*
- *NS(R)AC not geared*
- *Saved by Mapsnose*
- *Columbus was also present*
- *Industry needed too many steps*
- *Industry could not react adequately*

## Scientific Rationale

- ***Lacking scientific rationale***
  - No ground for 25-55% window of closures
  - His Master's voice approach??
  - Using retired ICES officials > confused roles
- ***Risk based approach would have been justified***
  - Clear information on ecological status lacking
  - Why did not ICES recognize this
  - Simply copy pasting info from other sites is insufficient
- ***International data gathering totally insufficient***
  - No attention to displacement effects

## 3d party Scientific Evaluation (came too late)

- *The comments in red have been added to try and scientifically underpin the scoring. As I understood my assignment, I was to focus on the scoring of the new proposal of the industry but since the matrix is comparative I also considered the NGO, DBSG and initial sector proposals.*
- *The scoring system requires explanations/thresholds, since, as it is, it appears subjective and therefore not repeatable and meaningless. It should be made sure that the scores cannot be discussed and that all parties would give the same scores. Also, all criteria do not necessarily have the same importance and it would help the comparison if the priorities were highlighted in some way.*

## Stakeholder Engagement experience

- ***NSRAC spatial planning working group failed:***
- ***No defined set of planning criteria (not on the same page)***
  - What are we protecting, why and how?
  - Criteria changed during the course of the process
- ***No funding nor professional capacity (thank you Mapsnose)***
- ***Group process gained momentum***
  
- ***Simultaneous (but other) planning of windfarms***
- ***Member states not geared***
- ***Mandates are necessary***
  - Everybody at the table, no telephone partners

## Stakeholder Engagement lessons

- ***Criteria must be objective***
- ***Drawn from rigorous analysis of evidence***
- ***Based on expected outcome > RBM***
- ***Detailed fishers knowledge and fishers buy-in***
  - Fishers are the only 'real' stakeholders
  - But cannot have everything their way
- ***NGO input limited to ecological values only***
- ***NGO's refrain from detailed location determination***
  - Except in relation to ecological relevance

## Transition and Mitigation

- ***DBSG process overwhelmed by % discussion***
- ***Should have been deliverance at least cost***
  - N2000 is ecology only but we need forward thinking
- ***Designing flexible system was too challenging***
  - Incentivisation outside of the scope
  - Maybe start with generic design to build upon
- ***Same for marine planning***
- ***Process is now completely derailed***

## Our Lessons Learned

- *Be prepared, know what you are beginning at*
- *Mistakes in the beginning are killing*
- *Expectations management with fishers*
- *Engage your own science from beginning*
- *We ended with % at the wrong place*

## Our only way forward

- ***We are looking at 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



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