One too many buybacks?

The likely consequences of the decommissioning scheme on the Dutch fishery and fishing communities

MSEAS 2024 – Yokohama, Katell Hamon, Hoekstra, F. F., Klok, A., **Kraan, M**., van der Veer, S., Deetman, B., van Oostenbrugge, J. A. E., & Taal, K.







Context of change

ΞV





Nieuw onderzoek naar socioaleconomische gevolgen beleidij, keten engemeenschappen onder de loep

EN HAAG - Donkere oliken trekken samen over de visserij. Om eter zicht te krijgen op sockaaleconomisch voolgen van de huidige utwikkelingen voor de aserij, de visketen en de aserijgemeenschappen art Wageningen Economic sesarch dit jaar een groot vierroek in podracht van		
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Impact assessment on fisheries, value chain and fisheries communities

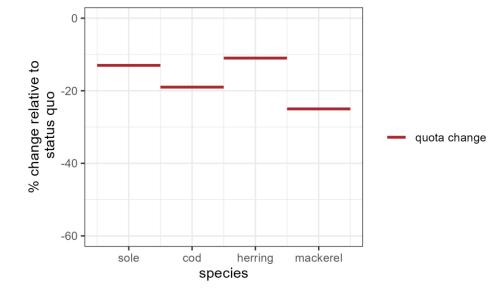


Van Hoof, Luc & Steins, Nathalie & Smith, S & Kraan, Marloes. (2020). Change as a permanent condition: A history of transition processes in Dutch North Sea fisheries. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2020.104245

Decommissioning scheme following BREXIT negotiations



 Decrease in the Dutch share of quota for sole, cod, herring, mackerel



■ Decommissioning scheme → balance fleet with quotas



■ €155m available

Three partial studies performed

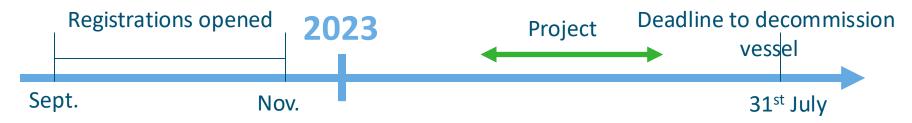




Last part of the project, building a model being conducted now



Scenarios to capture uncertainty

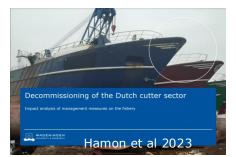


- Short & politically sensitive project → no in depth fishers interviews
- Uncertainty on:
 - Actual number of vessels decommissioning
 - Reaction of the remaining fleet

Two options:

- No reaction
- Increase of fishing effort

Sensitivity analysis, 100% registered, 90%, 80%





We now already know some of the outcomes...



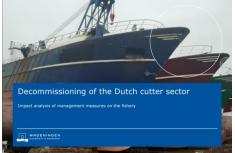
https://visserij.nl/2023/08/05/aanvragensaneringsregeling-kotters-valt-lager-uit/ 71 vessels in the study on list to apply for decommissiong [from 139 eligible vessels]

In the end 51 vessels actually were [allowed to] decommission (72%)

But at the time of our research, this was not known yet.

Question was – what impact is

foreseen?





The impact on the fleet (1)

- Mainly beam trawlers registered (80% of their effort)
- Targeting flatfish (sole and plaice)
- No pelagic trawlers registered
- Context :
 - end of pulse licences (mid 2021)
 - low catchability of target species (sole)
 - High fuel prices



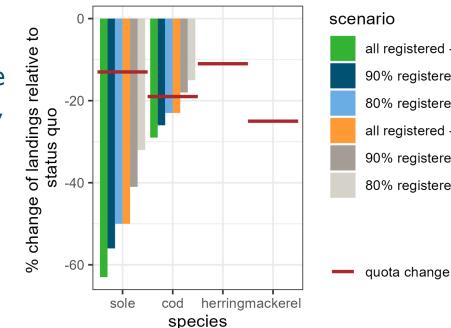


 \rightarrow Lack of future perspectives

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The impact on the fleet (2)

- Sole landings in balance with post-Brexit quotas, unlike pelagic
- Risk of cod becoming a choke species



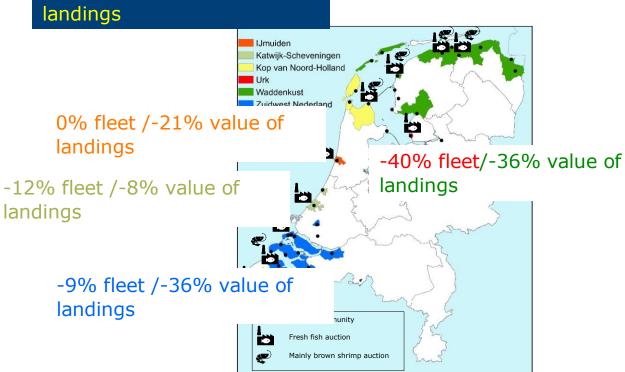
all registered - no reaction 90% registered - no reaction 80% registered - no reaction all registered - increasing effort 90% registered - increasing effort 80% registered - increasing effort



All regions will be impacted...

-13% fleet /-42% value of landings

... in terms of fishing vessels or landings





The impact on the chain

- Auction in Den Helder shut down.
- Risk that fisheries value chain in the future will not be equipped for processing and trading North Sea Fish.
 - Processing companies increasingly rely on imported fish
 - Ancillary services switch focus
 - Vocational training less applicants
 - Lack of trained fishers
 - Maintenance and building of cutters (wharfs)
 - Technical support in harbours for vessels

"A day without fish at the auction. And many more to follow. At the left how it used to be 25 years ago. Now a stack of 9,000 clean Eer and empty crates. And a log vol shrunken fleet in the sch harbour. We have arrived visł en echte ont in bad movie".



12:54 PM · Nov 11, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

Translate Ty

13 Retweets 2 Quote Tweets 14 Likes



The impact on the fishing community(ies)

- A lot of personal drama! (ripple effect)
- NL is loosing it's 'anchor-points' on land
 - Fleet per community (effect on fishing festivals, community support) some becoming 'historical fishing communities'
- Fishing predominantly (still) is a family business, with positive effects for communities
- Due to all changes, doubt if fisheries still has `a place'?
- Serious lack of trust amongst fishers vis a vis the government







Photo's: Kraan

To be continued...

- Towards a better integration of activities at sea with social and economic impacts on land
- Nationally in the Netherlands, a number of projects:
 - Building a behavioural model of fisheries to understand the social and economic effects of policies (3rd phase)
 - Understanding the social and economic effects of more offshore windparks (MONS)
 - Underlying: better understand fisher behaviour
- EU project Seawise integrate the human dimensions in ecosystem approach to fisheries management





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Hamon, K. G. et al. (2023). Decommissioning of the Dutch cutter sector: Impact analysis of management measures on the fishery. (Report / Wageningen Economic Research; No. 2023-068). Wageningen Economic Research. <u>https://doi.org/10.18174/631351</u>