



The Sustainability of markets

Can private stakeholders realise public policy goals
for sustainable fisheries?

Oslo, WGEA, 14 – 16 May, 2012



Structure of this presentation

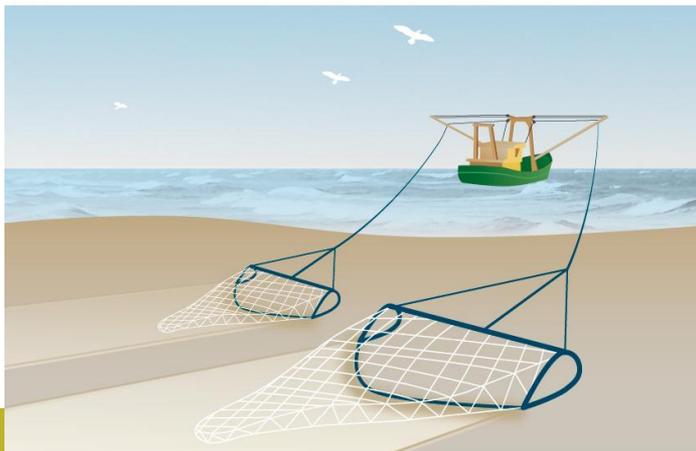
- Audit into sustainable fisheries North Sea (2008): questions, findings and recommendations
- Follow Up Audit (2012): Shifting Focus: new role of government
- Observations
- Preliminary Findings



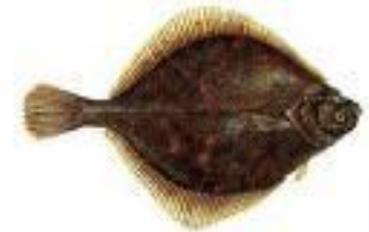
Presentation for the WGEA in Kiev in 2008: North Sea fisheries in the Netherlands



Beam trawler technology



- Most important sector: beam trawler fishery for ground fish: sole and plaice
- Regulated by EU common fisheries policy
- National policy: fleet reduction and innovation





Questions in 2008

1. What are the results of the fisheries policy in terms of sustainability?
2. How is fisheries legislation enforced in the Netherlands? Does this meet the requirements?
3. What are the results of innovation policy?
4. What are the results of fleet reduction policy?



Findings in 2008

1. EU and national fisheries policies lacked strictness and rigor, from a perspective of sustainability, because economic interests prevail
2. Fisheries policy is not combined with water, nature and biodiversity policy
3. Surveillance is insufficient
4. Paradoxical outcome: neglect of ecological interests causes further (economic) marginalization of fisheries sector
5. Innovation is a brand new policy: no results yet
6. Fleet reduction program: successful for fisheries, not for fish.



Follow Up Audit (2012): Observations

- Effectiveness of public regulation is limited
- Increased awareness among market players: NGO's, fisheries, consumers
- A new generation of fishermen: modern entrepreneurs (self surveillance)
- Demand driven (MSC certification)



A change of paradigm

The sustainability of markets - WGEA 15-16 May 2012



Follow Up Audit (2012): shifting focus (2)

Central question: What is the most appropriate role for government in a new playing field?

Discussion topic for today!



What can government do? – Choosing position

- What does the government want: strong regulation?
- Self-regulation by the market and stand back?
- Or: optimize the market?
- Dutch government: No vision on these questions



MSC: improvement with shortcomings

- MSC is not the only certification system → confusion
- MSC is not transparent for consumers → effect?
- MSC can be used for controlled fish only → quota
- MSC cannot guarantee biodiversity in the sea
- MSC can be successful if consumers ask for it



Optimize the market: possible actions by government

- Harmonize the certification systems
- Cooperation between government's inspection and MSC inspectors (in Holland they never met)
- Support for certification systems (in Holland: once-only € 1 million)
- Asking for transparency on sustainable fisheries performances
- Surveillance in coordination with MSC inspectors

- More possibilities?



So: private stakeholders can realise some public policy goals in cooperation with government



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