

Super-trawlers: destructive or sustainable?

Hearing European Parliament
PECH committee
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A large yellow and brown trawler ship is shown at sea. A massive pile of dead birds, likely seabirds, is visible on the deck, extending from the foreground towards the ship. The text "SUPER TRAWLERS:" is overlaid in large white letters, followed by a horizontal line, and then "SUPER GOOD OR SUPER BAD?" in smaller white letters below it.

SUPER TRAWLERS:

SUPER GOOD OR SUPER BAD?

IT'S COMING

THE WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST
SUPER TRAWLER IS HEADING
FOR AUSTRALIAN SHORES



Super trawler 'Margiris' is back in Irish Waters

www.uplift.ie/supertrawlers



UPLIFT PEOPLE
POWERED
CHANGE

SHARE to EXPOSE





Conclusion ... Big = Bad !



This is called FRAMING





Is small scale fisheries really OK ?

This is ALSO called FRAMING

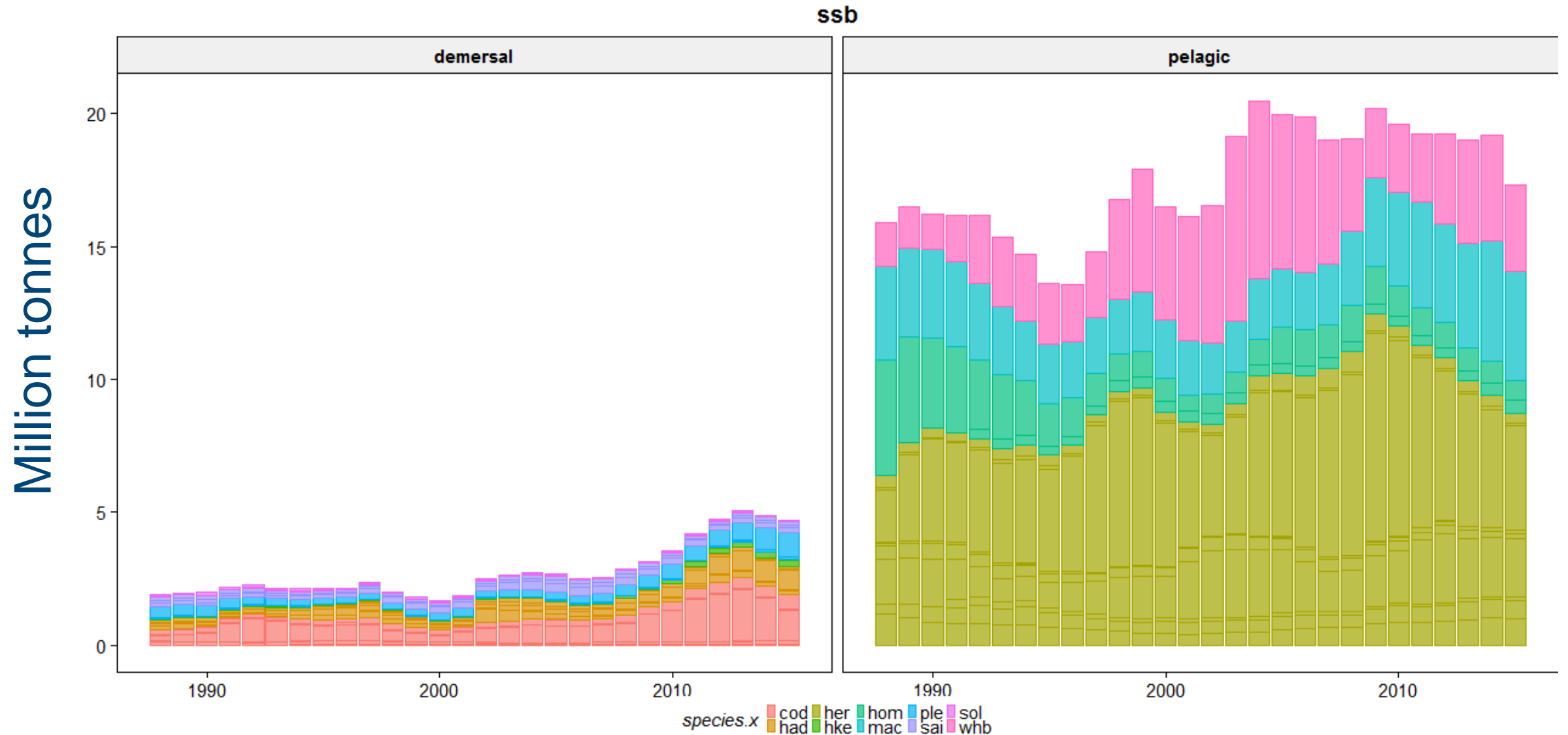


QUESTION 1

Why is pelagic fisheries predominantly done by large scale fisheries operations?

→ Also in Europe!

Because ... pelagic stocks are big stocks!



Because ... pelagic fisheries occurs often far off-shore and in rough seas

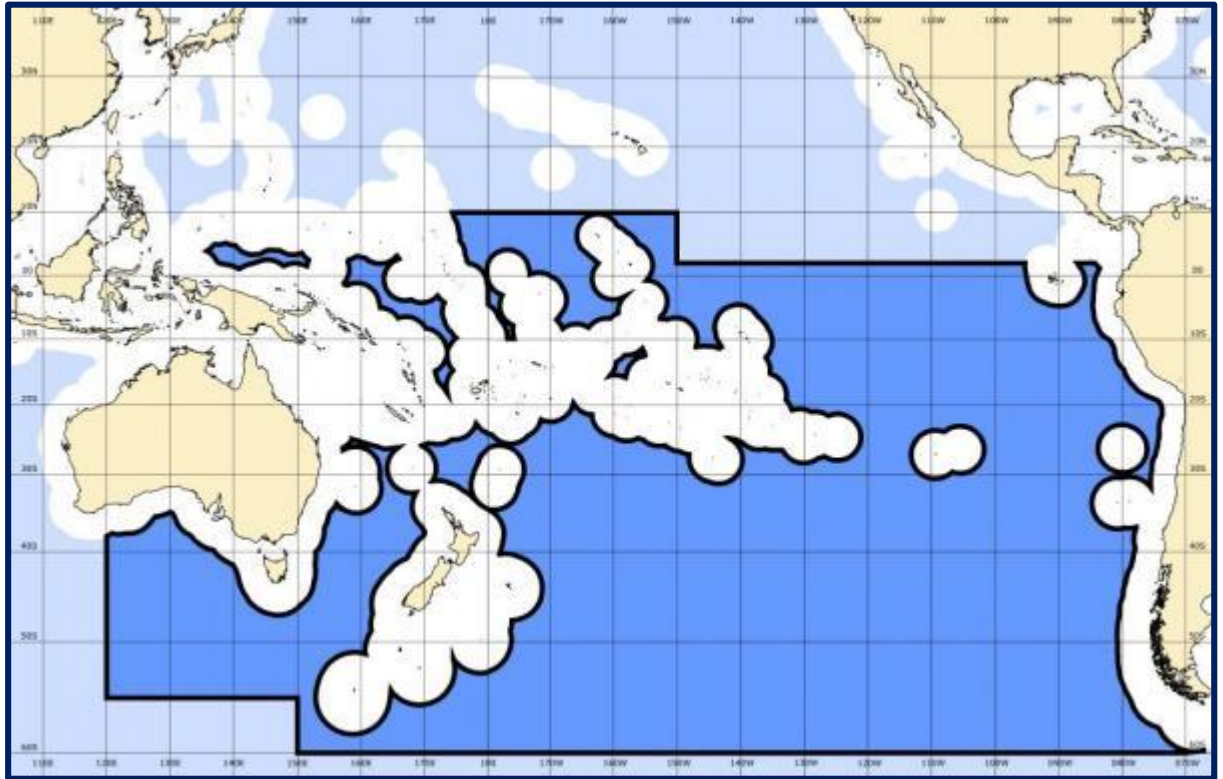


Draft EP report on South Pacific RFMO

Article 6a

Allocation of fishing opportunities for jack mackerel

In accordance with Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, when allocating the fishing opportunities for jack mackerel stocks available to them, Member States shall use transparent and objective criteria, including those of an environmental, social and economic nature, and shall also endeavour to distribute national quotas fairly among the various fleet segments giving special consideration to traditional and artisanal fishing, and to provide incentives to Union fishing vessels deploying selective fishing gear or using fishing techniques with reduced environmental impact.



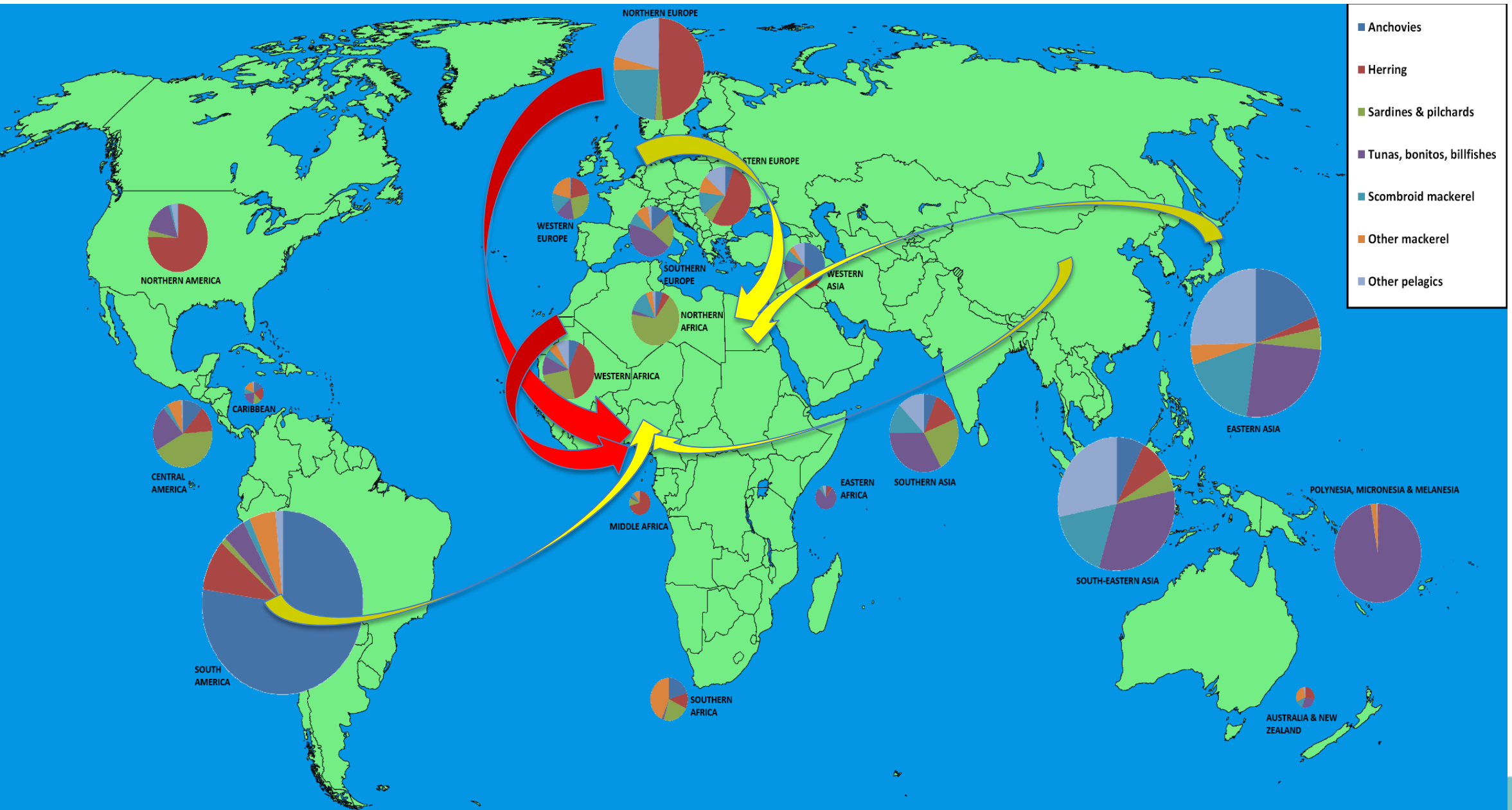
Because ... pelagic fish is globally traded

→ necessity for industry to be globally competitive.

→ also in Europe!

Production of pelagics by region and species groups

2011 figures, area of circle corresponds to total capture volume



QUESTION 2

What is really a 'super-trawler'?

We have pelagic freezer-trawlers and Refrigerated Seawater (RSW) pelagic trawlers:

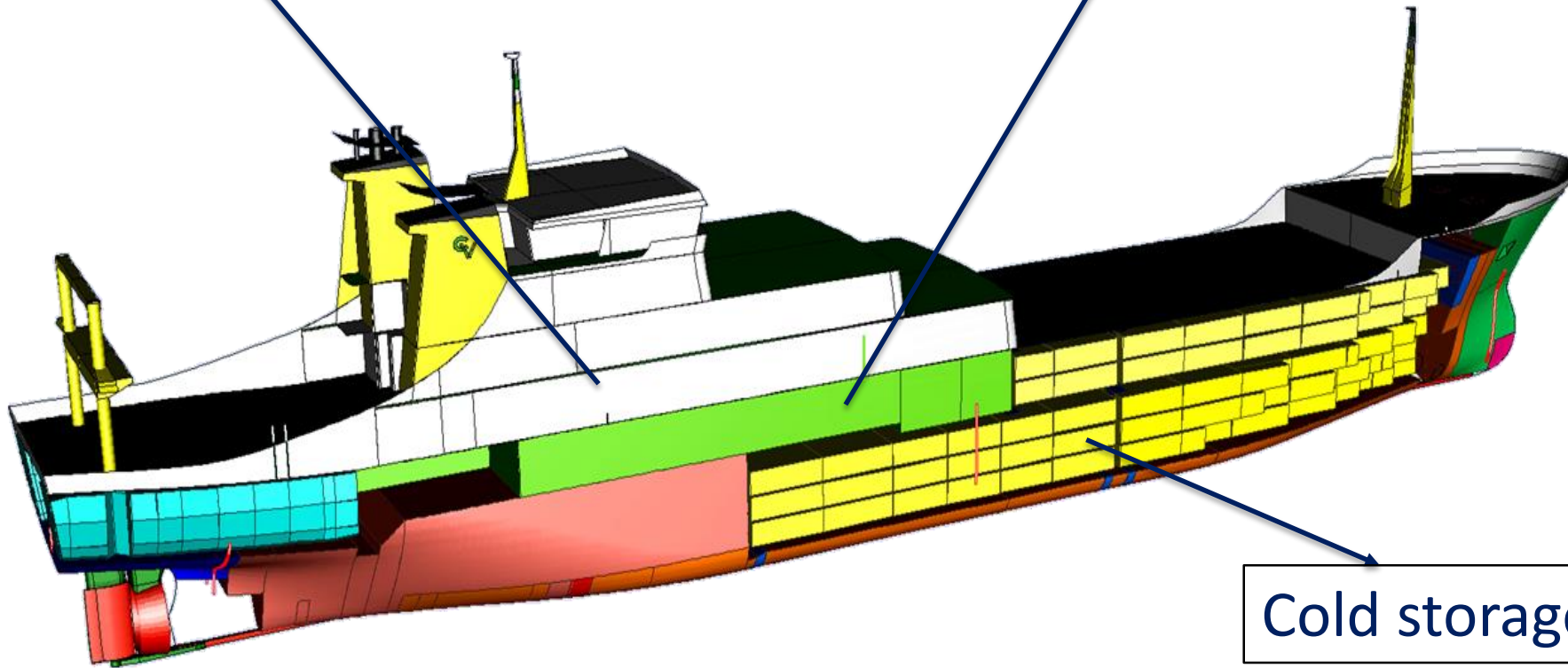
What is the difference?

A freezer-trawler is larger, because ...

More crew → more crew facilities

Factory deck (sorting & freezing)

Cold storage capacity



Freezer-trawler ... versus ... RSW trawler



Length : ~ 125 m
Cargo : ~ 4000 tons
Fishing trip: ~ 4 weeks



Length : ~ 75 m
Cargo : ~ 2200 tons
Fishing trip: ~ 4 days

But....

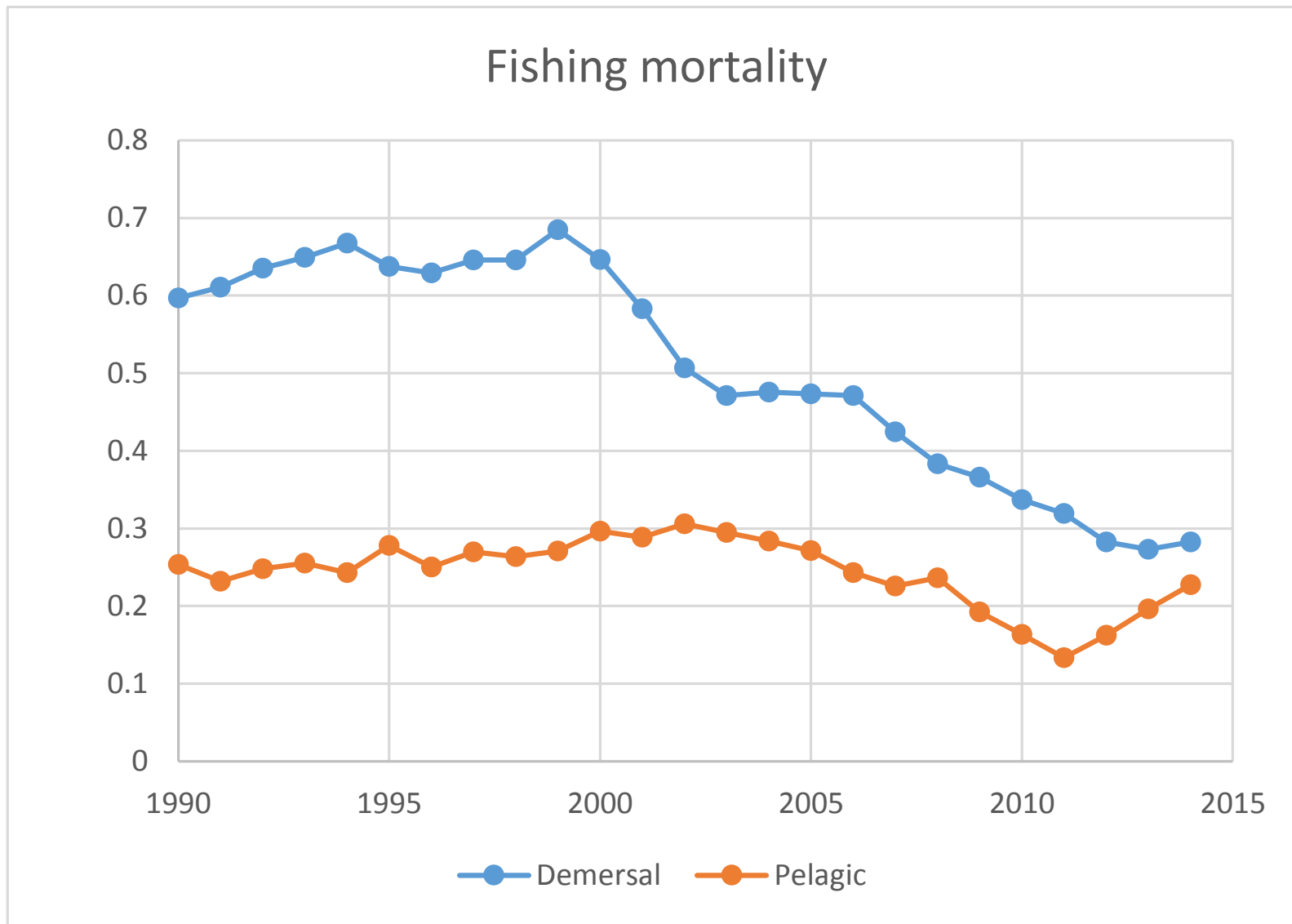
Both vessels using the same technology on board for fishing:

- Nets (size and set-up)
- Acoustic equipment to find the fish
- And targeting the same stocks

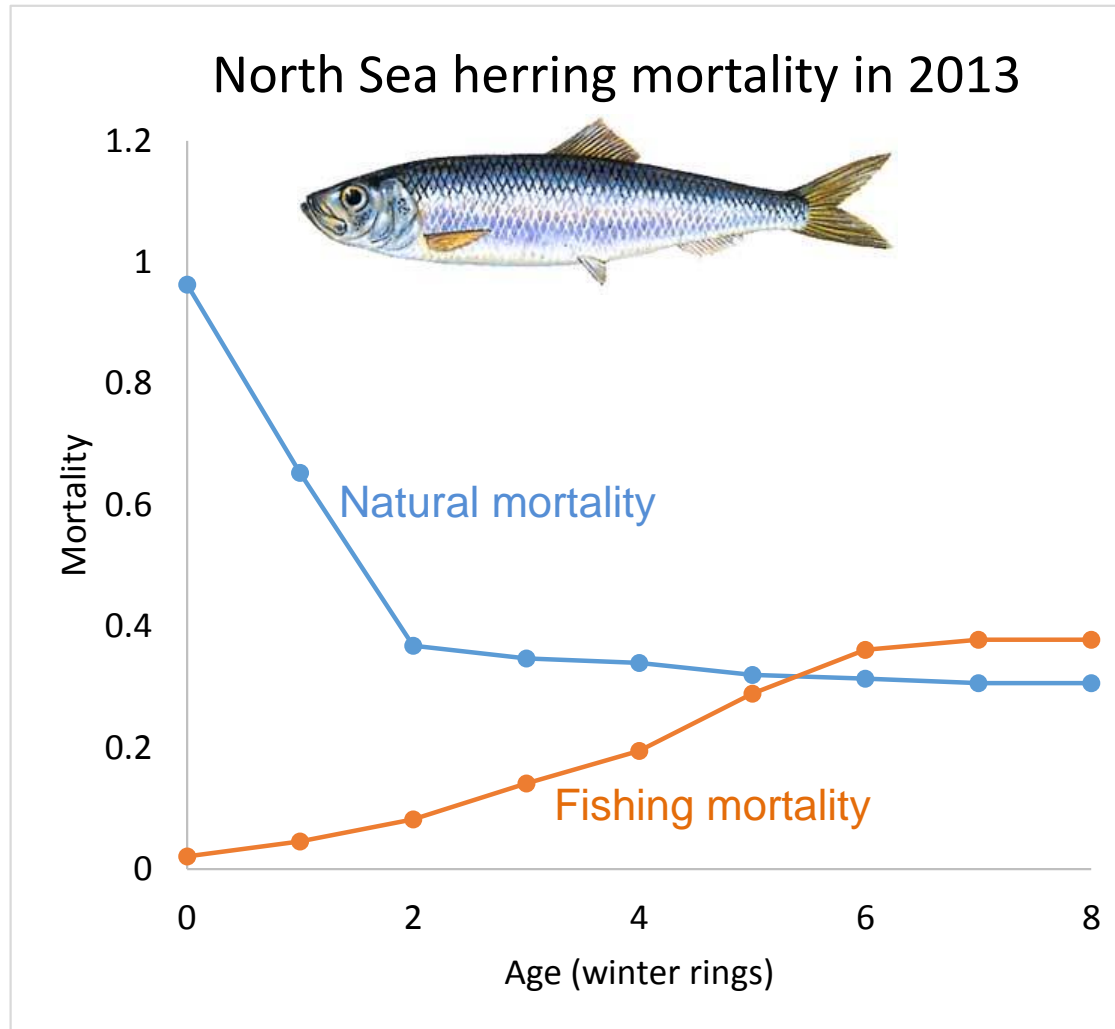
QUESTION 3

Can fisheries by pelagic 'super' trawlers be done in a sustainable way?

Yes ... exploitation rate on pelagic stocks has been low



Yes ... pelagic stocks largely driven by natural mortality

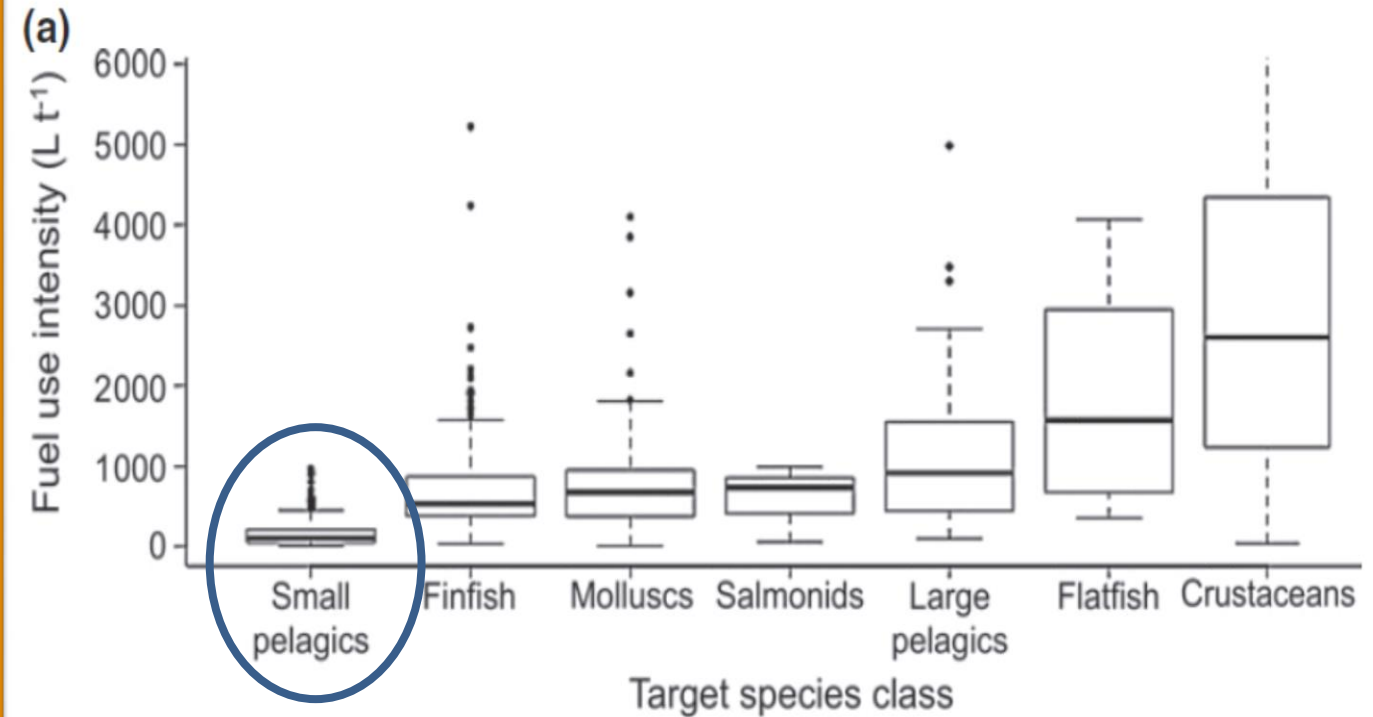
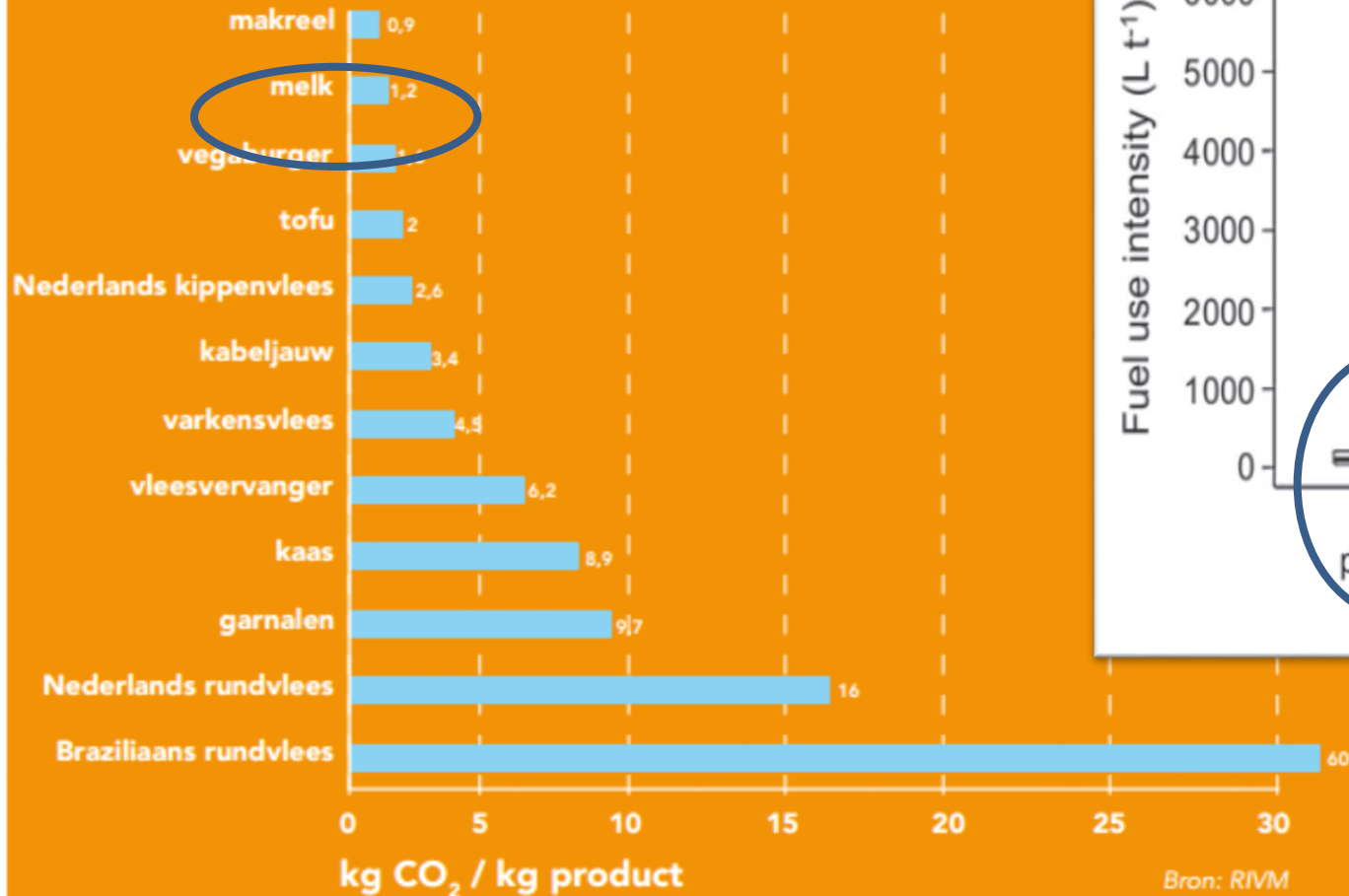


Yes ... fish for the interest, leave capital in sea...



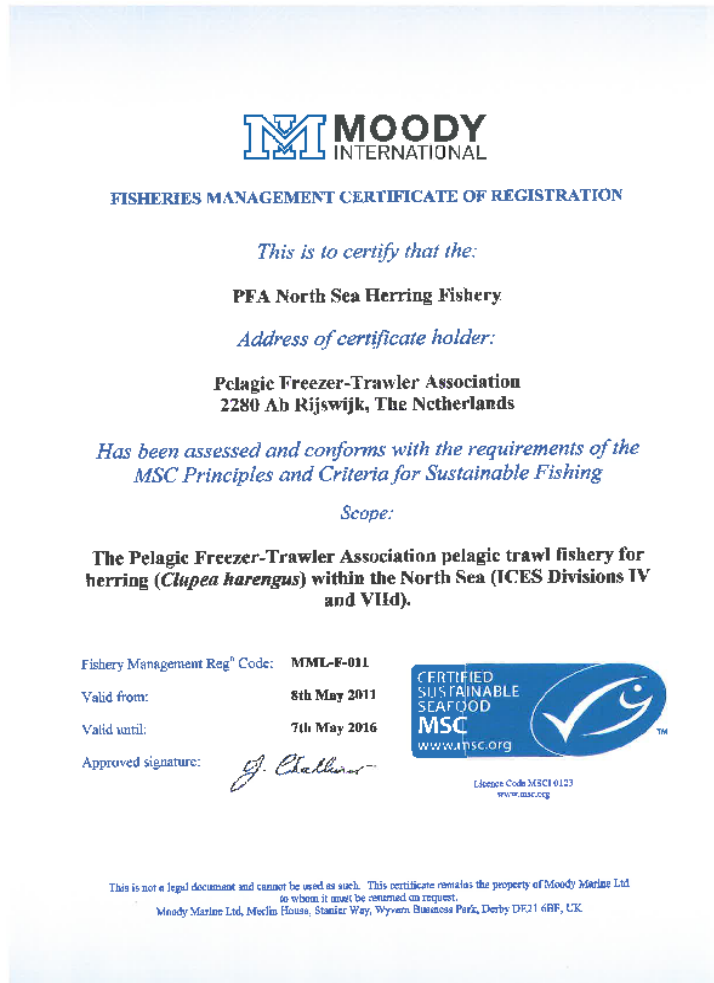
Yes ... pelagic fisheries has lowest carbon footprint

CO₂-emissie per product



Parker, R. W. R., and Tyedmers, P. H. 2014. Fuel consumption of global fishing fleets.

Yes ... Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification



- 2006: MSC certificate North Sea herring fishery – recertified in 2011 and in 2017
- 2009: MSC certified mackerel fishery and recertification in 2016
- 2010: MSC certified Atlanto herring fishery and recertification in 2016 (on going)
- 2016 certification blue whiting fishery
- 80-90% of total catch of the large scale pelagic EU-fleet is MSC certified!



Large scale fisheries and the fisheries management framework...

- Intensive collaboration with science (ICES etc.)
- Own research, own scientists & own surveys under auspices of ICES
- Sampling of relevant scientific data on commercial vessels as input for ICES
- Engagement in stakeholder participation (e.g. Pelagic AC)
- Dialogue with NGO's (e.g. MoU between PFA and Greenpeace)



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON PELAGIC FISHERIES

1 Signing Parties

- Greenpeace Nederland, Amsterdam (NL), promising to broker compliance with this MoU by all other relevant actors in the Global Greenpeace network,
- Pelagic Freezer-trawler Association, Zoetermeer (NL), representing the pelagic fishing operations by the members of the PFA,
- Cornelis Vrolijk, IJmuiden (NL), insofar pelagic fisheries by their trawlers are concerned,
- Parlevliet & Van der Plas, Katwijk (NL), insofar pelagic fisheries by their trawlers are concerned,
- W. van der Zwan & Zn, Scheveningen (NL), insofar pelagic fisheries by their trawlers are concerned,
- VNO-NCW, the Hague (NL) in the role as advisor, mediator and facilitator.

So why do we need large vessels?

- Food security: we cannot feed growing world population with small scale fisheries alone
- Large vessels exploit stocks not accessible for small scale fleet. Freezing and storing on board for exploitation distant stocks
- Port infrastructures needs large scale fleet for continuity
- Better health and working conditions on board large vessels → high quality employment for skilled fishermen
- Environmentally friendly exploitation
- EU fleet is the best monitored fleet worldwide

Conclusions

- Any fishing operation can be sustainable or not sustainable.
- This is NOT related to the size of the vessel.
Both small scale and large scale fisheries can be sustainable or not sustainable.
- Some fisheries have developed worldwide into large scale operations. Example: pelagic fisheries.
- Stay with the facts and stop framing one or the other fishery
- Small scale and large scale fisheries have their own place under the sun

Thank you for your attention

