



Shifting from beam trawls to passive gear: the Belgian case

Norbert Van Craeynest
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The Belgian fleet

- **Fleet composition**

- 80 beam trawlers
 - Target species = sole, plaice, etc.
 - Seasonal change to twin rig
- 6 netters
 - 3 experienced fishermen
 - 3 recent, since 2009-2010

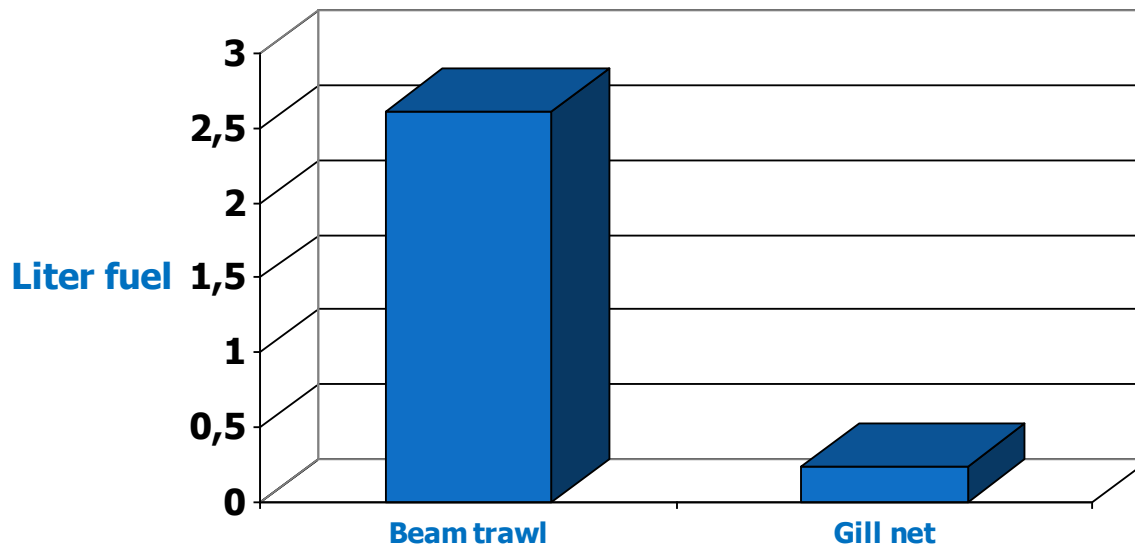


Why some fishermen started netting?

Economic drivers

- Fuel consumption !
- Maintenance costs (steel, vessel repair, ...)

Fuel consumption per kg fish



In practice?

Difficulties

- The vessel
 - Convert beam trawl vessel to trammel net vessel?
 - New vessel ! => 750 000 EUR, subsidized
- The technique
 - Application = learning process
 - Especially at start !
- Labour intensive
 - Crew recruitment = difficult!
 - Belgians are traditionally “beam trawl fishermen”
- Fishing grounds
 - Limited, due to beam trawlers
 - Competition from foreign netters



In practice?

Difficulties

- Beam trawls
 - Mixed fishery
 - “Independent” of weather conditions
- Trammel net fishery
 - Target specific!
 - Sole: trammel/gill nets, mesh size: 90-100mm
 - Turbot: gill nets, mesh size: 220-250mm
 - Sea bass: hand lines
 - ...
 - Dependent on weather conditions
 - Positive for social life
 - Fishing effort: concentrated in certain time periods
 - Strongly depending on the fishermen in its impact and return!



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Thank you !

