

Belgian Animal Telemetry Network: Setup, International collaboration and Case-study on Atlantic cod

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Just 100 cod left in North Sea

Overfishing has left fewer than 100 adult cod in the North Sea, it was reported.

A survey of catches at European ports has shown that fishermen did not catch a single cod over last year.

Minder kabeljauw door overbevissing

Onderzoekers luiden de alarmklok voor de kabeljauw. Overbevissing heeft het aantal dieren drastisch teruggebracht. Vooral het ontbreken van oudere - en erg vruchtbare - dieren voorspelt een moeilijke toekomst.

UK cod collapse due to overfishing and political failure, says fisheries expert

Dr Paul Connelly's criticism follows EU's recommendation that cod fishing halts in Irish Sea and off west Scotland

Cod stocks in the Irish Sea and the west coast of [Scotland](#) have collapsed because of overfishing and politicians' refusal to fix low enough catch quotas, according to a leading fisheries scientist who advises the European commission on fish quotas.

Dr Paul Connolly's comments followed the European commission's decision on Wednesday to recommend for the first time that all fishing cod in the two sea areas is stopped. The commission has previously stopped short of pushing for such draconian measures in such a wide area of sea because of the political difficulty of placing a ban on fishing such a key species.

Connolly, who is the director of Fisheries Science Services at the Marine Institute in Galway, advises the commission on "total allowable catches" and in 2013 is due to take over as president of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES), the oldest marine scientific body.

He said: "Continuous over-fishing has led to a collapse in cod in both these areas. The signs have been there for years and scientists have repeatedly warned quotas must be cut but fisheries ministers have time and time again ignored us. We do not know now whether the stocks will recover."

EU cuts Atlantic cod fishing quota

Environmentalists say European commission's 50% cut in cod quota is not enough to prevent stocks from collapsing

The EU today cut the catch limit of endangered cod in Atlantic waters, but angered environmental activists by falling far short of the targets scientists say are necessary to replace quickly diminishing fish stocks.

EU fisheries ministers decided to cut catches of cod in Atlantic waters off Scotland and Ireland by a quarter, to the dismay of environmentalists - who argued catches should be halved, and fishermen - who say the quotas will put more of them out of jobs.

Scientists have called for drastic cuts, but governments have rarely heeded their advice for fear of losing political support from fishing communities.

The [European commission said last month](#) that cod stocks have continued to decline over the past two years with no sign of recovery in key Atlantic grounds, and recommended 50% cuts.

Cod stocks off Scotland and Ireland now face "an almost certain scenario of collapse," said Greenpeace's Saskia Richartz.

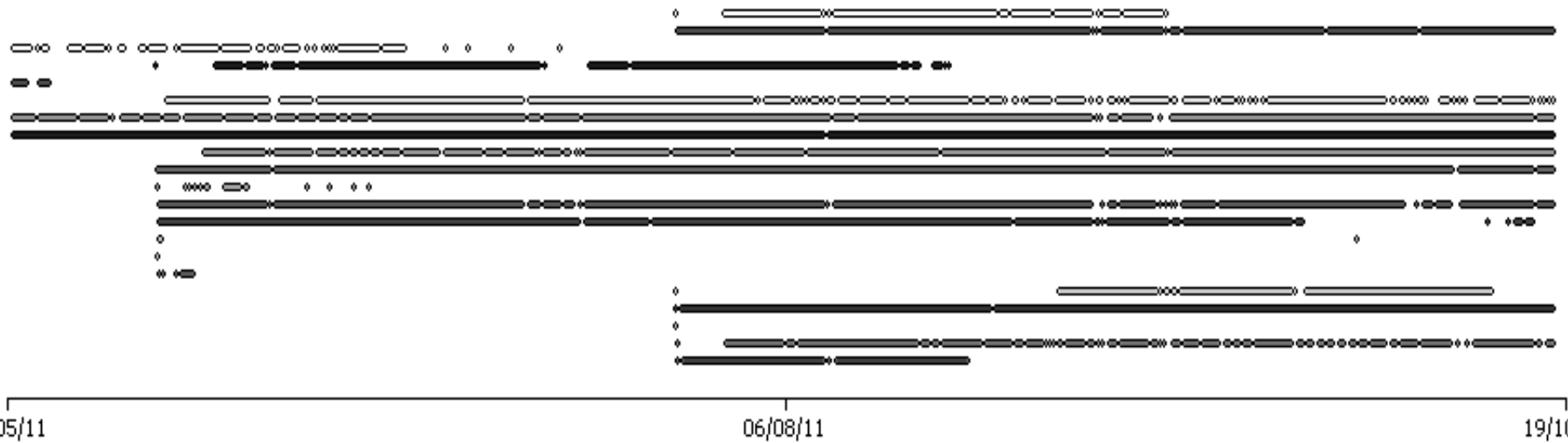
"What we are seeing is that the ministers are closing their eyes and sticking their heads into the sand," she said.

Britain and Ireland have a vocal fishing industry whose members say they feel battered by years of incremental cuts in quotas. The depletion of the species has caused the decline of hundreds of fishing villages on both sides of the Atlantic

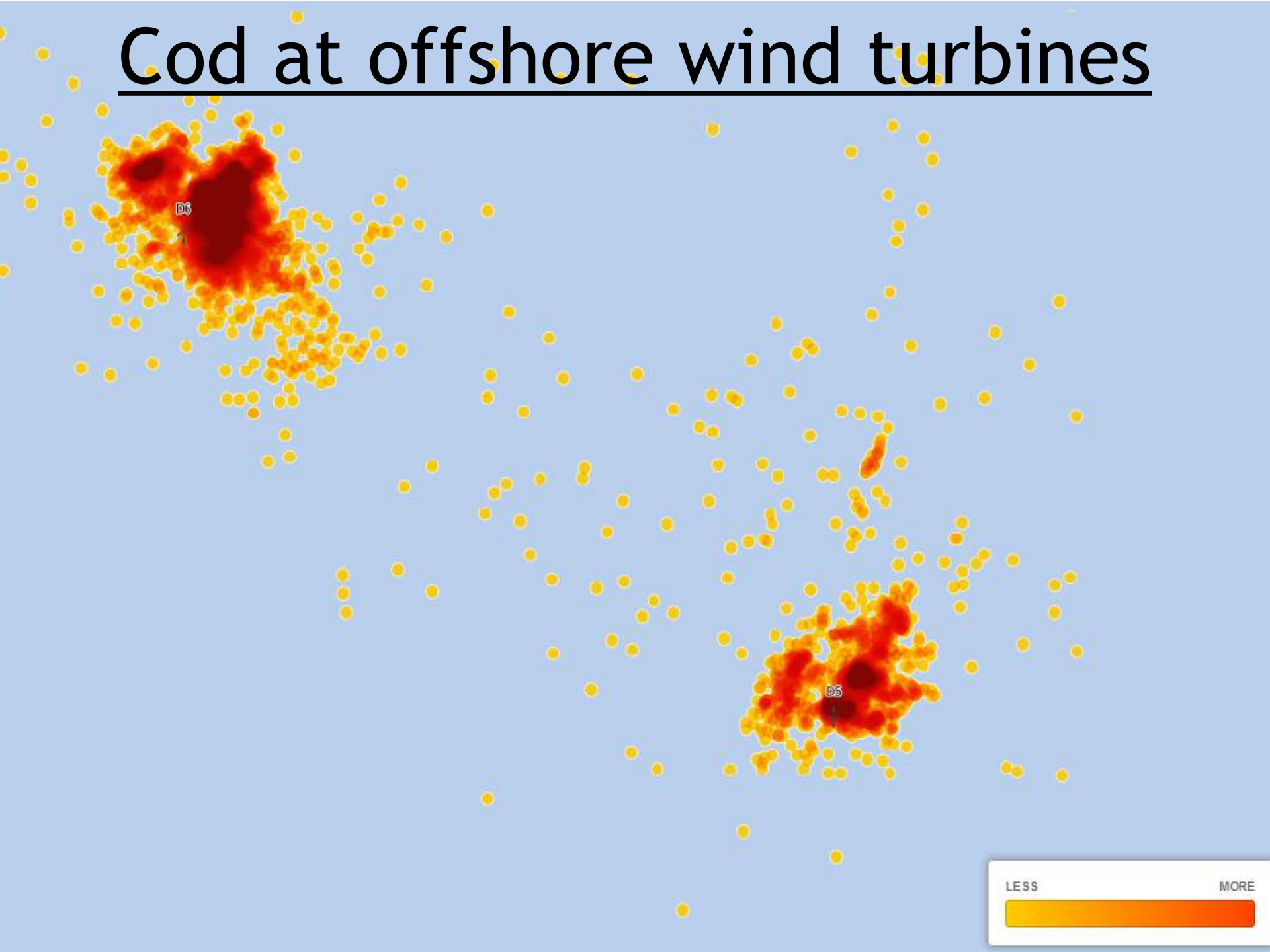




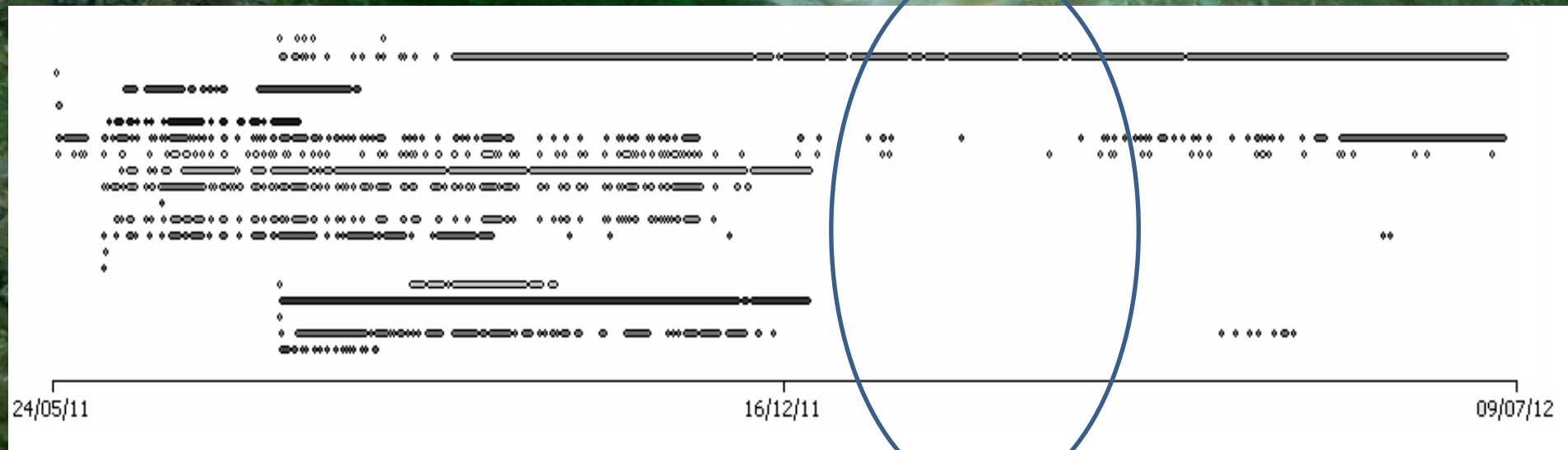
Cod at offshore wind turbines



Cod at offshore wind turbines



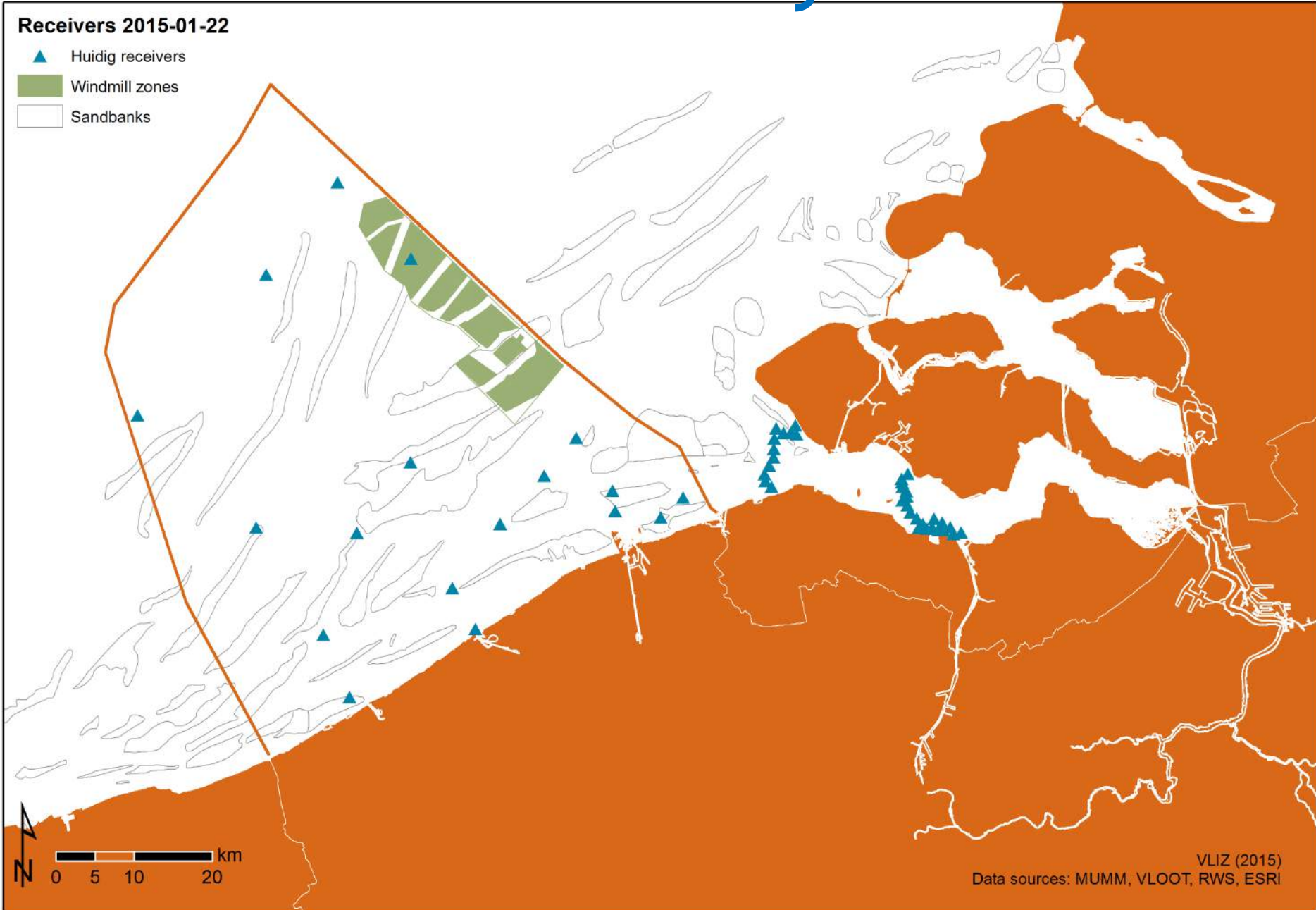
Cod at offshore wind turbines



Animal telemetry network

Receivers 2015-01-22

- ▲ Huidig receivers
- Windmill zones
- Sandbanks



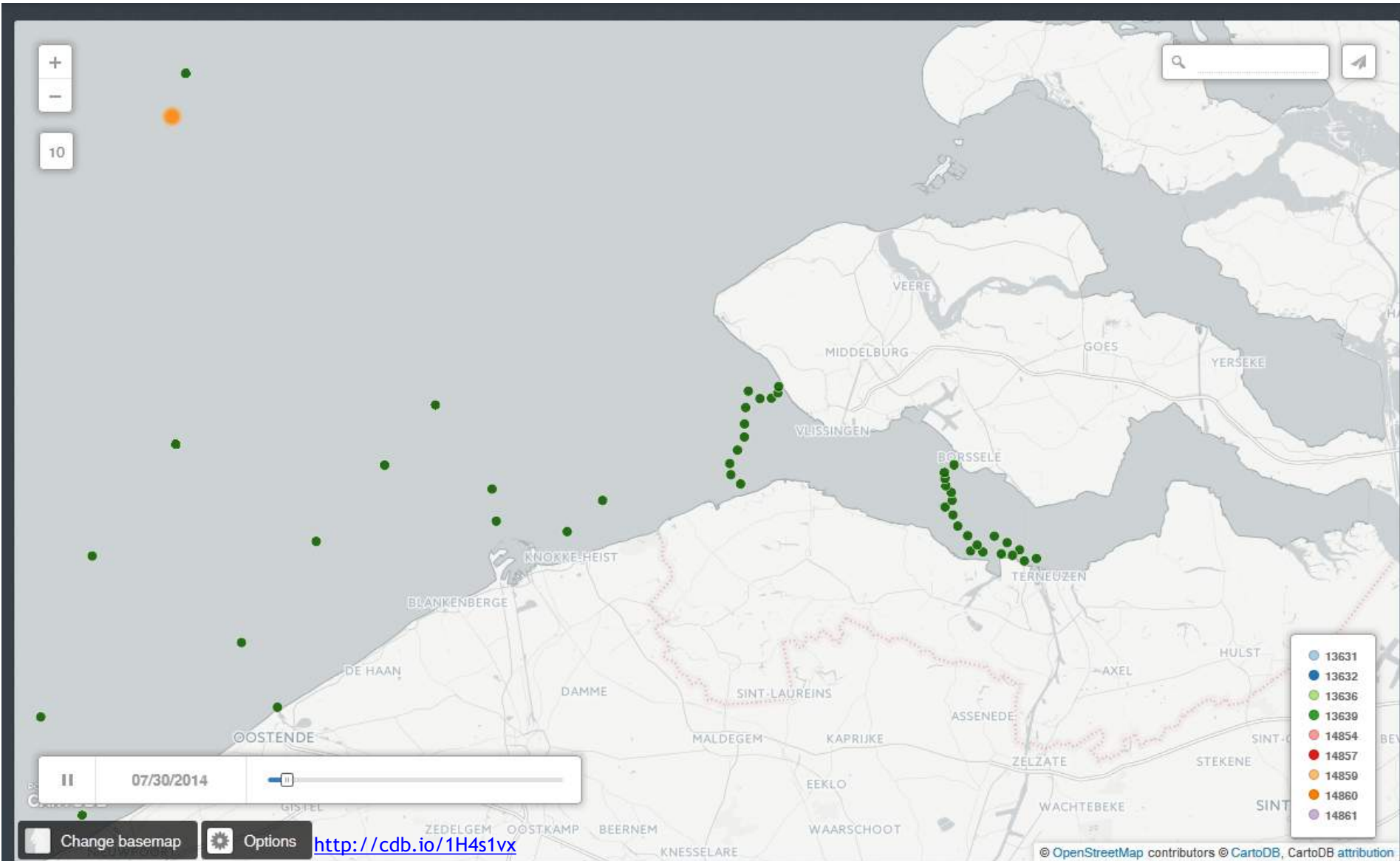
VLIZ (2015)

Data sources: MUMM, VLOOT, RWS, ESRI

Movement of Cod...



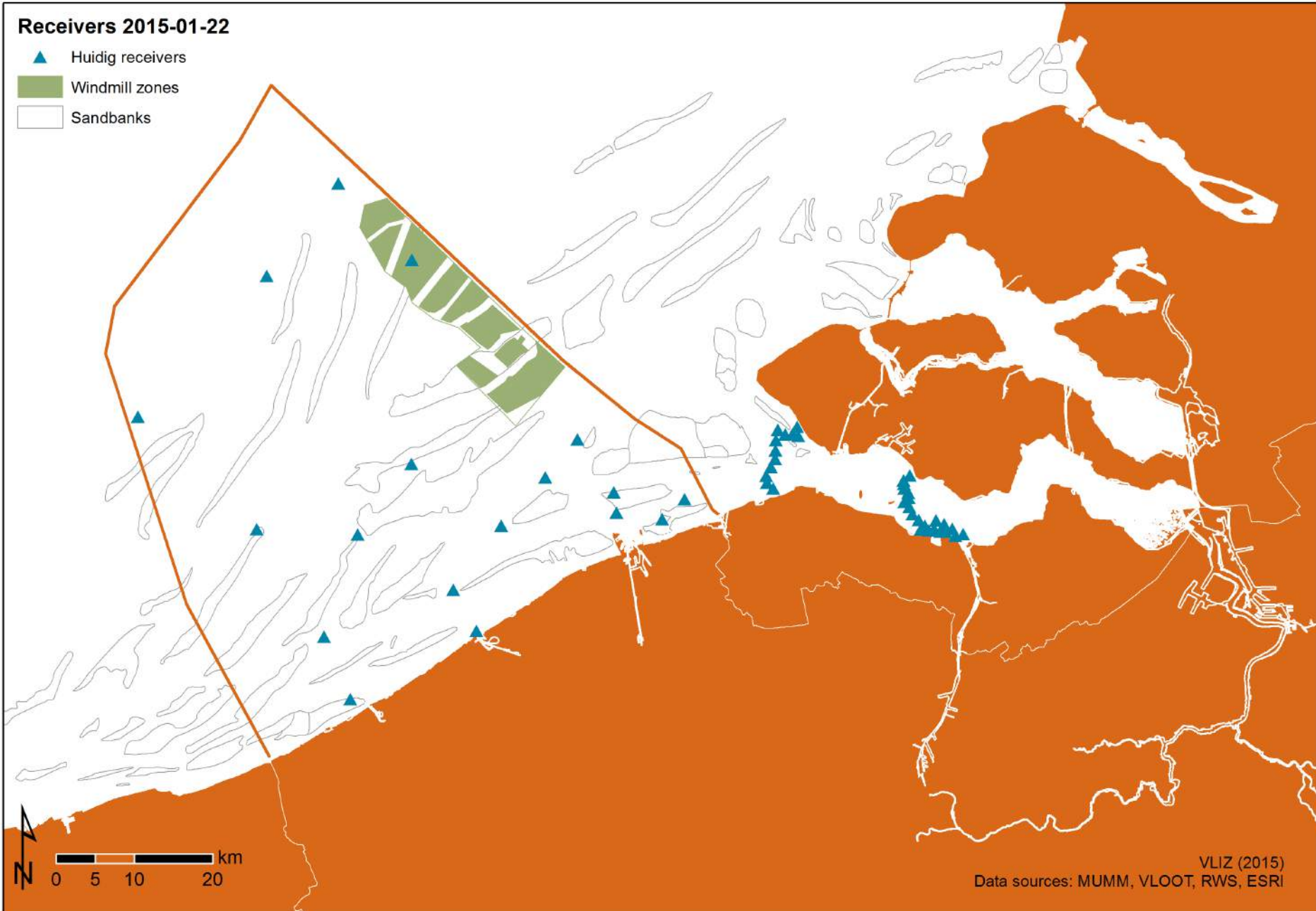
Movement of Cod...

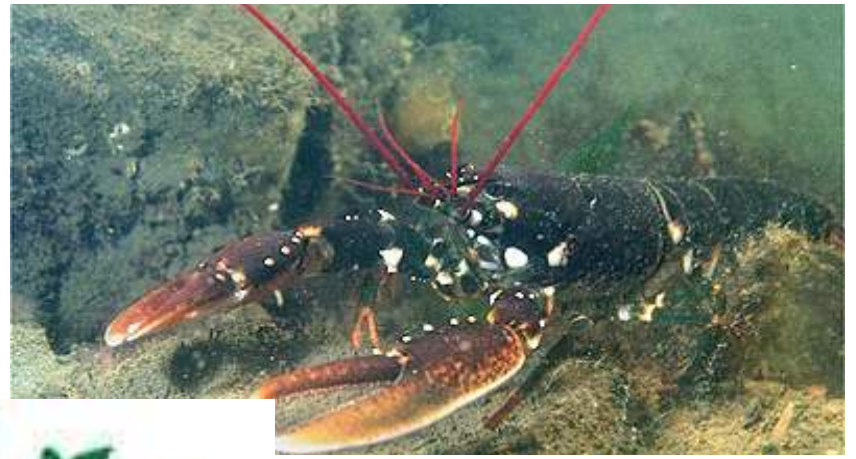
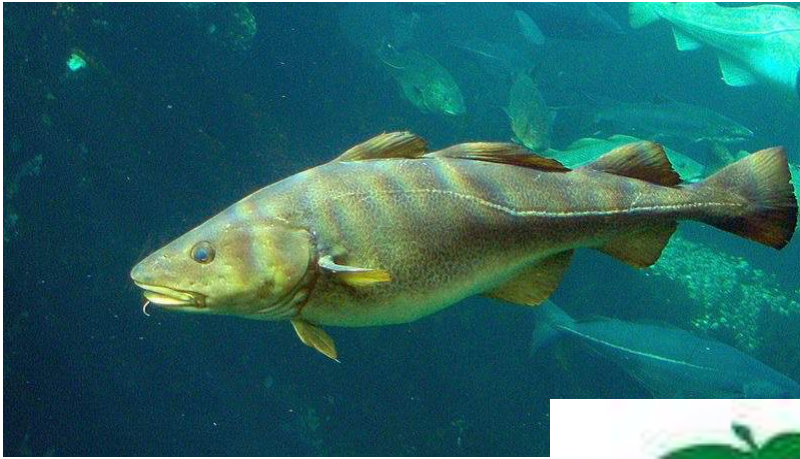


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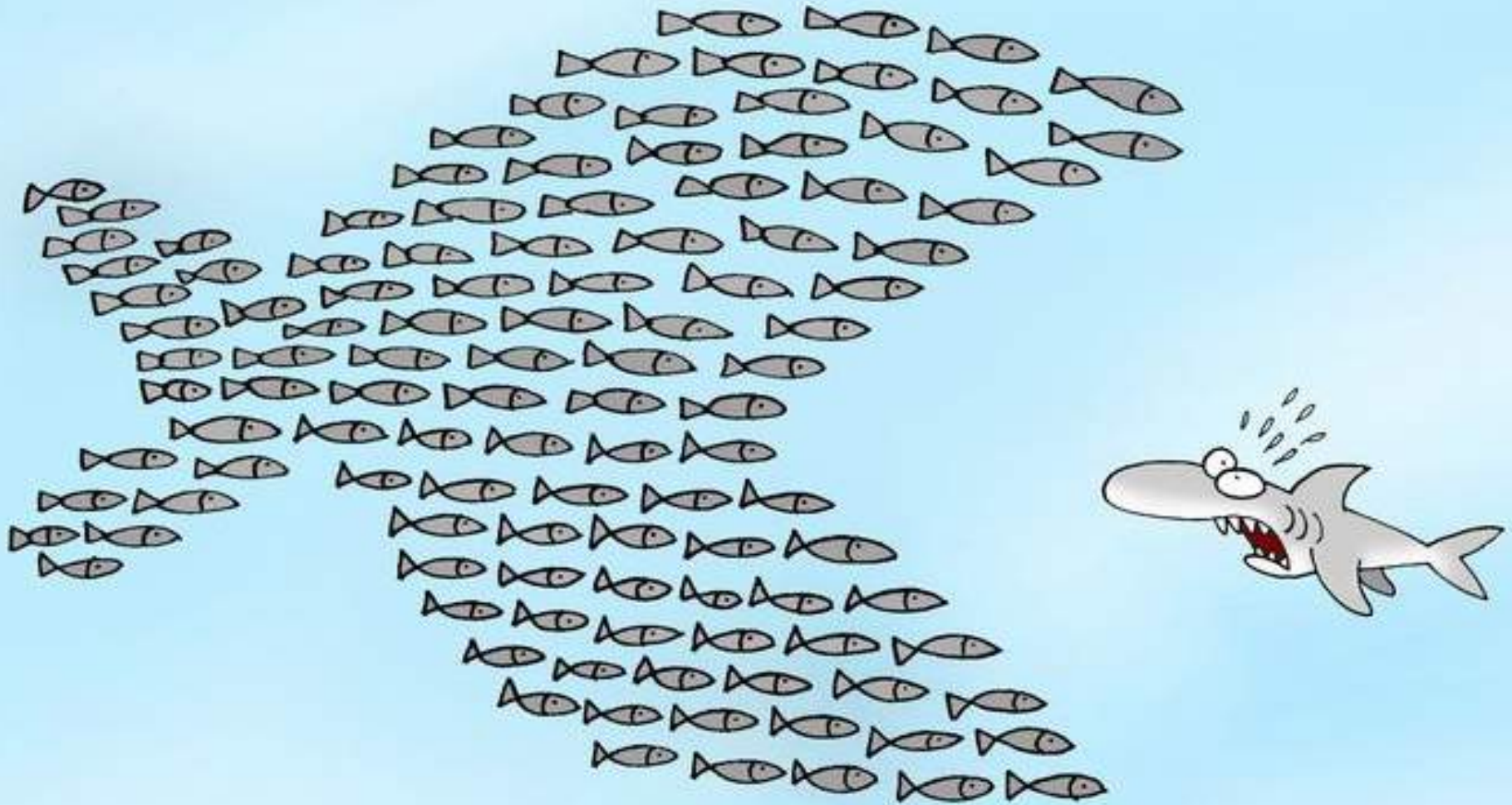




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The advantages of a network



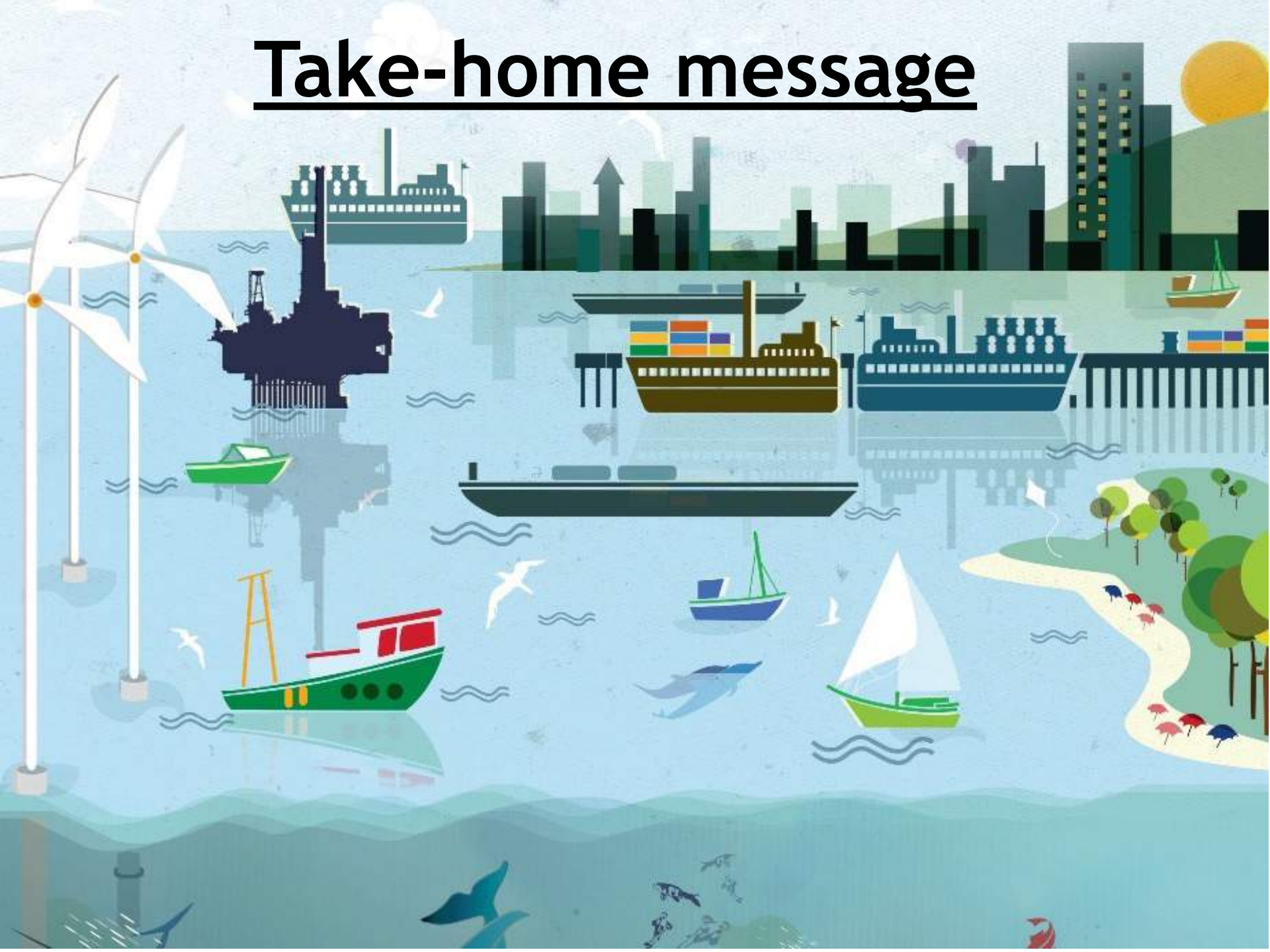
Twaiite Shad... a challenge



Ali the eel... Famous in Be & NL



Take-home message





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Thank you for your attention!



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<http://www.lifewatch.be/en/sensors>

