

Are trammel net fisheries a cure for the disease called fisheries impact? or... “the WAKO story”

Depestele, J. (coordinator), W. Courstens, S. Degraer (presenter),
J. Haelters, K. Hostens, H. Polet, M. Rabaut, E. Stienen,
S. Vandendriessche, M. Vincx

10th VLIZ Young Scientists' Day
27 November 2009



Differential fisheries impacts

Beam trawl fisheries



Ploughing
the seafloor



Discarding
benthos
& fish



Altering
seabird
populations

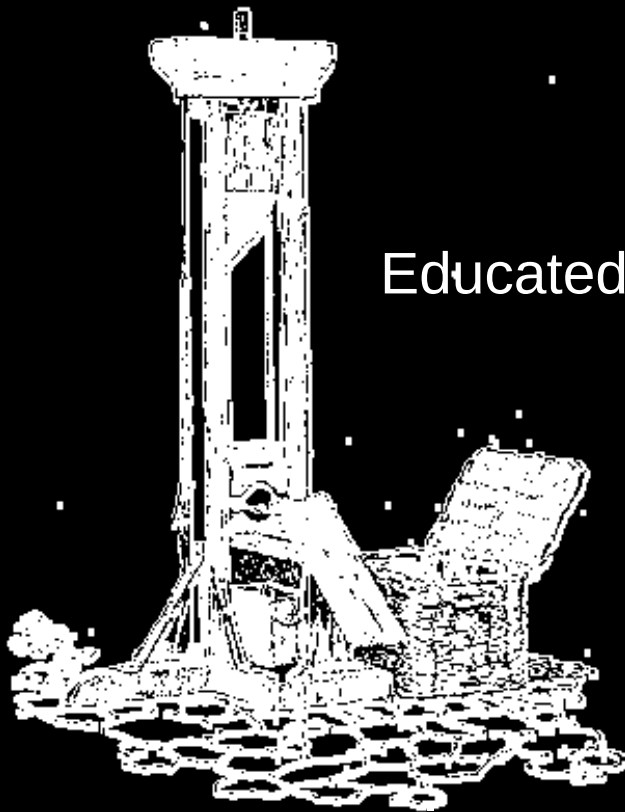
Trammel net fisheries



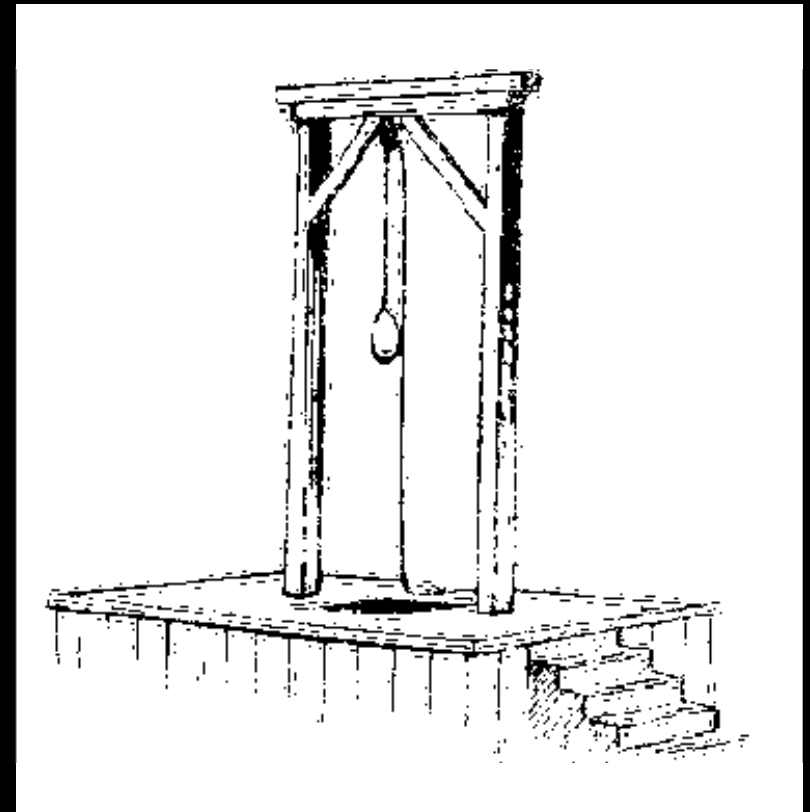
Bycatch of seabirds &
marine mammals

How to choose between both?

A choice between gallow or guillotine ?



Educated advice needed !



The WAKO story...

A staged, though long term initiative...



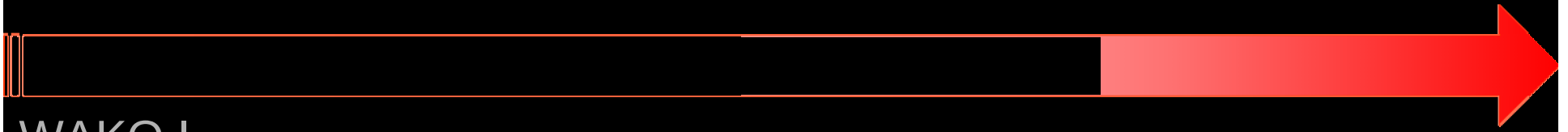
WAKO I

- Preparatory study
- Gaps identified!



The WAKO story...

A staged, though long term initiative...



WAKO I

- Preparatory study
- Gaps identified!

WAKO II

- Fill out the gaps: Quantify!
- Baseline for Marine Spatial Planning

The WAKO story...

A staged, though long term initiative...

WAKO I

- Preparatory study
- Gaps identified!

WAKO II

- Fill out the gaps: Quantify!
- Baseline for marine spatial planning

FUTURE WAKOs
- Integration with
socio-economics

Where we are now: WAKO II

Step 1. Quantify the effects



Step 2. Determine sensitivity of key species



Step 3. Map the distribution of key species



Step 4. Integrate sensitivity and fishing effort maps

Solution to gallow or guillotine issue?

What we know and do not know...

Beam trawl fisheries

- High impact upon benthos and fish
- Seabirds = ?

Trammel net fisheries

- Potential impact upon benthos and fish = ?
- Significance of its impact on marine mammals?
- Seabirds = ?

What we are sure about yet...
No black or white pill can cure
or nuanced management advice anticipated !