



VALDUVIS: a fair price for sustainable fish

Arne Kinds¹, Kim Sys¹, Koen Mondelaers², Hans Polet¹

¹ Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research (ILVO), Animal Sciences Unit, Fisheries and Aquatic Production, Ankerstraat 1, 8400 Oostende, Belgium

² Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research (ILVO), Social Sciences Unit, Burg. van Gansberghelaan 115 bus 2, 9820 Merelbeke, Belgium

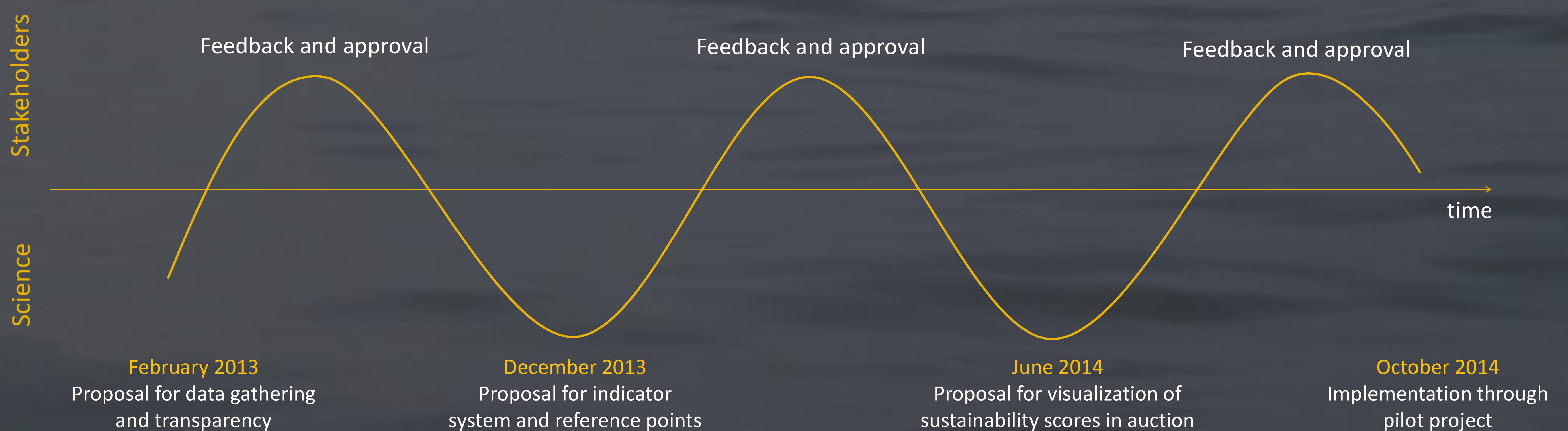
Introduction

How sustainable is the fish on our plates? Where and how was it caught? How about the status of the stock in this area? Is the fishery associated with bycatch of vulnerable or protected species? The answer to these questions is not as straightforward as one might think. The eco-conscious consumer falls back on various seafood guides and eco-labels to make sustainable seafood choices. In practice, however, the usefulness of these seafood guides is limited due to insufficient information regarding catch area and fishing method on the product package. This shortage of information in fact characterizes the entire seafood supply chain, and forms the base of the VALDUVIS project (Valorization of Sustainably Caught Fish), which aims to score and visualize ecological, social and economic sustainability of fish landed in Belgian fishing ports (Zeebrugge, Oostende and Nieuwpoort).

Key element in VALDUVIS = **STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION**

(fishermen, producer organizations, government, fish auctions, NGOs, etc.)

→ **Scientifically sound** reference system that is supported by a wide range of stakeholders



Step 1: Gathering information about the trip



Information per individual fishing trip:

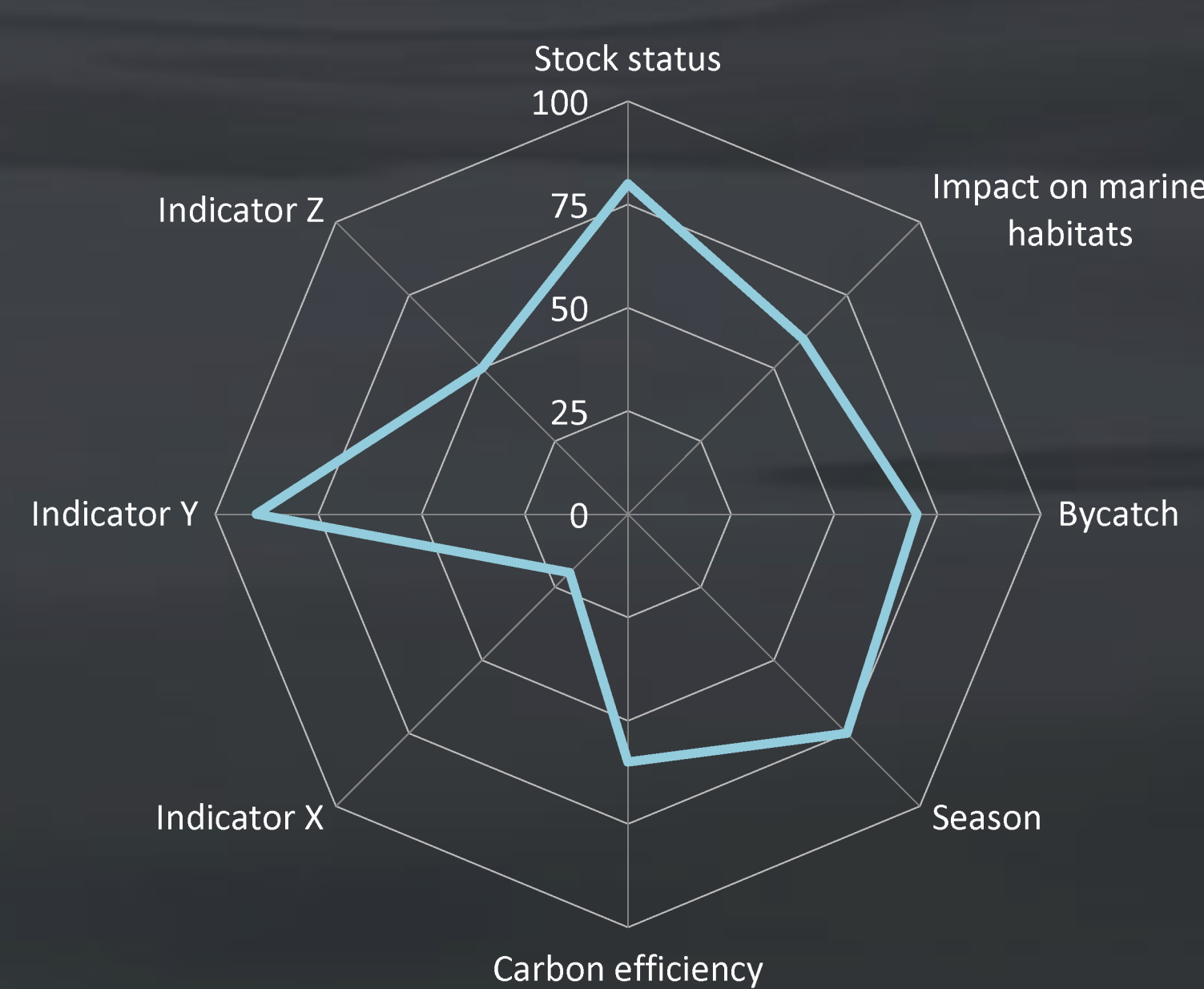
Vessel, fishing area, fishing method, species

Information derived from databases:

Stock status, carbon emissions, bycatch and discards, impact of gear on marine habitats, etc.

Step 2: Developing indicators for sustainability

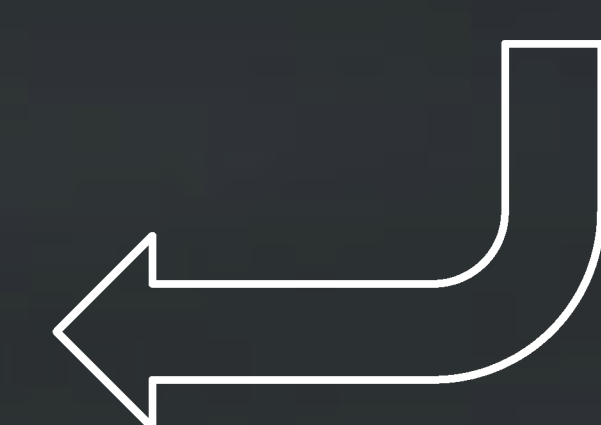
A set of indicators describes fishing activity from an ecological, economic and social perspective



Step 3: Visualizing sustainability



In the auction hall and on a secured website



This may result in **improved market access** and a **better price** for sustainably caught fish

➤ Underlying goal: initiating a transition towards a sustainable Belgian fishing fleet by offering incentives to fish more sustainably