

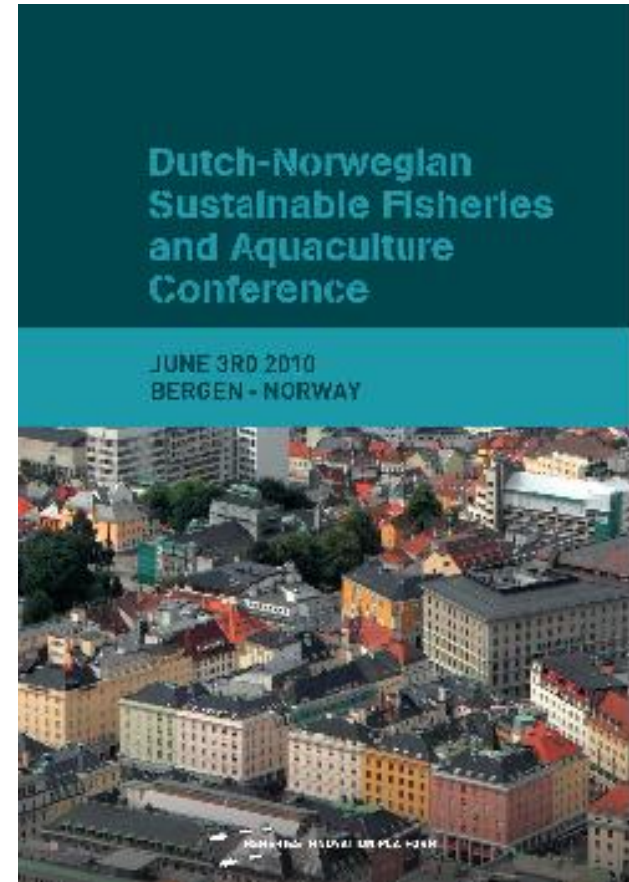


# Dutch approach for innovations in fisheries

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## Developments since 2000

2000 – 2007: the North Sea Fishing Industry confronted with:

- decreasing quota, days at sea
- increasing fuel costs
- public criticism of fishing methods and catches

A common conclusion was drawn:



*'There is no sustainable future foreseen for the traditional flatfish fisheries with the conventional beam trawler'*



## Unless:

Fishermen choose for **innovation**:

- saving cost and energy
- increasing product quality and profitability
- reduce impact on the ecosystem

Fishermen choose for **cooperation**:

- between fishermen
- with the several links the fisheries chain
- between the industry and the environmental groups



## Structural policy in fisheries

Focus of the Dutch structural policy in fisheries till 2007:

- Emphasis on scrapping, decommissioning
- Investments in ports, infrastructure
- Less innovation, less cooperation



# New Dutch approach for innovation in fisheries

Since 2007 the Netherlands developed a structured policy to drive innovation of the North Sea fisheries sector forward

Three pillars:

1. the activities of the Fisheries Innovation Platform
2. the activities of fishermen in a structure of study groups
3. the support of the European Fisheries Fund



## Pillar 1: Fisheries Innovation Platform



### Goal

- Encourage innovation towards a sustainable and profitable development of the North Sea fisheries sector and the related supply chain.

### Composition of the FIP

- Ten members who represent the fisheries industry, NGO's, research, politics and government
- Supported by an advisory group of 15 fishermen

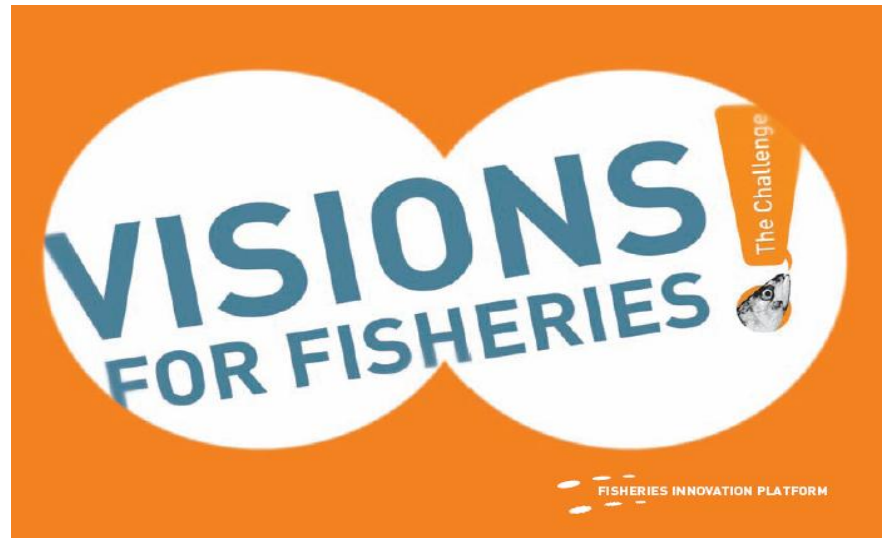


## Long term strategy of the FIP

In the long term the Fisheries Innovation Platform aims to initiate the debate on the future of fisheries and come up with new ideas and solutions

To get focus in the discussion:

4 long term-ambitions presented





1

### The sea: our ecological and economic capital

In 2025, fishermen have come to see the sea as an economic asset—the kind of asset that needs proper management to let it keep its long-term value. The fish market's supply side has changed considerably. Fleet, capacity and fishing techniques are continuously adjusted to maintain a sustainable ecological balance. The same is true for fishing areas, the number of days vessels spend at sea and the species that are captured. Fishermen are no longer seen as

hunters of the sea but as responsible stewards. Fisheries no longer depend on a very limited number of species. What is currently seen as worthless and unintended by-catch will then be considered a rich harvest, its potential fully exploited. In 2025, many interests will be competing for space at sea, just as they now do on land, and fisheries will play a central role in such discussions.

2

### Value creation is key

In 2025, the fishing industry fully exploits fundamentally favourable market conditions: a large and growing demand for seafood combined with a limited supply. Rather than providing commodities, the fisheries sector will offer a wide range of high-end products with strong market identities. Value creation, driven by concepts like 'delicacy', 'specialty' and 'caught in the wild', will be key, cost saving will play a less dominant

role. Fish will enjoy a strong and positive image that is based on sustainable production methods that take animal welfare into account. Like any high-end product on the market, seafood cannot afford to have a reputation of not being sustainable. The sector employs sophisticated marketing concepts and invests continuously in product innovation. Fisheries sectors elsewhere will follow these examples because markets require them to do so.

# Fisheries Innovation Platform: 4 ambitions for 2025

Share your vision on fisheries  
and win a pair of binoculars.  
[info@fisheriesinnovationplatform.com](mailto:info@fisheriesinnovationplatform.com)



3

### Maritime entrepreneurs

To be successful in the long run, companies have to know how to take advantage of developments elsewhere. Only those that do will be able to turn threats into new opportunities and into new business. In 2025, fishermen have become viable maritime entrepreneurs who combine fishing with additional maritime business activities, fully exploiting the sector's strengths and expertise in areas such as recreational services, healthcare, the ability to harvest

many different fish species and strong links with fish farming and other offshore activities. Once perceived as members of a closed community, in 2025 fishermen have an open and innovative mindset and have forged relationships with other economic sectors. A healthy, broad-based business sector has established itself with the ability to take ecological resources into account. Economically, the sector has become largely independent from government funding.

4

### Towards new energy

According to Dennis Meadows, a researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an honorary member of the Club of Rome, world oil production will peak around 2015. After that, demand will continue to rise while supply slowly declines. In the long run, decreasing fossil fuel prices are therefore highly unlikely; on the contrary, further price increases should be anticipated. In 2025, the fisheries sector will have

succeeded in making an energy transition, having reduced its use of fossil fuels by 90 percent. The sector has radically changed its thinking on energy consumption, using expertise and innovations from other sectors. The fisheries sector serves as a model for the shipping industry as a whole.





## The 4 FIP-ambitions

1. The sea, a fishermen's ecological and economic capital

2. Value creation is the key

3. Maritime entrepreneurship

4. Towards new energy

Workshops, conferences etc. to encourage discussion,  
to boost consciousness, awareness things have to change



## Pillar 2 : Fisheries study groups/knowledge circles

13 Groups of fishermen:

- indicate and formulate common questions and challenges
- organize answers and solutions with the support of scientist
- not the researchers lead the projects, the fishermen themselves take the lead



[www.kenniskringvisserij.nl](http://www.kenniskringvisserij.nl)

Knowledge Circles Fisheries

From, for and by fishermen

Think and work together  
on the future of your fisheries!





## Study groups: from, for and by fishermen

Fishermen:

- meet on a frequent basis
- explore new fishing techniques, cost reductions, discards reduction
- exchange experiences with colleagues
- have free access to the knowledge of research institutes as IMARES
- prepare project proposals for the FIP

Not the researchers lead the projects,  
the fishermen themselves take the lead



## Study groups

13 Study-groups are active

f.e.:

- Twin-rig fisheries
- Coastal fisheries
- Pulse fisheries
- Mussel culture
- Inshore fisheries
- Sustainable shrimp fisheries
- Smart-entrepreneurship





# The European Fisheries Fund

## Pillar 3: Proper use of the EFF

2007 – 2013: € 120 mln.

- strong accent on measures for common interest: innovation/pilot projects and collective actions
- tendering schemes
- the FIP acts as the judging-commission



EUROPEAN FISHERIES FUND  
INVESTING IN  
SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES



## Results in 2008, 2009

7 EFF-tender schemes:

- 4 innovation in the fisheries chain
- 3 collective actions in the fisheries chain
- 150 proposals submitted
- 70 selected by the FIP
- € 20 mln. involved
- To be continued....

**Fisheries  
Innovation  
Platform**

**10** DUTCH FISHERMEN  
INNOVATIONS



## Conclusion

The innovation climate in the North Sea fisheries is changing, progress is made in sustainability and profitability.

This road to a more future-proof North Sea Fisheries would not have been possible without

- the activities of the FIP
- the support of the EFF
- the support of the scientist
- the efforts and creativity of fishermen

