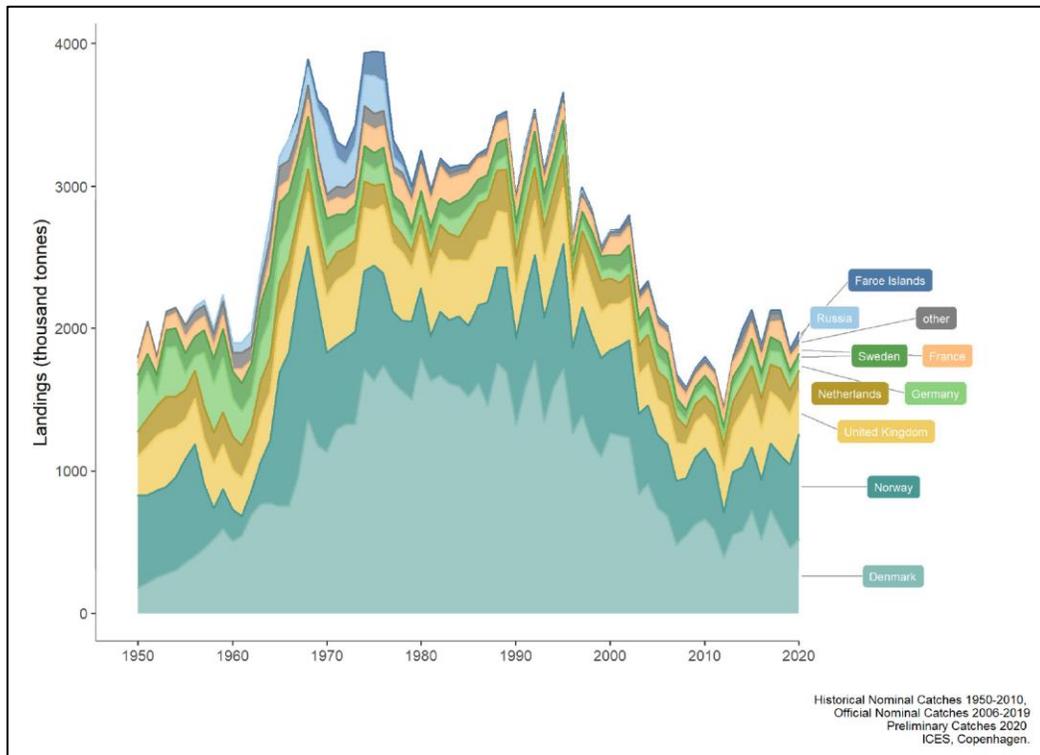
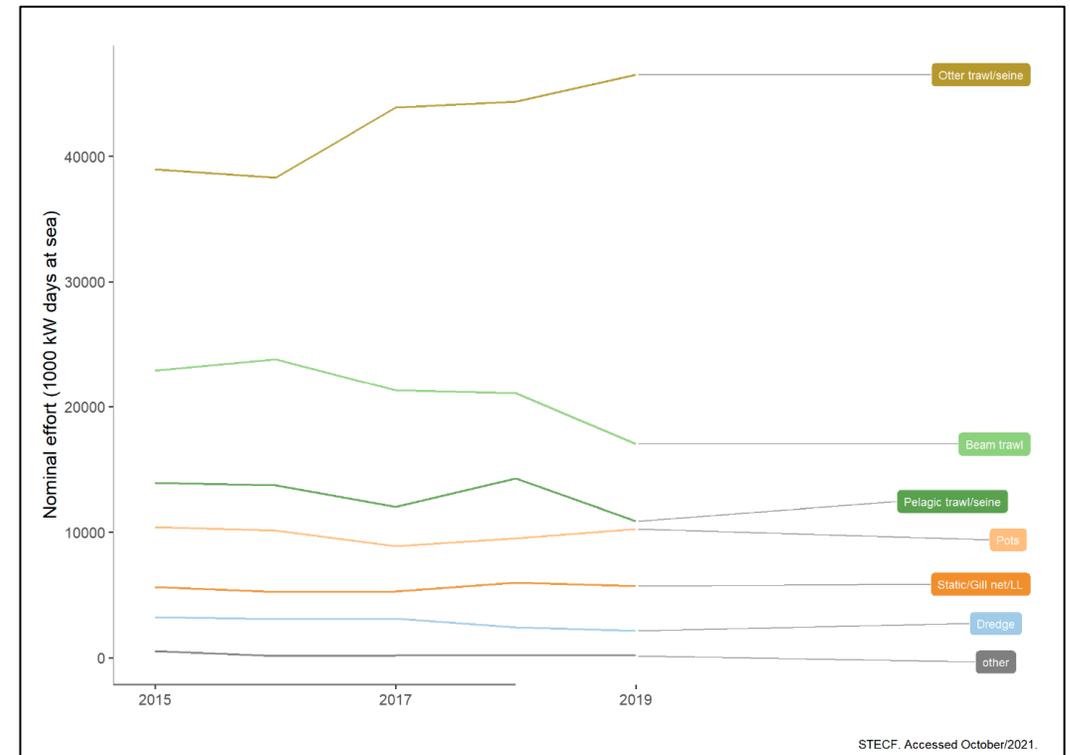


Fisheries in the Greater North Sea

Landings by Country 1950-2020



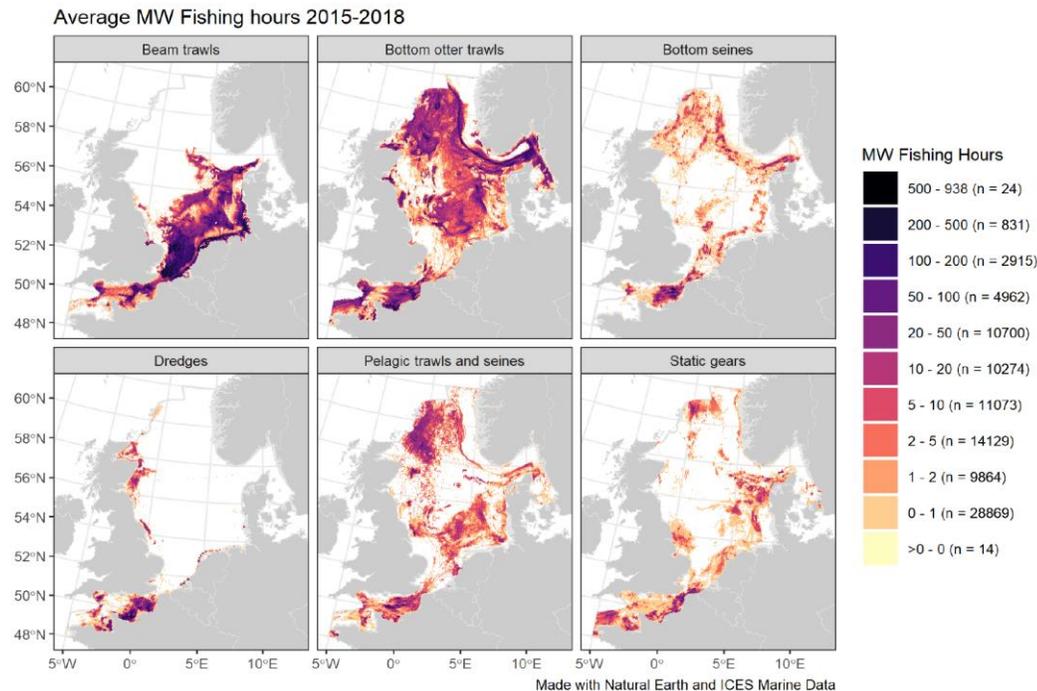
Fishing Effort by Gear Type 2014-2019



Source: ICES (2022)

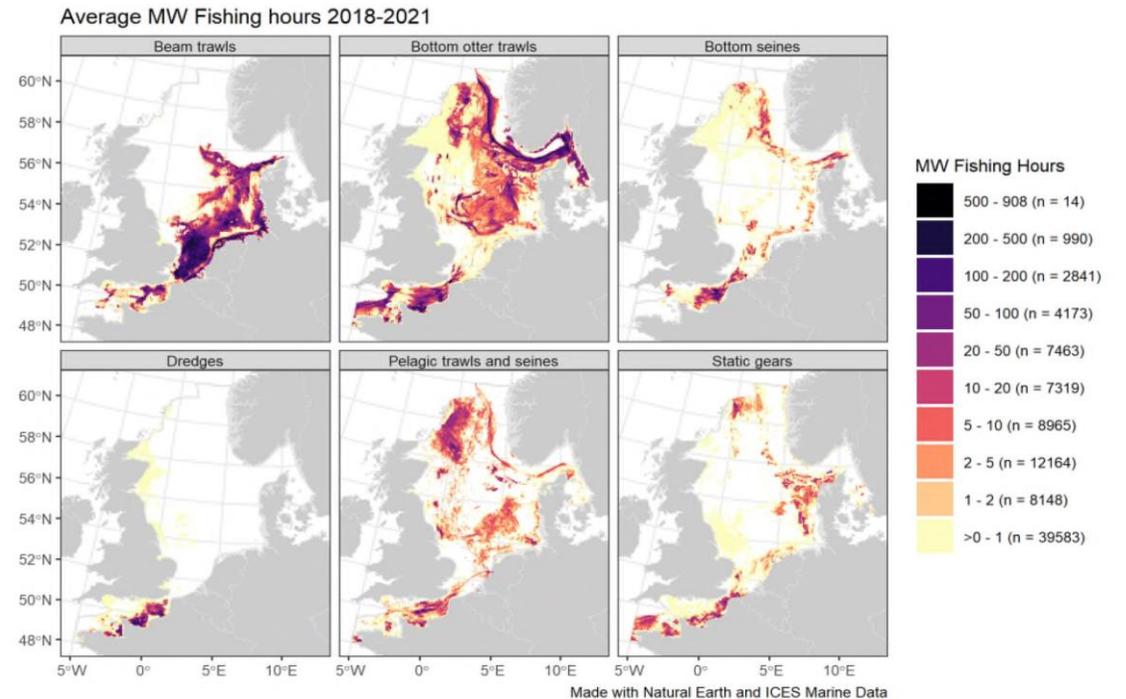
Fishing Effort Trends in the Greater North Sea

Spatial Distribution of Fishing Effort by Gear Type, 2015-2018



Source: ICES (2019)

Spatial Distribution of Fishing Effort by Gear Type, 2019-2022



Source: ICES (2023)

Summary of Fishing Activity in the North Sea

- Around 6600 fishing vessels active in the Greater North Sea
- Total landing peaked in the 1970s at 4 million tonnes and have since declined to c. 2 million tonnes
- Total fishing effort has declined substantially since 2003
- Pelagic fish landings are greater than demersal fish landings
- Herring & mackerel, caught using pelagic trawls and seines, account for largest portion of pelagic landings
- Sandeel & haddock, caught using otter trawls/seines, account for largest fraction of demersal landings
- Spatial distribution of fishing gear varies across Greater North Sea:
 - static gear used most frequently in the English Channel, the eastern part of the Southern Bight, the Danish Banks , and in the waters east of Shetland
 - bottom trawls are used throughout the North Sea, with lower use in the shallower southern North Sea
 - pelagic gears are used throughout the North Sea

Source: ICES, 2024

Estimates of Bycatch Rates in the Greater North Sea



2020: 5,974 (95% CI: 3,176-10,739) porpoises, all countries except Norway
Majority of bycatch was in static gillnets (GNS, GND, GTR) (Source: ICES WKMOMA, 2021)

This represents 1.73% of an estimated North Sea population size of 345,000 (from SCANS-III, July 2016), and exceeds the RLA threshold value of 1,622 porpoise anthropogenic removals (OSPAR OMMEG Assessment, 2023)