

# Fishing activities on the German Dogger Bank

Supplement to LEI Memorandum 13-051

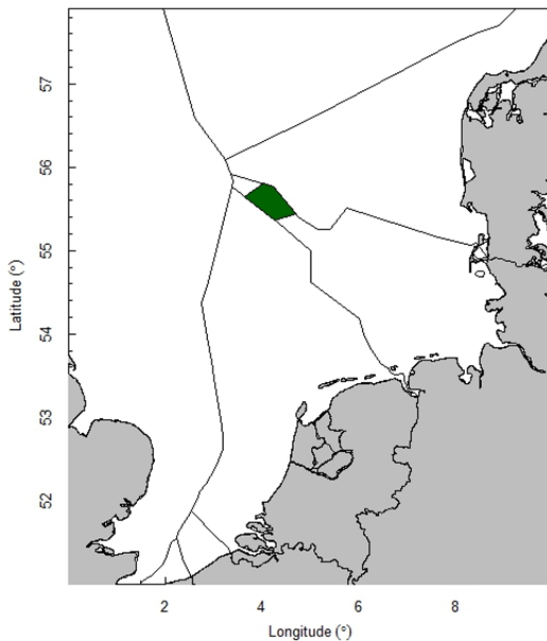
J.A.E. van Oostenbrugge and K. Hamon



## Introduction

In response to recent developments in the process of fisheries management measures for N2000 areas, the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs has requested an extension of the analyses on the fishing activities of the Dutch fishing fleet in the German part of the Dogger Bank. This short memorandum describes the developments in effort, landings, landings value and Gross Value Added for the Dutch fishing fleet on the German part of the Dogger Bank for the years 2006 to 2013. In this memorandum the same data sources and methods have been used as in the note that was published previously (LEI Memorandum 13-051), with the area changed from the Dutch part to the German part of the Dogger Bank, as defined in Figure 1.

**Figure 1** The German part of the Dogger Bank area



Source: Ministry of Economic Affairs.

## Results

Table 1 shows the developments in total landings, landings value and contribution to the Gross Value Added (GVA)<sup>1</sup> of the Dutch fishing fleet on the German part of the Dogger Bank.

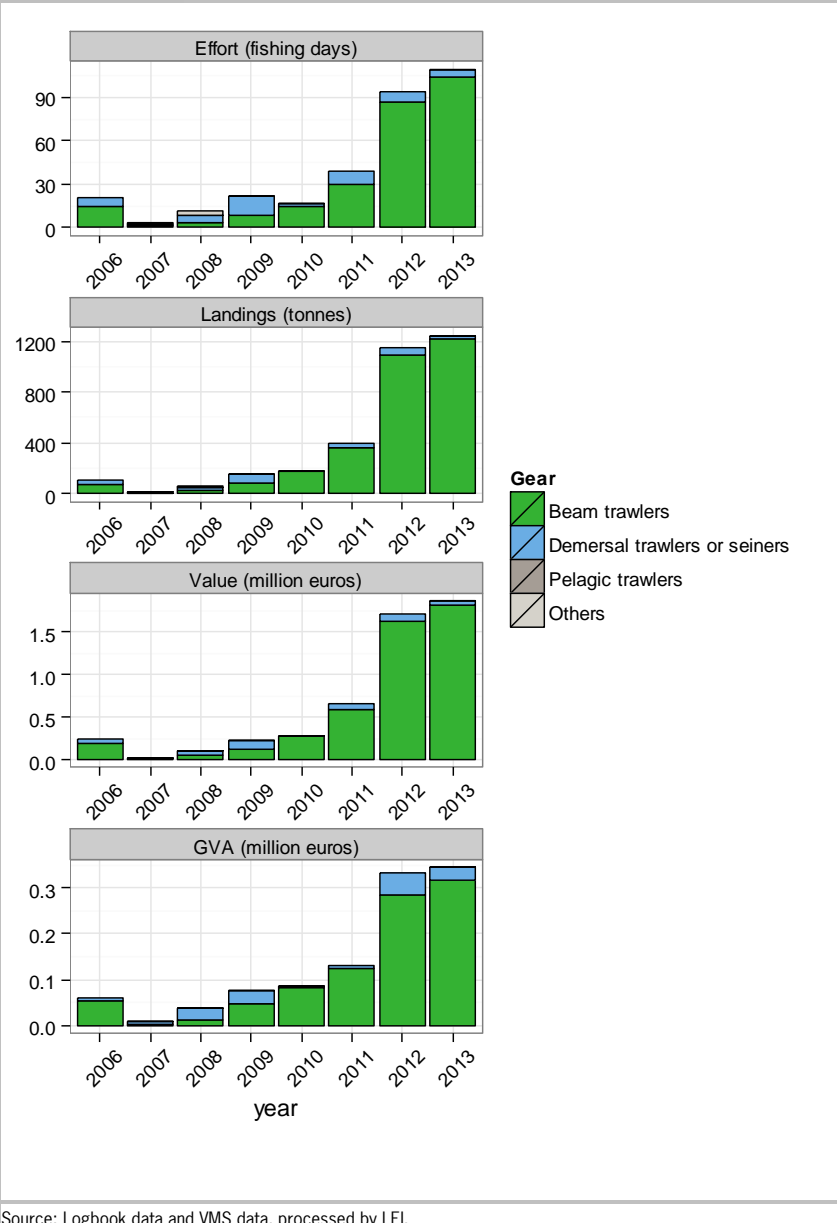
Table 1	Overview of landings and values of the Dutch fishing sector in the German part of the Dogger Bank							
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<i>Landings (tonnes)</i>								
German Dogger Bank	102	11	59	151	181	397	1,152	1,249
<i>Value (1,000 euros)</i>								
German Dogger Bank	234	24	112	225	280	650	1,704	1,857
<i>Gross Value Added (1,000 euros)</i>								
German Dogger Bank	61	9	40	78	86	130	334	345 <sup>a)</sup>
a) preliminary estimates; Source: Logbook data and VMS data, processed by LEI.								

Fishing intensity has been low on the German Dogger Bank, but due to the increasing plaice TAC and the good fishing opportunities for plaice in this area, fishing intensity has increased substantially during the last years (Figure 2). Total value of landings increased by around 600% from 2010 to 2013 (€1.9m in 2013). Because of this increase in fishing activity, the contribution to the GVA increased to around €0.3m. More than 90% of the effort in the area was deployed by beam trawlers; the remaining effort was deployed by demersal trawlers.

<sup>1</sup> The results for 2013 are preliminary estimates, based on the proportion of GVA and landings value in 2012.

**Figure 2**

Historical trends of the fishing activities in the German part of the Dogger Bank by the Dutch fleet. Effort, landings, value of landings and GVA are given by gears aggregated at the level of European codes (see Appendix 4 of Memorandum 13-051)

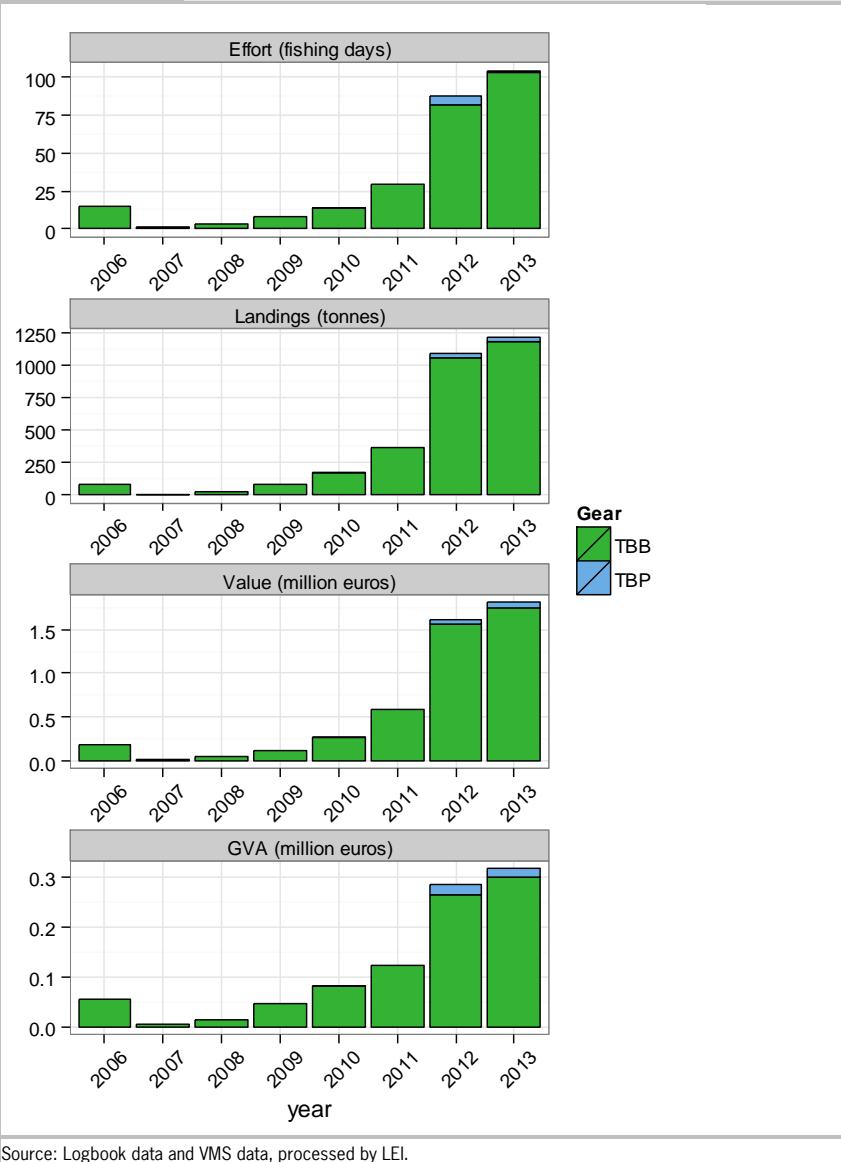


Source: Logbook data and VMS data, processed by LEI.

The beam trawl fishery on the German part of the Dogger Bank was carried out exclusively by traditional beam trawlers (TBB) (Figure 3). This is because pulse fishing (TBP) is not allowed North of 55 north latitude and therefore the German part of the Dogger Bank is not accessible for pulse trawlers. As such, the resulting activities from pulse trawlers in the area are due to miscoding of gears for certain trips. Because pulse trawling is not an official gear type in the logbooks, trips have been categorised as pulse trips by using a list of vessels that shifted from traditional beam trawling to pulse trawling. Most probably some of these vessels changed back to traditional beam trawling temporarily in order to target plaice in this area. The total value of landings from the beam trawl fishery increased to €1.7m in 2013, resulting in a contribution to the GVA of approximately €0.3m, seven times higher than on average in the years between 2006 and 2010.

**Figure 3**

Historical trends of the fishing activities in the German part of the Dogger Bank by the Dutch beam trawlers. Effort, landings, value of landings and GVA are given by gears aggregated at the level of European codes (see Appendix 4 of Memorandum 13-051)

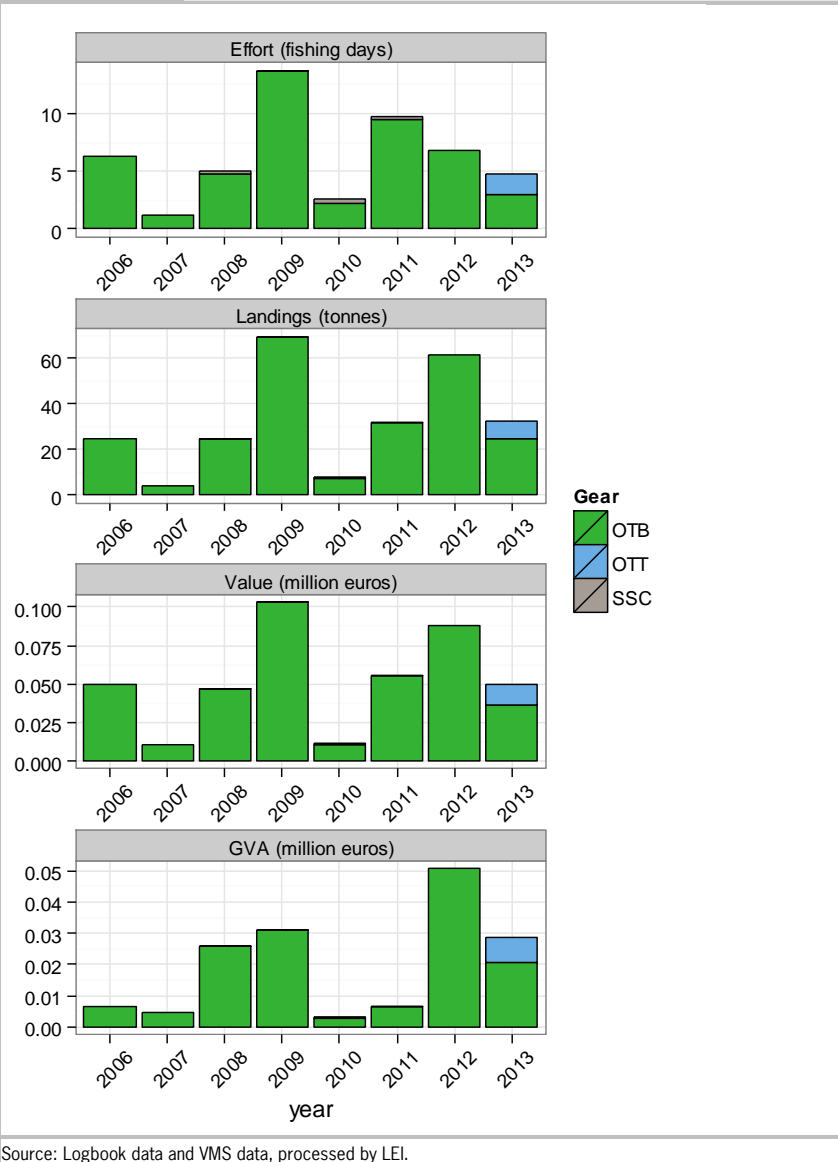


Source: Logbook data and VMS data, processed by LEI.

The fishing intensity of demersal trawls was much lower than the beam trawl fishery and consisted almost solely of otter board trawl (OTB) (Figure 3). Only in 2013, part of the effort and landings was realised by the twin trawl fishery (OTT). However, this proportion might be larger as there are indications that some of the twin trawl trips have been misreported as otter board trawl. Although the estimated total landings seem to vary from year to year, the numbers are so small (on average less than 40 tonnes per year) that the variation might very well be due to uncertainty in the estimates. The average contribution to the gross value added was less than 20 kEur.

**Figure 4**

Historical trends of the fishing activities in the German Dogger Bank by the Dutch demersal trawlers. Effort, landings, value of landings and GVA are given by gears aggregated at the level of European codes (see Appendix 4 of Memorandum 13-051)



Source: Logbook data and VMS data, processed by LEI.

## Conclusions

The fishing intensity in the German part of the Dogger Bank has shown considerable growth over the last years, mainly due to increasing fishing opportunities for plaice. As such, the total value of landings from this part of the North sea has increased from virtually nothing in 2007 to approximately €1.7m in 2013. With these landings, the contribution of the fishery in this area to the total value of landings and the GVA of the total Dutch demersal fisheries are still relatively low compared to other areas; approximately 0.7% and 0.3% respectively (STECF, 2014). On the other hand, over the last years the fishing intensity has been relatively high compared to the Dutch part of the Dogger Bank (Oostenbrugge and Hamon, 2014). The Dutch part of the Dogger Bank is three times as large but contributed only 1.5 times as much to the total landings value and GVA.

It should be noted that the results presented here are not exact numbers but estimates based on a complex estimation procedure with multiple assumptions. More about the assumptions and the resulting uncertainty in the estimates can be found in Oostenbrugge et al. (2010).

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## Literature

Oostenbrugge, J.A.E. and K. Hamon 2014. Fishing activities on the Dutch Dogger Bank, Supplement to LEI nota 13 051. LEI, 2014

Oostenbrugge, J.A.E. van, H. Bartelings and F.C. Buisman, 2010. Verspreidingskaarten voor de Noordzeevisserij; Methodiek en toepassing Natura 2000-gebieden (in Dutch). LEI-rapport 2010-066 ISBN/EAN: 978-90-8615-455-5. LEI Wageningen UR, The Hague. 2010.

Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), 2014. The 2014 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet (STECF-14-05). Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. Printed in Italy.

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