

Benthic Ecosystem Fisheries **I**mpact **S**tudy

Final Symposium

14 June 2017

Welcome



Benthic Ecosystem Fisheries Impact Study

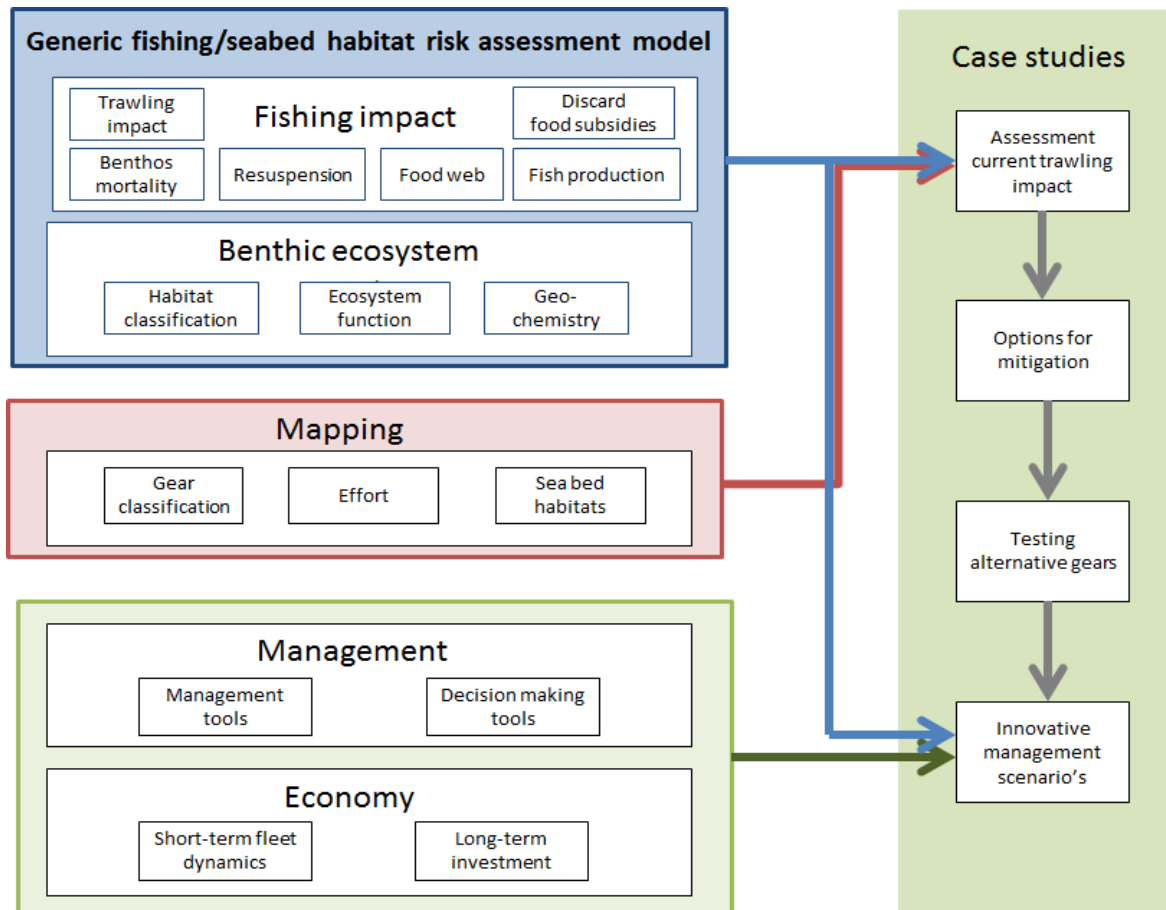
Introduction

Objectives

- Provide the knowledge base to
 - assessment status of benthic ecosystems on a regional basis
 - support indicators of Seafloor Integrity
- Develop tools to
 - assess impact of bottom trawling on the structure and functioning of these benthic ecosystems.
- Study and test in close collaboration with the fishing industry,
 - innovative technologies to reduce the impact on a regional basis (Baltic, North Sea, western waters, Mediterranean and Black Sea)
- Develop in consultation with the fishing industry and other stakeholders
 - sustainable management plans that reduce the impact of fishing and quantify its ecological and socio-economic consequences

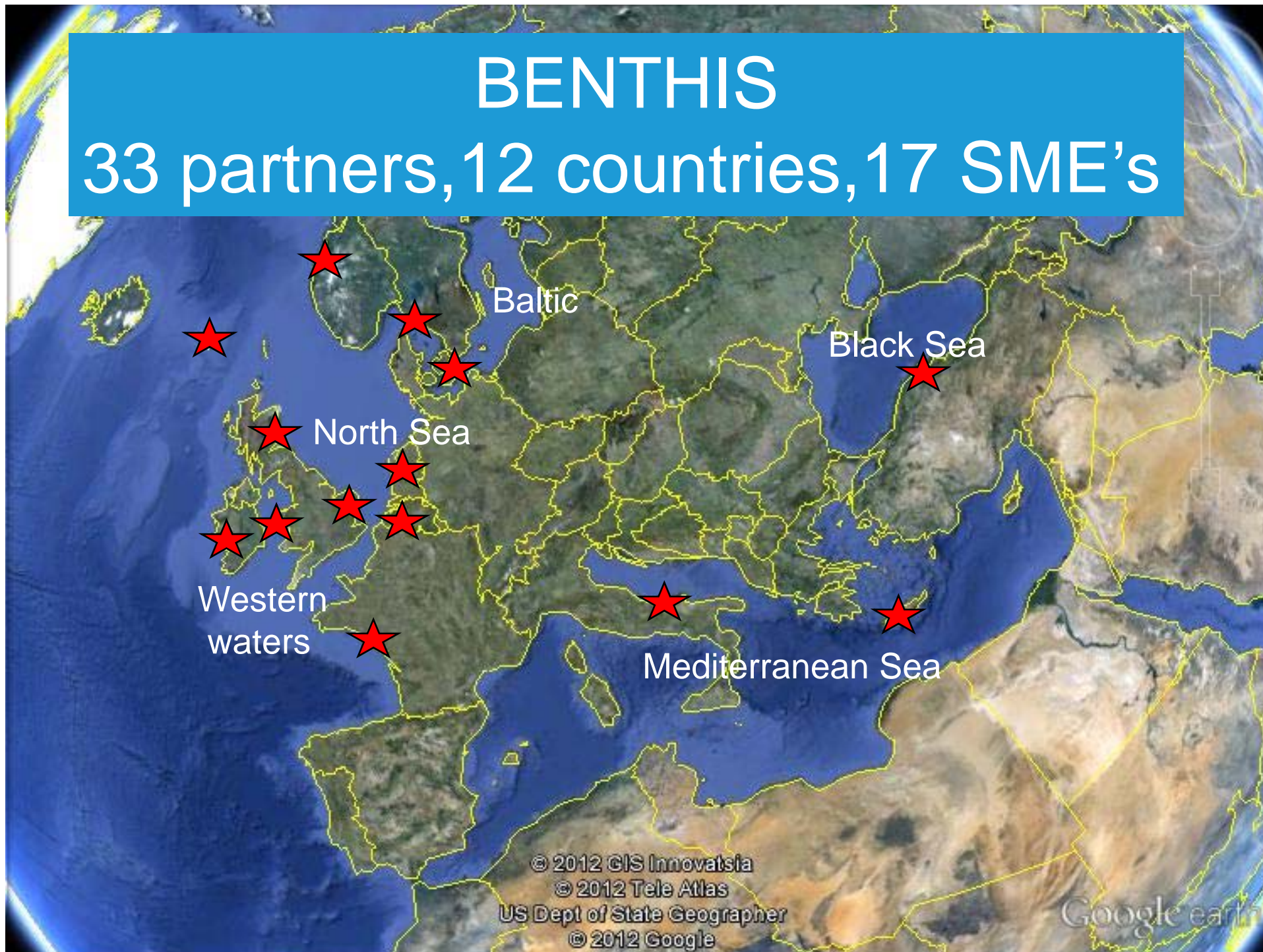
Structure of project

Generic work packages Case Study Tasks (5 Regions)



BENTHIS

33 partners, 12 countries, 17 SME's



Salient questions

- Which benthic ecosystems and habitats are most sensitive for fishing impacts?
- Which fishing gears have the biggest impact upon benthic systems?
- How does the impact of fishing compare to the impact of natural disturbance?
- What options are available to mitigate the adverse impacts of fishing, and how can these options be converted into effective management?
- How can science and the fishing industry be brought together to collaborate on innovative technology and innovative management approaches to mitigate the impact?
- What are the socio-economic implications of changes induced in benthic systems by fishing and of the proposed management actions to mitigate these effects?

Objectives

- Provide the knowledge base that allows an assessment of the status of different types of marine benthic ecosystems in European waters on a regional basis and support indicators of Good Environmental Status (GES), in particular on Seafloor Integrity;
- Develop the tools required to assess the effects of bottom trawling on the structure and functioning of these benthic ecosystems.
- Study and test, in close collaboration with the fishing industry, innovative technologies that reduce the impact of demersal fisheries on benthic ecosystem on a regional basis, encompassing the Baltic, North Sea, western waters, Mediterranean and Black Sea;
- Develop in consultation with the fishing industry and other stakeholders on a regional scale, sustainable management plans that reduce the impact of fishing and quantify its ecological and socio-economic consequences

Sub-objectives

- To assess the degradation and loss of habitats caused by different bottom trawling fleets
- To assess the impact of bottom trawling on biodiversity, nutrient recycling and benthic-pelagic coupling
- To study which factors facilitates the introduction of new technology to mitigate ecosystem impacts by fishing activities
- To demonstrate in close cooperation with SME's in the fishing industry how recent innovative technologies can contribute to reducing impact on benthic communities and other eco-system components
- To evaluate the effects of innovative management approaches such as gear substitutions and discard bans on the benthic ecosystem and the economy of the fishing sector