

FROM SEA TO SHORE

EXPLORING CHANGES IN SJÆLAND'S FISHING ACTIVITY

Gitta Galle, Matthias Bourgeois,
Maxime Willaert, Yolan Bosteels

Integrated International Projectwork
MSc Geography & Geomatics
Odsherred/Roskilde (DK) – 11 to 19 May 2024



Introduction, context and relevance



Research questions

Main question:

- Which impact do shifts in fishing activities have on the local fishing communities?

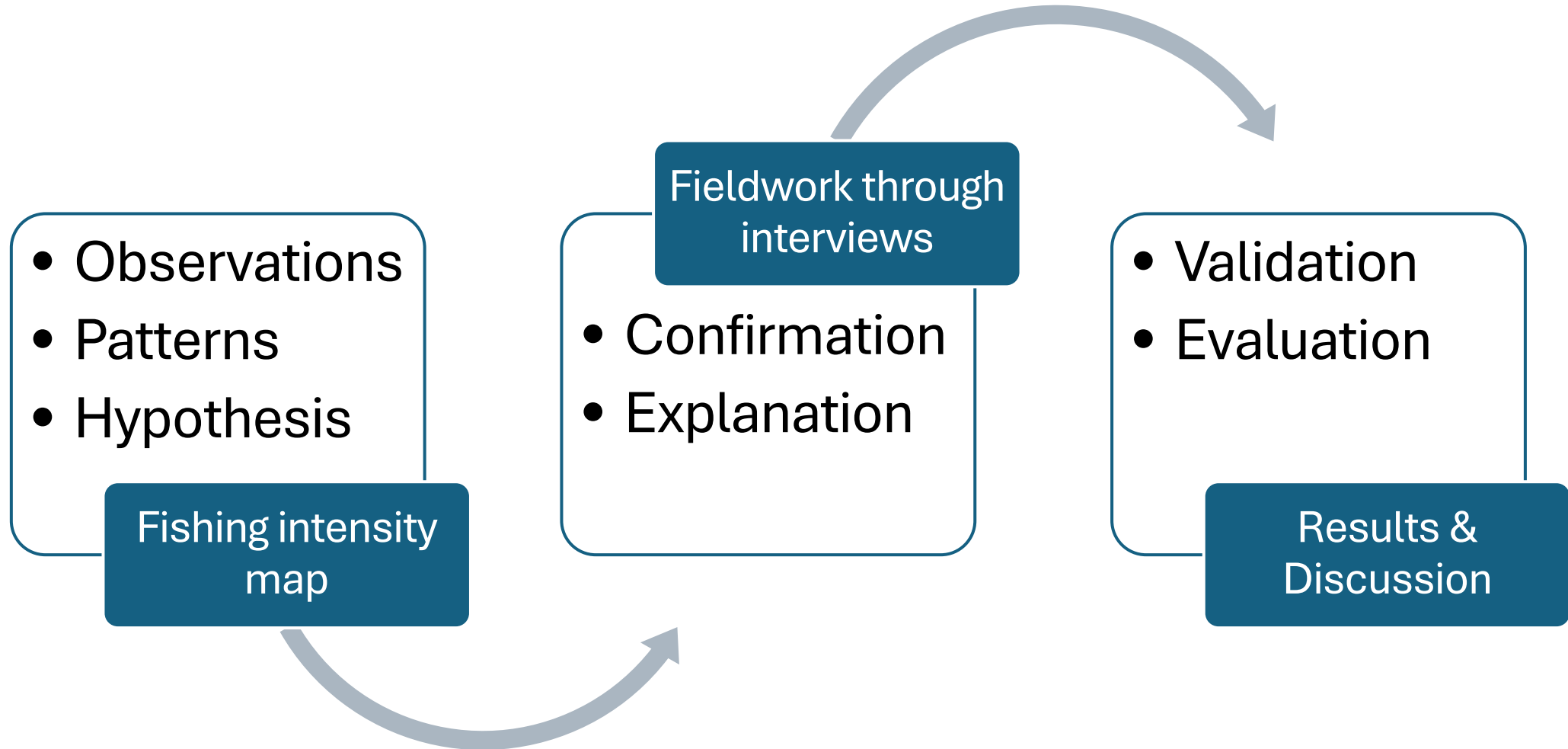
Sub-questions:

- What temporal and spatial changes have occurred in fishing activities?
- What factors lead to shifts in fishing activities?
- What are the prospects and challenges for the fishing industry?

Study area

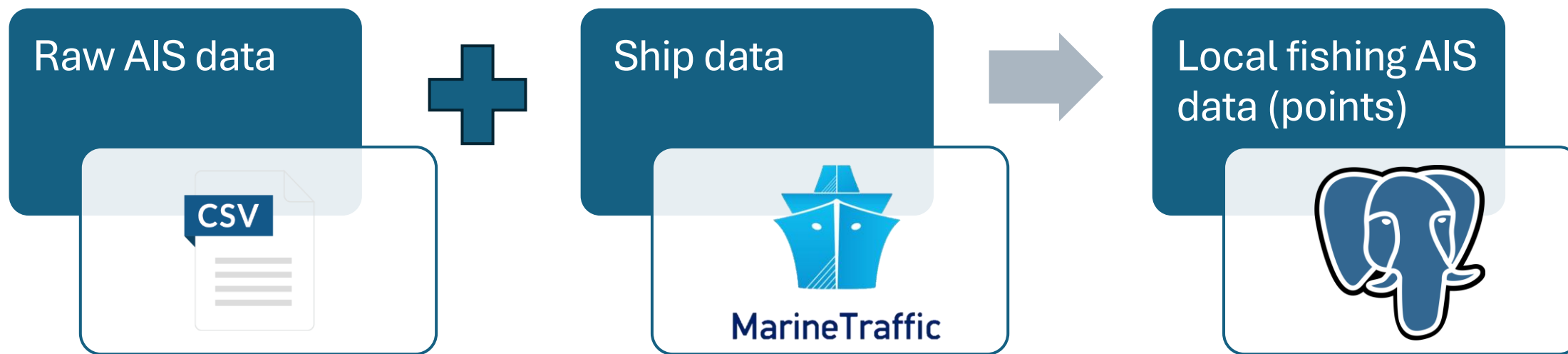


General work flow

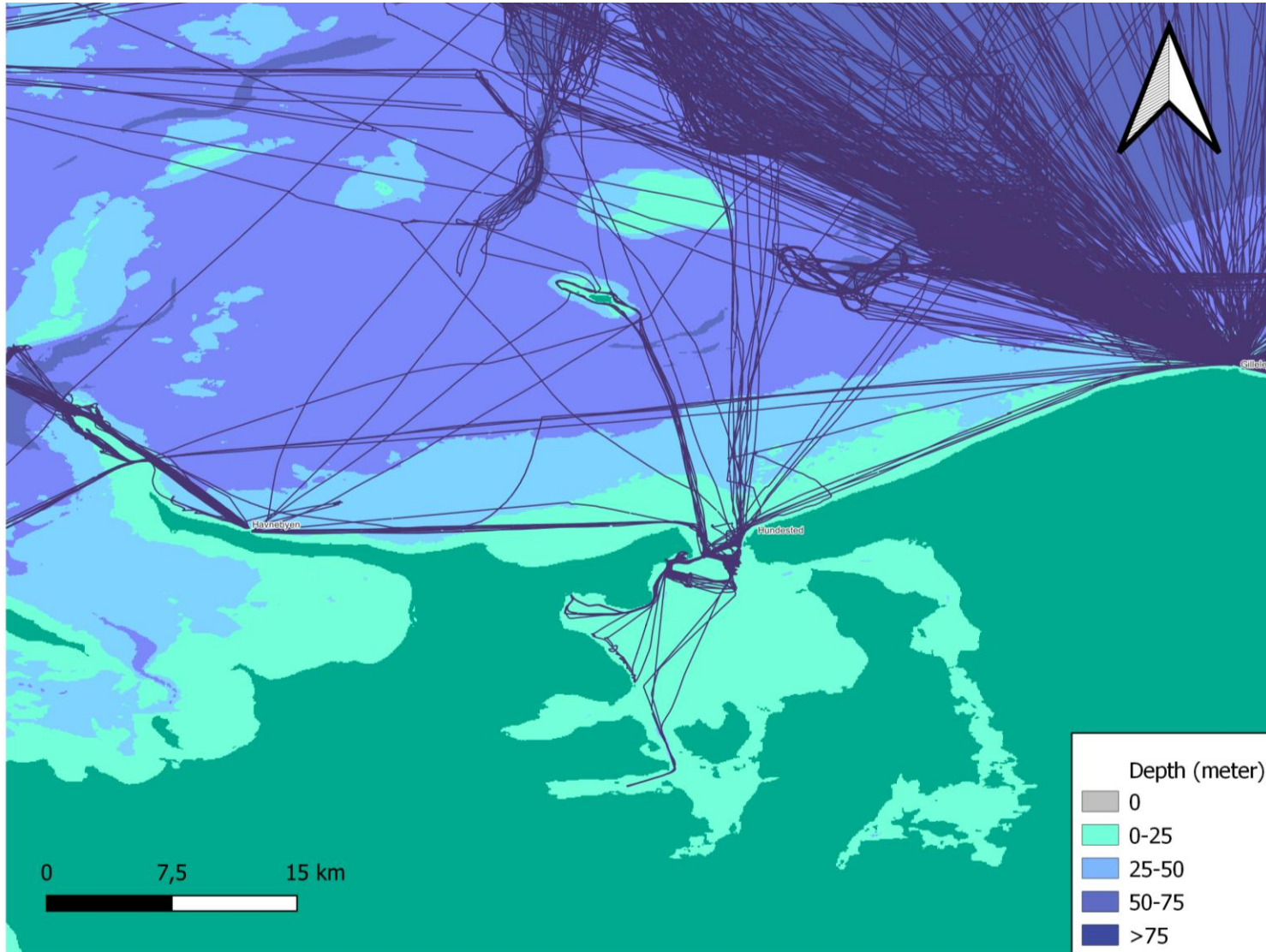


Fishing intensity map

Step 1: Data gathering and processing

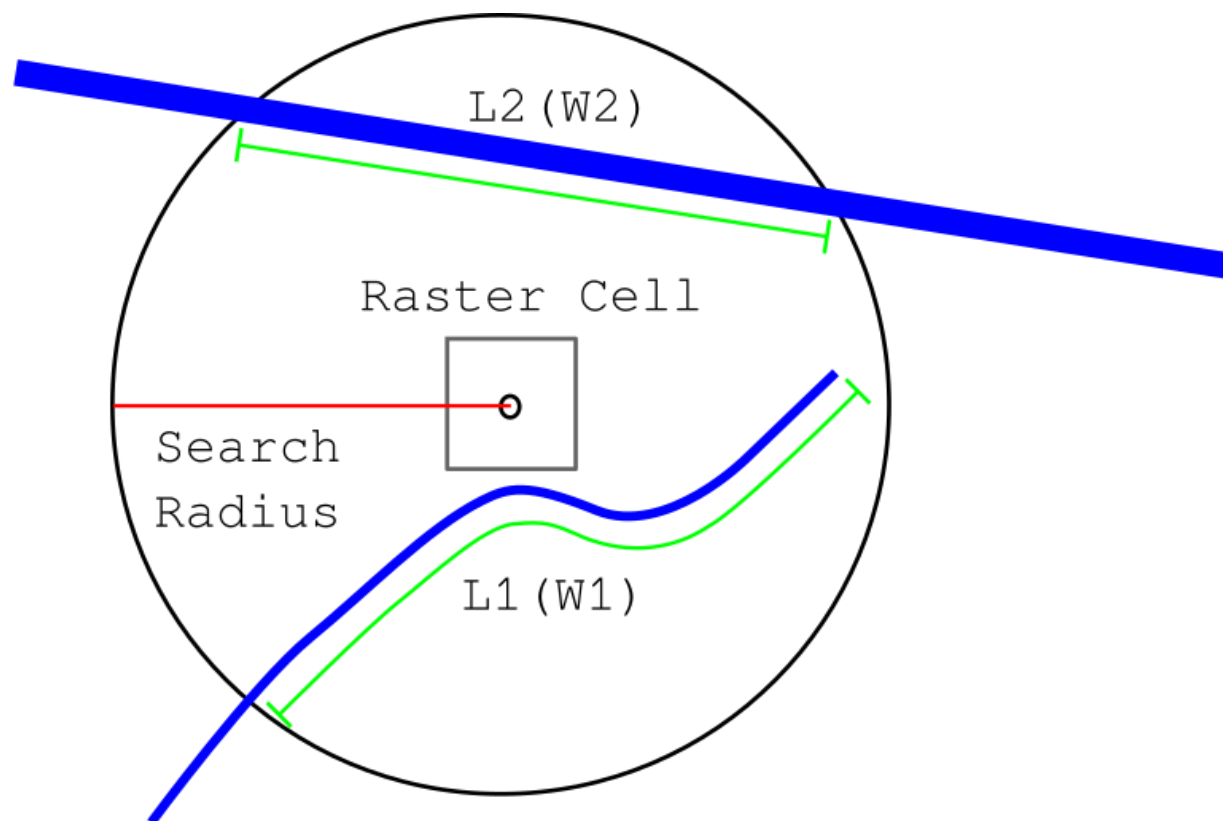


Step 2: Creating trajectories

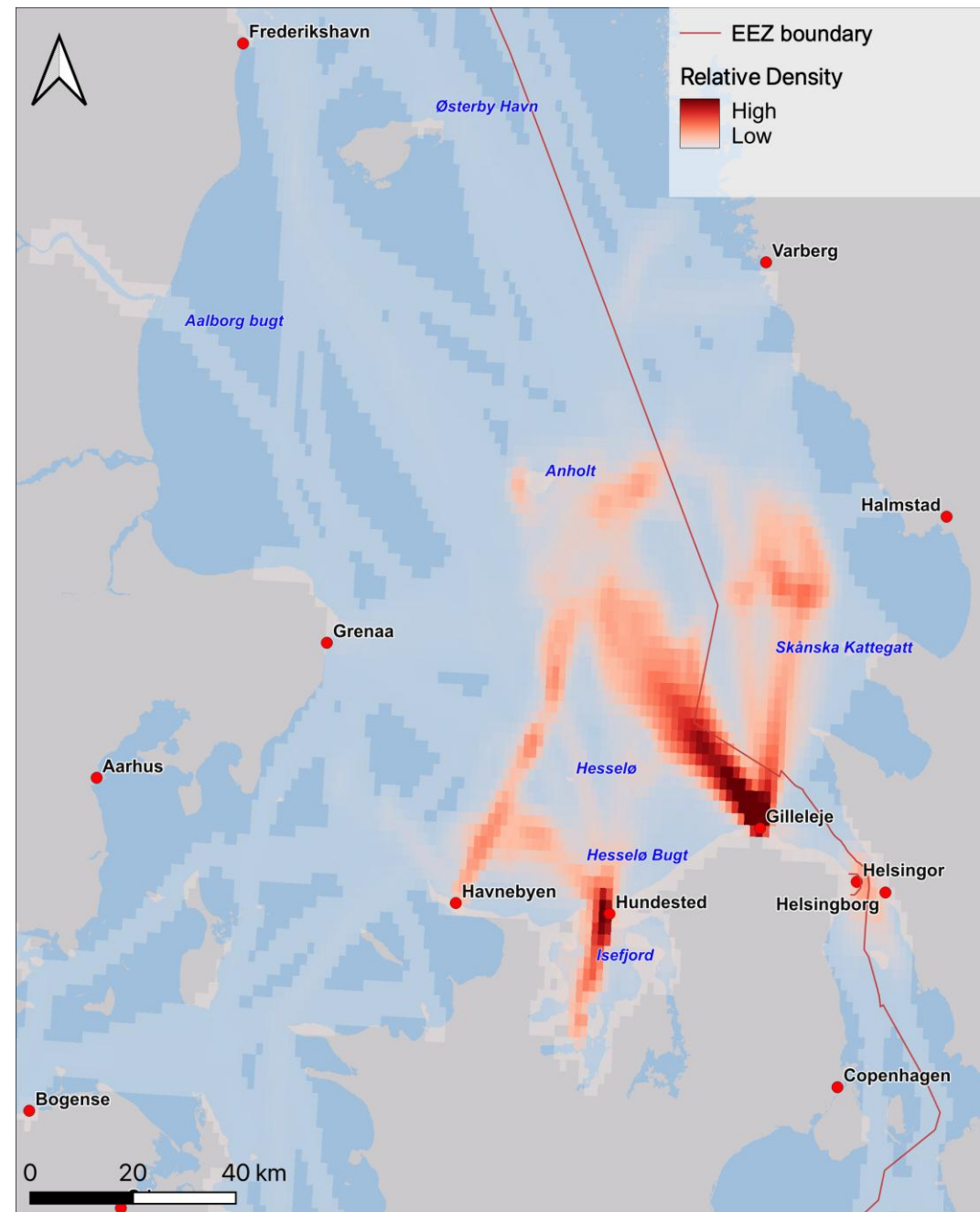


- A new line for each hour of fishing
- No distinction between travelling and fishing boats

Step 3: Creating a heatmap

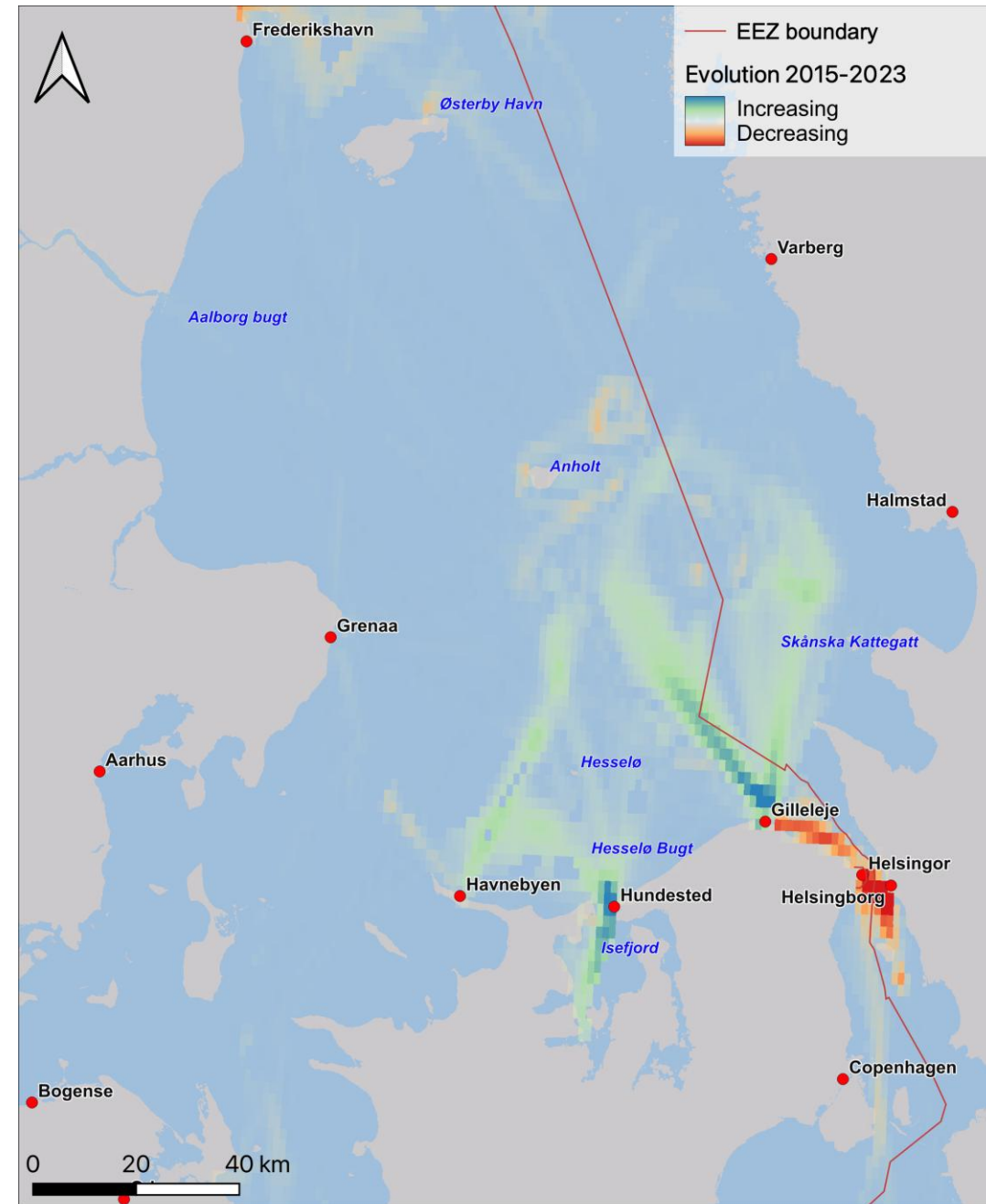


$$\text{LineDensity} = ((L1 * W1) + (L2 * W2)) / \text{circleArea}$$



Observed patterns

- Fishers are shifting away from traditional fishing areas towards mollusc and oyster fishing areas.
- Fish-oriented ports are in steep decline
- Due to climate change fish are moving to the north



Method during fieldwork

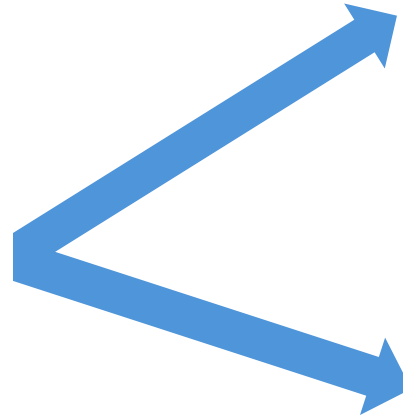
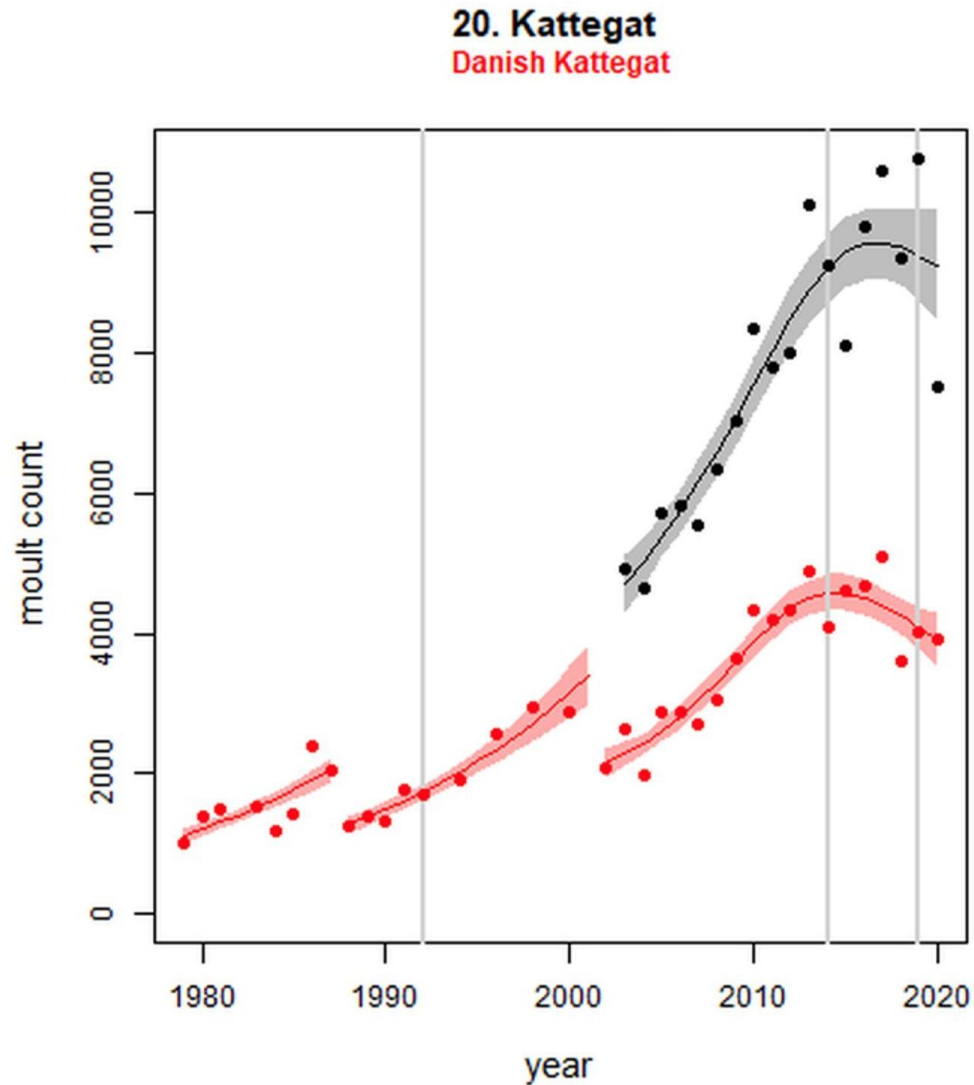
- **Observations of four harbours**
- **Informal interviews for better engagement**
 - 3 fishermen in **Odden Havn**
 - 4 fishermen + 1 fish shop worker in **Gilleleje**
 - 2 recreational fishers in **Odsherred**

Insights from the interviews

- Increasing amount of seals
- Liverparsites
- Crabs
- Cormorants
- Nitrogen Pollution
- Denmark's maritime spatial plan



Seals taking fish in the nets

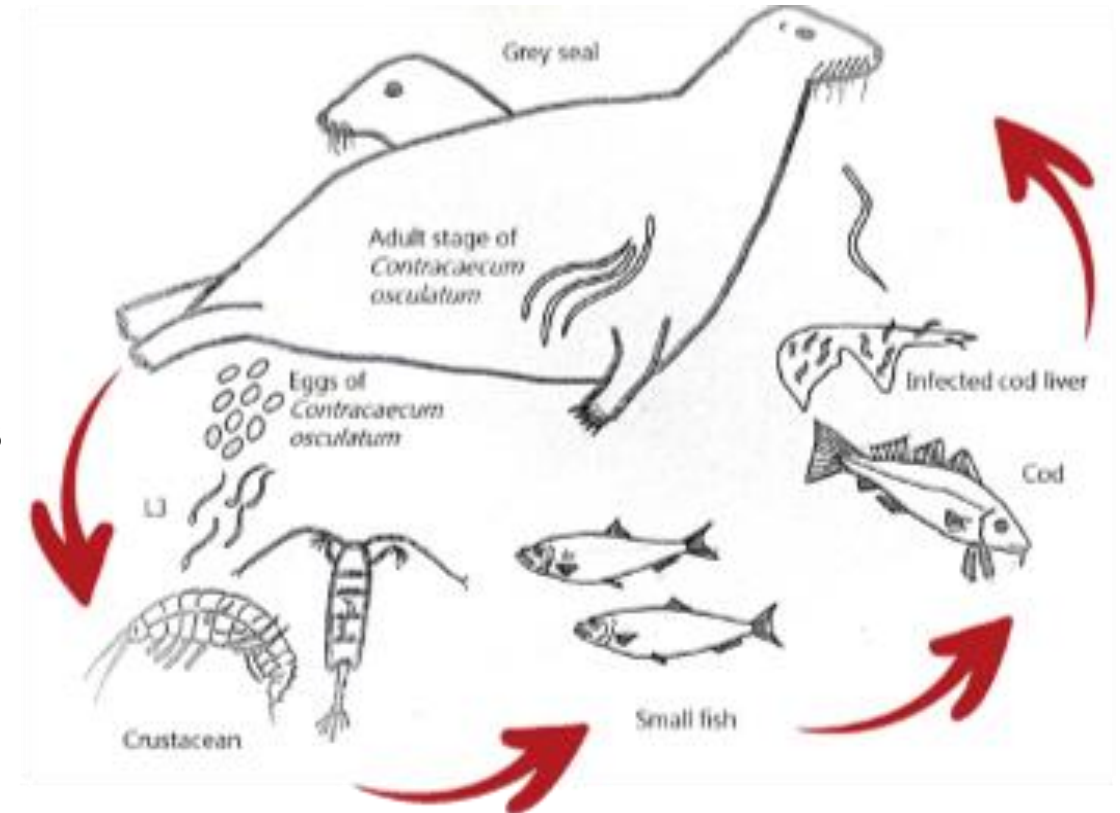


Infected fish with liver parasites

- Liverparasites
- Mainly cod
- Liver



- Regulating metabolic functions
- Energy reserve



Cormorants and crabs



Cormorants stealing the
fish out of the nets



Crabs destroying the fish +
eating the eggs

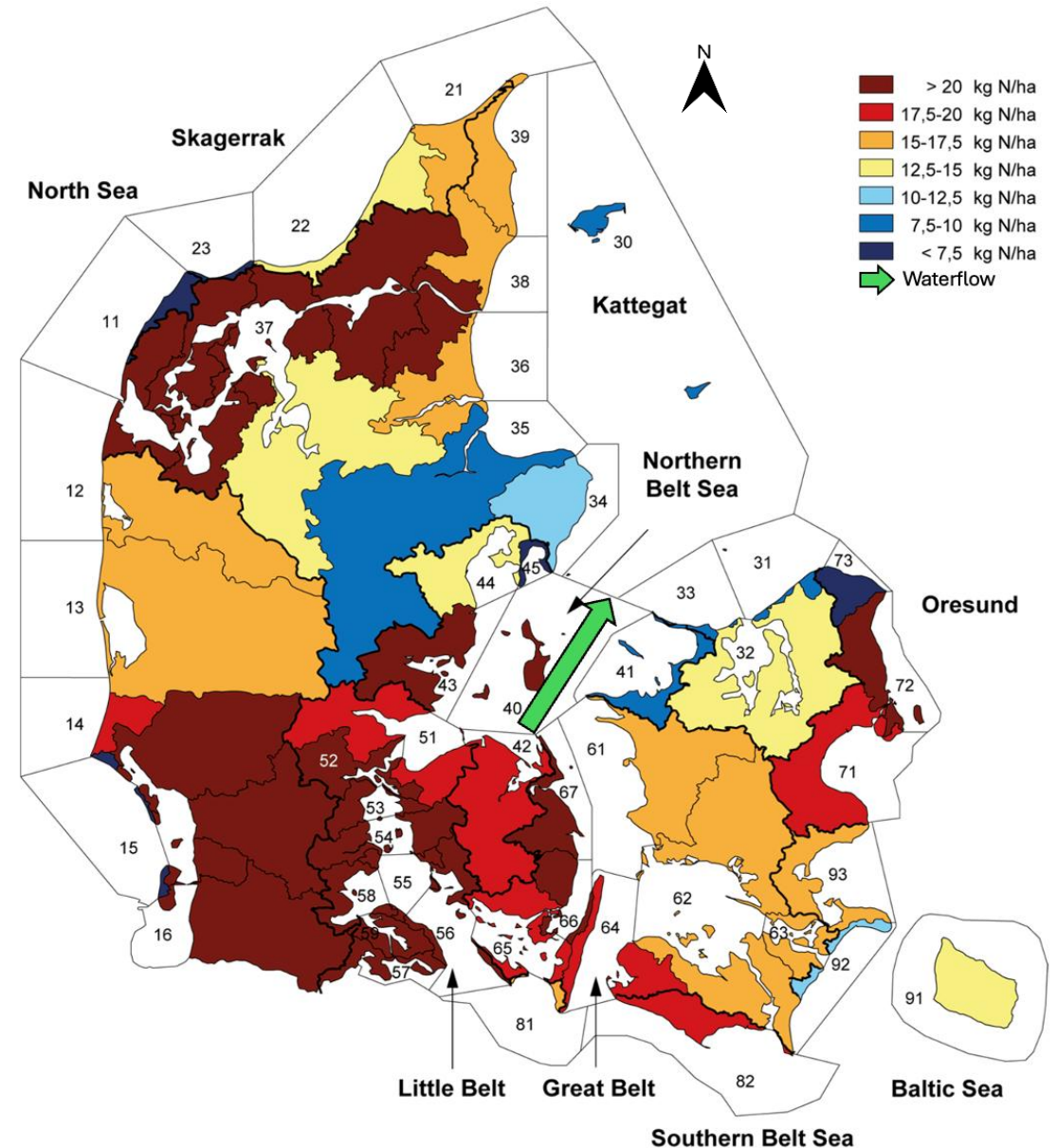
Nitrogen pollution

- Disruption of aquatic ecosystems
- Eutrofication
- Excessive algal growth
- Oxygen reduction
- Mainly caused by agriculture



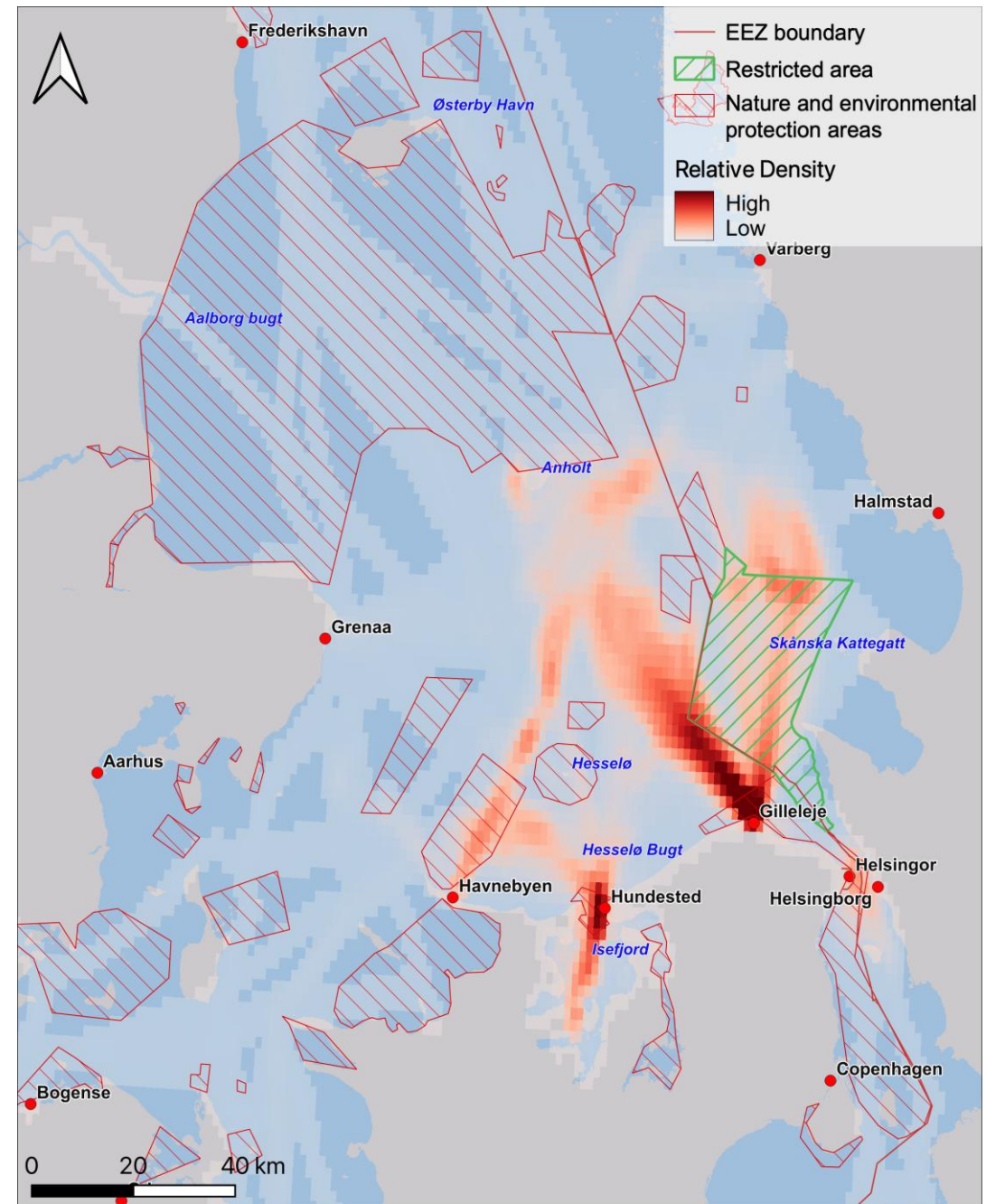
Dying fish

Total Nitrogen loads (kg ha⁻¹) from Danish catchments to coastal waters in 2015.



Maritime spatial plan

- Little complaints
- No industrial fishing in Kattegat
- "A Swedish-German alliance"
- Complaints about the cod fishing ban at Øresund and Østersøen



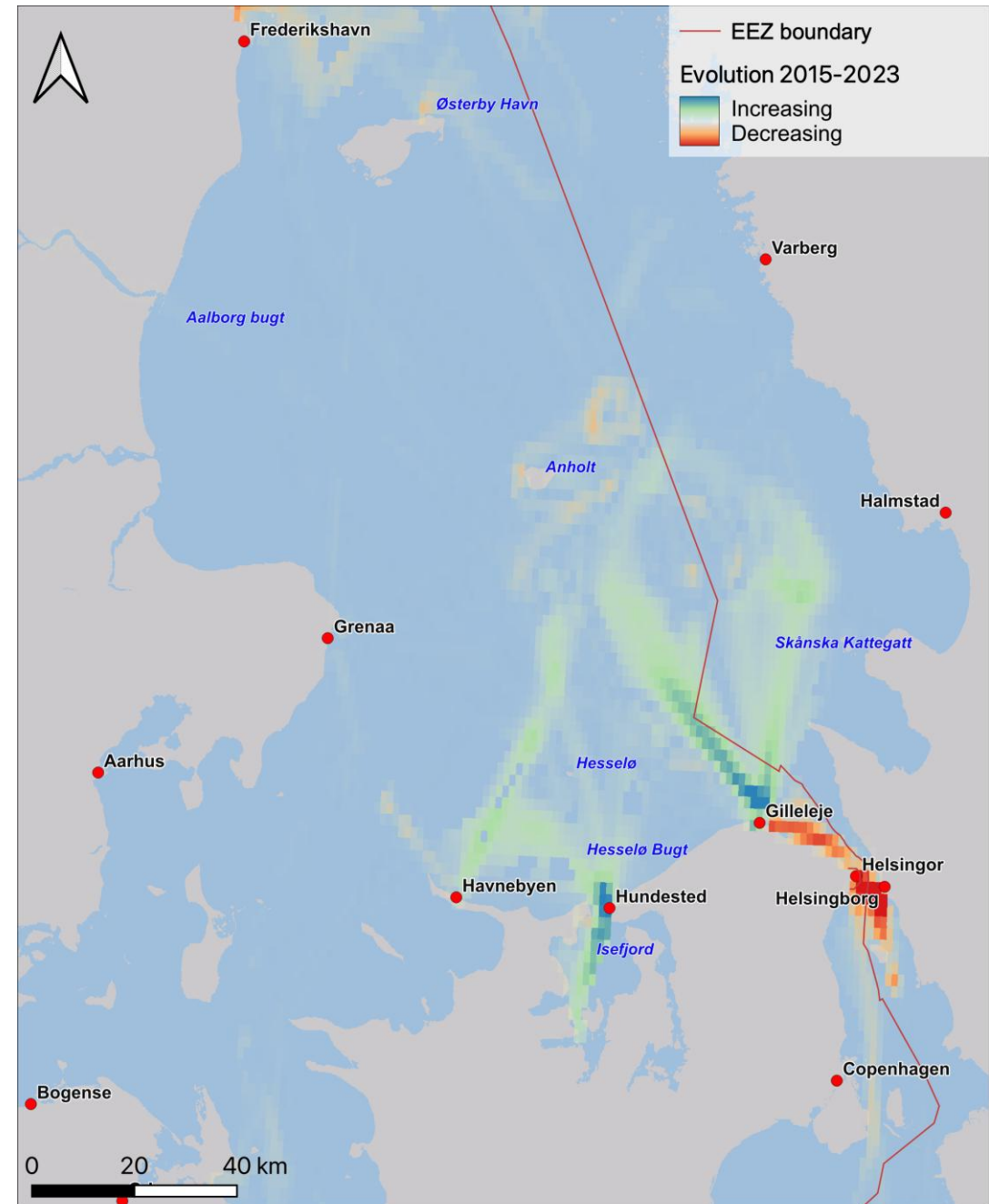
How is fishing evolving?

What factors lead to shifts in fishing activities?

- predators
- ocean warming

What are the prospects and challenges for the fishing industry?

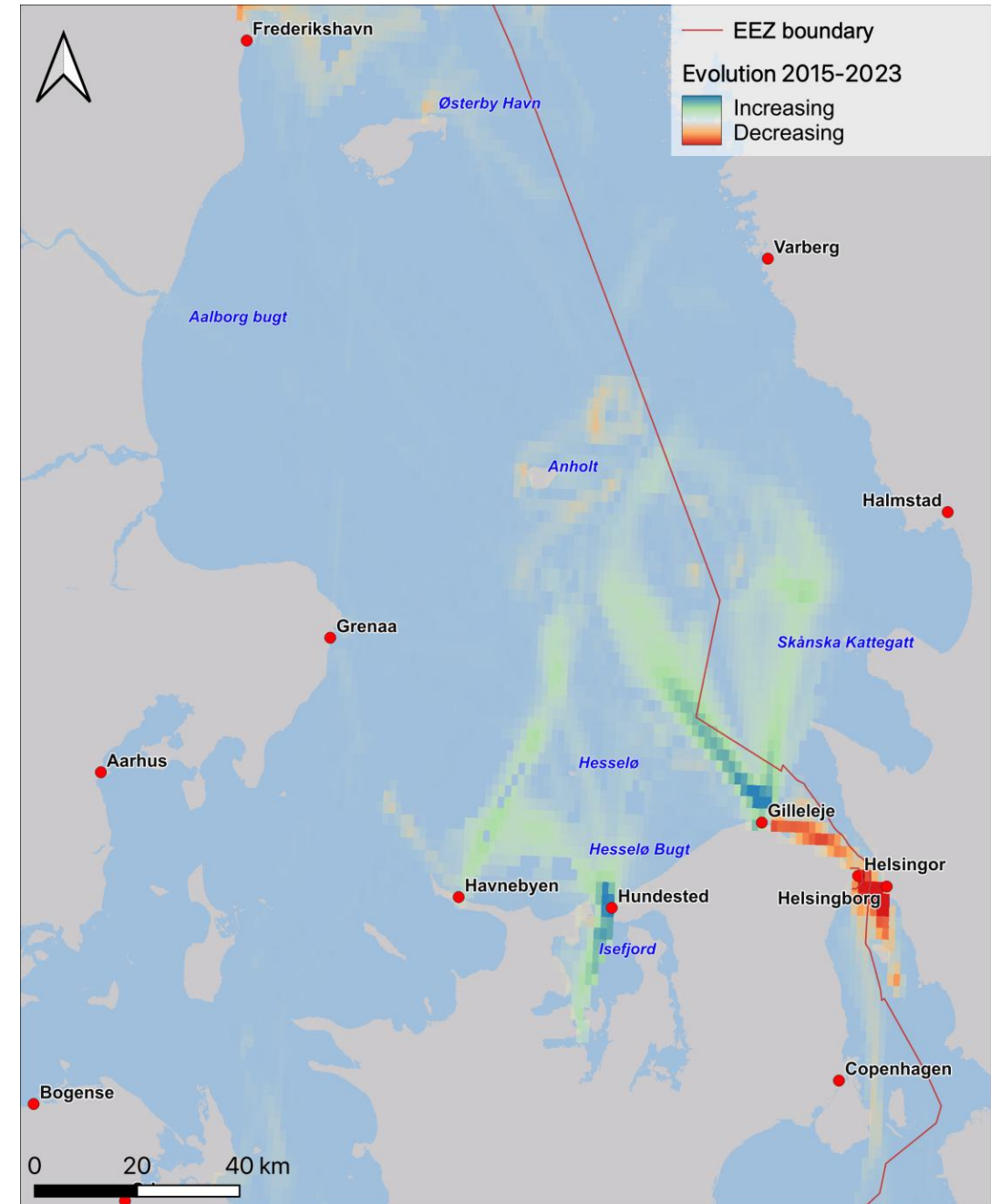
- new mollusc fishing industry
- increases in lobster population
- further decrease in fish populations



How is fishing evolving?

What temporal and spatial changes have occurred in fishing activities?

- Cod fishing is +/- over
- Flatfish hunting is not profitable



Methodological strengths and weaknesses

Weaknesses

- No inclusive interviews fishers
- History of maritime plan
- No differentiation in trajectories

Strenghts

- Broad perspective
- Field-research
- comprehensive maps

