

Fish monitoring in Belgian estuaries and the development of the estuarine fish index



Jan Breine, Joachim Maes, Ilse Simoens



TMAP Ad hoc working group fish, Hamburg, 29-30 March 2006

Contents

1. Fish monitoring in Belgian estuaries

2. Development of the estuarine fish index

Instituut voor natuur- en bosonderzoek
Wetenschappelijke instelling van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap



Het Instituut voor Natuur- en Bosonderzoek (INBO) is ontstaan door de fusie van het Instituut voor Bosbouw en Wildbeheer (IBW) en het Instituut voor Natuurbehoud (IN) en gaat officieel van start op 1 april 2006.



Kliniekstraat 25
1070 Brussel
België
T: +32 2 558 18 11
F: +32 2 558 18 05
www.inbo.be
info@inbo.be

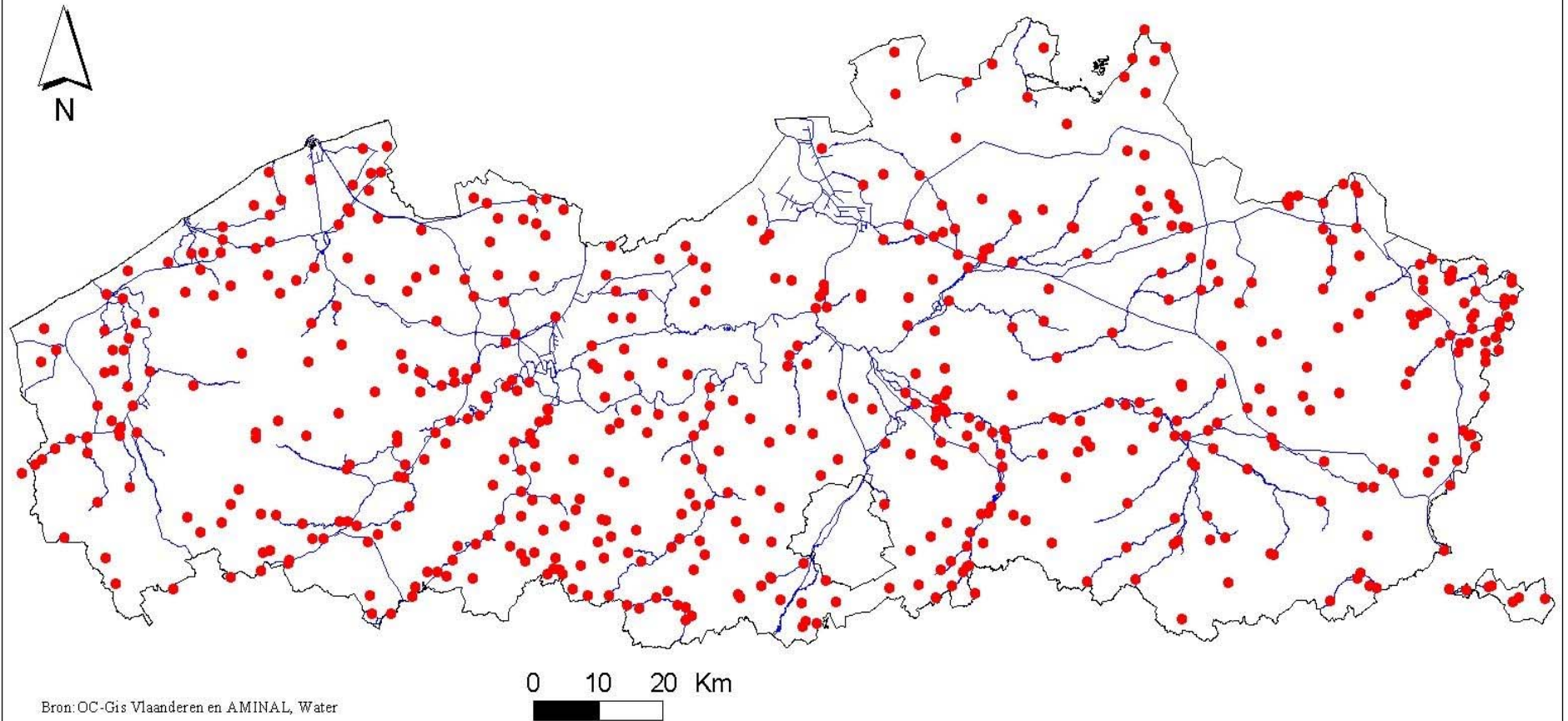


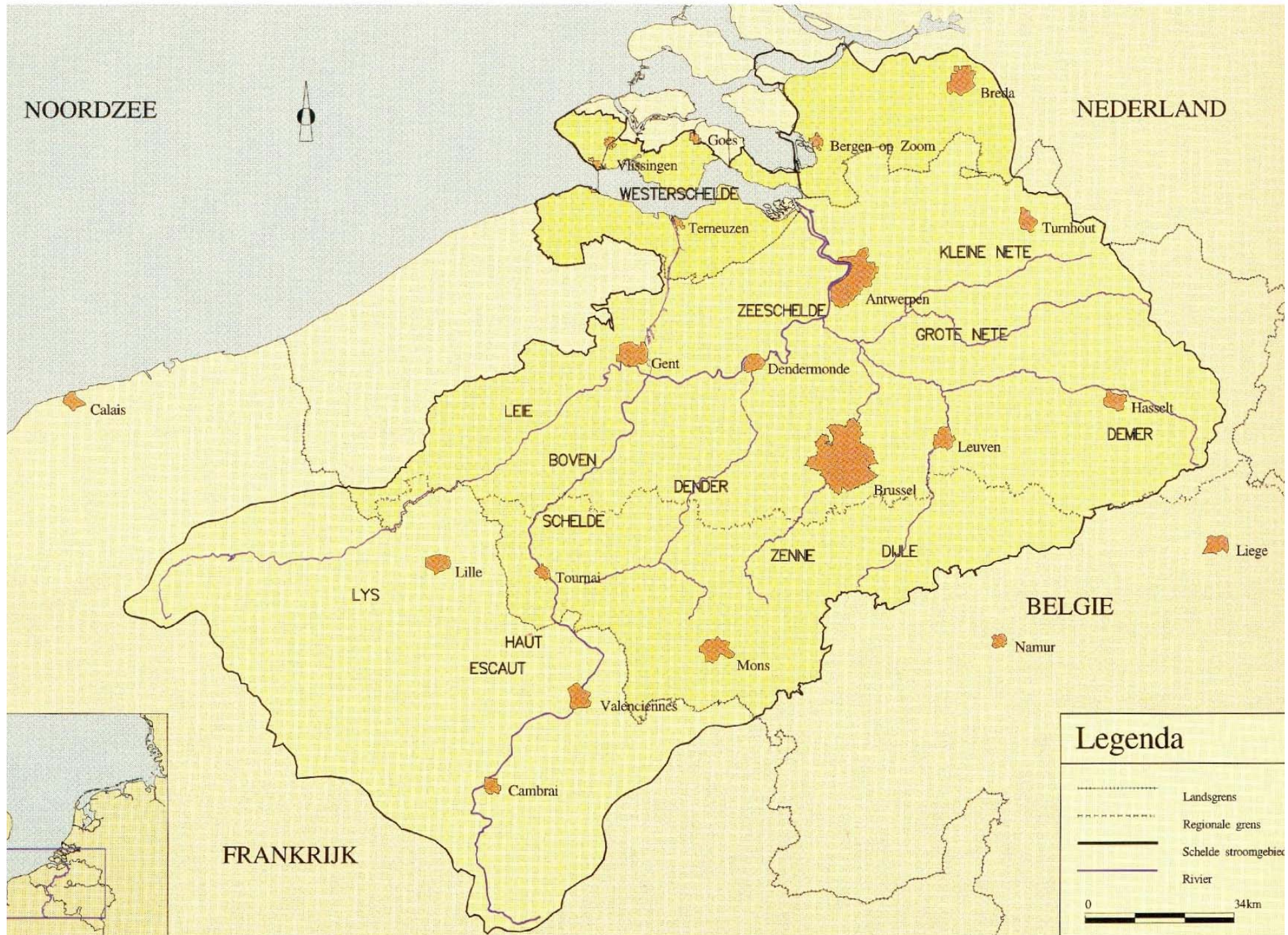
Flanders: Monitoring network

Fresh water fish

- Since 1996 operationel
- Study the fishpopulation of 800 locations in Flanders every 4 years
 - Species, abundances and individual lengths and weights
 - Technieken: elektrovisserij, fuikvisserij, sleepnetvisserij en kieuwnetten.

Flanders: Monitoring network 'Fresh water fish' (1996)



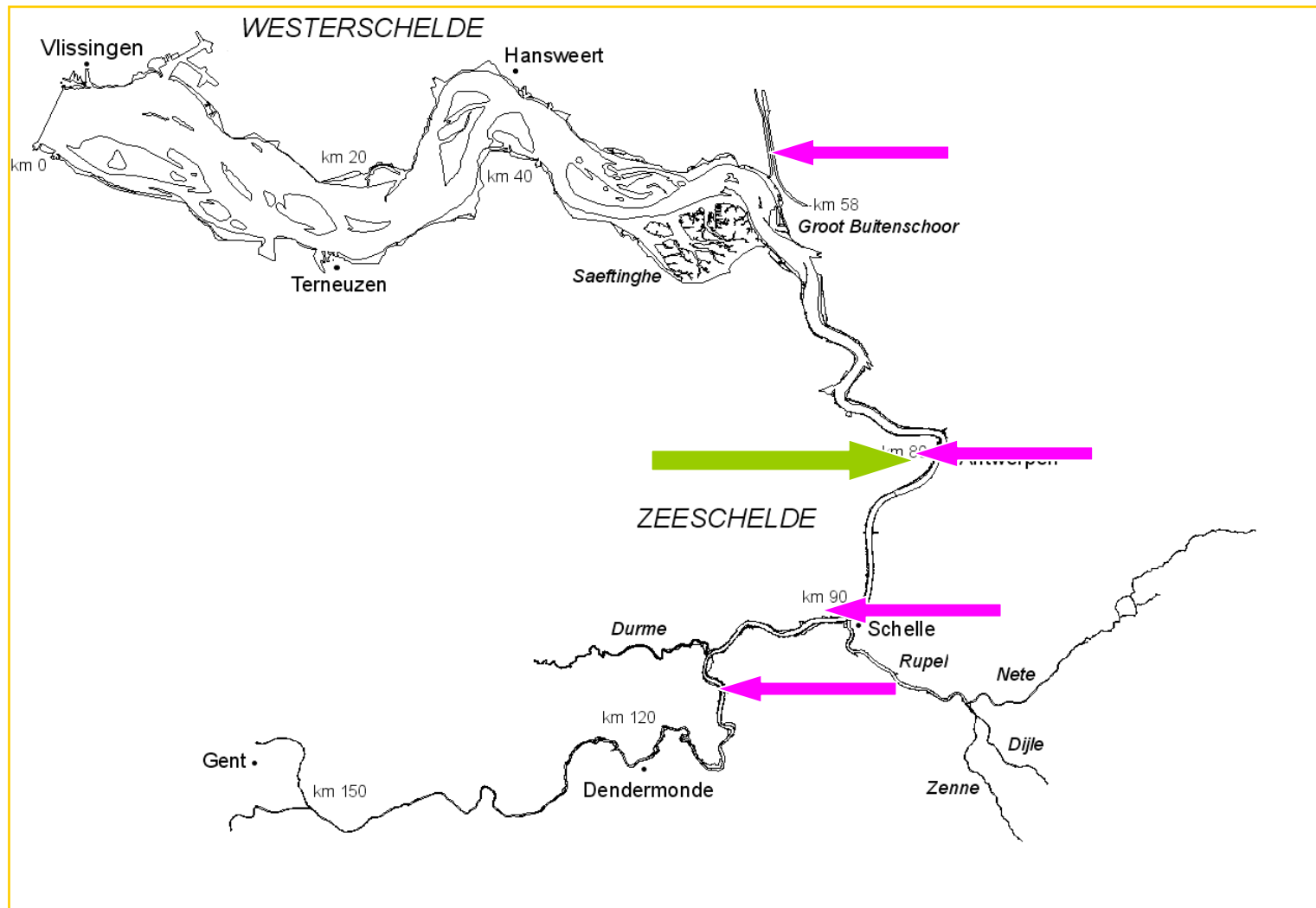


Monitoring

- Yearly since 2002
- 4 locations spring and autumn (KUL)
- 1 location permanent monitoring

4 locations spring and autumn (KUL)

1 location permanent monitoring



Double fyke nets (type 120/80):
two nets placed at low tide and emptied the next day



foto: Maarten Stevens



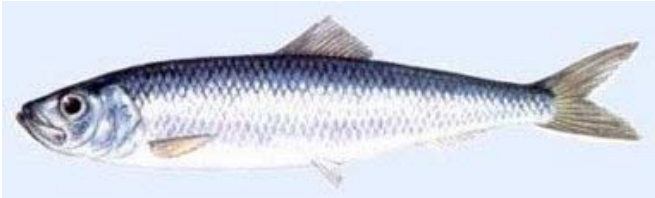
foto: Maarten Stevens

Results

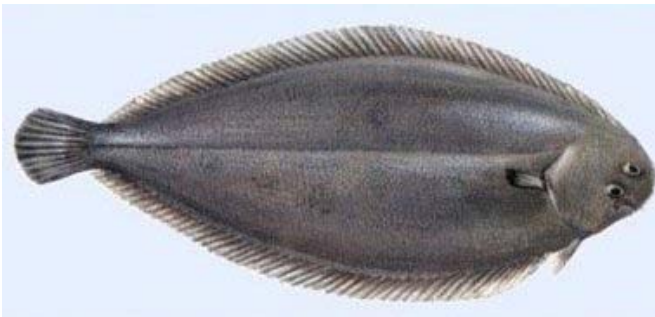
Fish in Sea scheldt marked by

- Gradiënt in biodiversiteit
 - Saltwater species till Antwerp
 - Freshwater species till the middle of the Westerscheldt
 - Transitional zone characterized by diadromous species

Common species in the Seascheldt



Atlantic herring : 27%



Common sole : 24%



Flounder: 14%



Roach: 8%

foto's : www.fishbase.org

Common species in the Seascheldt



European seabass : 3,5%



Brakwatergrondel: 2,5%



Sand goby : 2,5%

Common species in the Seascheldt



Thinlip mullet



Twaite shad



Ruff

Common species in the Seascheldt



Bream



Three-spined stickleback



European smelt

The water framework directive

Monitoring program

Aim

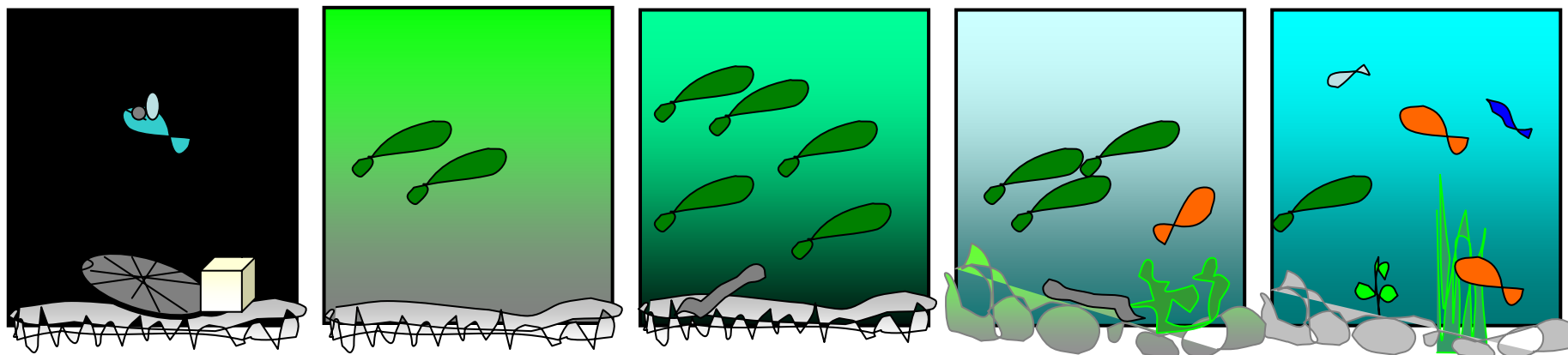
A comprehensive overview of the water status

Different quality elements

Fish: composition and abundance

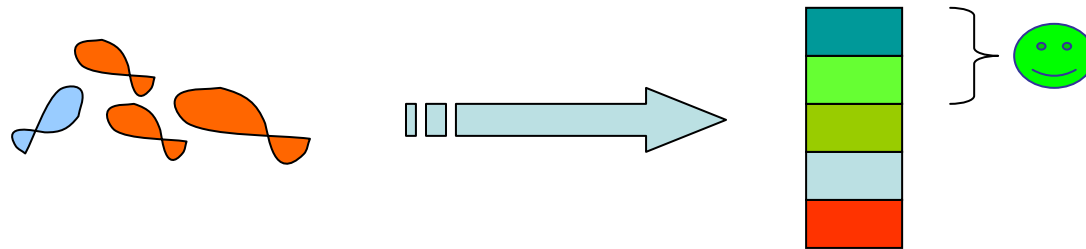
The water framework directive

BAD / **GOOD**

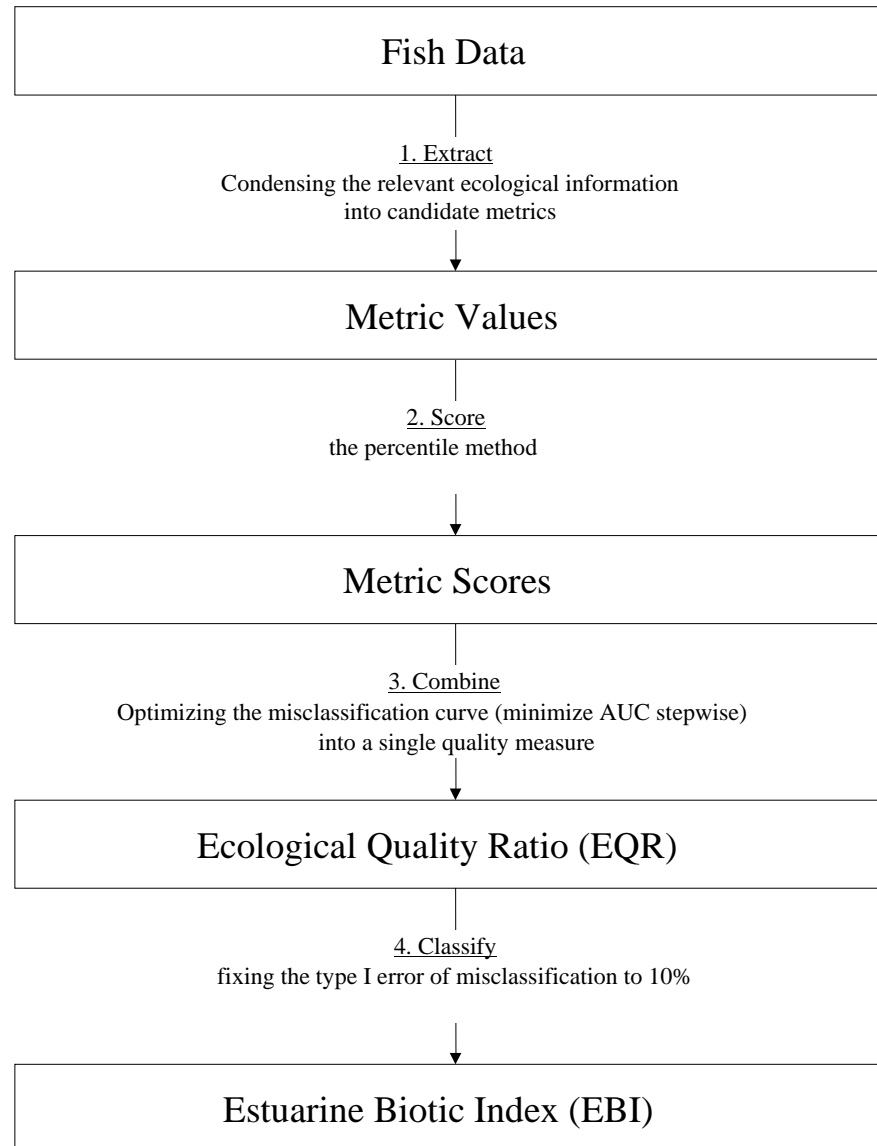


IBI development

GOAL: develop a decision system that classifies fish community samples in five quality classes



IBI development for the brackish scheldt estuary



Data

Calibration data: 5 locations, 130 fishing occasions

Fish data (fyke days)

Abiotic data

3 impact classes identified (human impacts)

Candidate metrics

Ecological knowledge

Data availability

expressing number of species

expressing percentage of individuals

specifying a value of diversity

additional information

Candidate metrics

Abbreviations	Candidate metrics	Response
MnsBra	Total number of species without freshwater species	↓
MpiFlo	% of Flounder individuals	↓
MpiSme	% of Smelt individuals	↓
MpiOmn	% of omnivorous individuals	↑
MvaTol	Total tolerance value	↓
MpiPis	% piscivorous individuals	↓
MpiErs	% of estuarine resident individuals	↓
MpiDia	% of diadromous individuals	↓
MpiMjm	% of marine juvenile migrating individuals	↓
MnsErs	Total number of estuarine resident species	↓
MvdSha	Shannon diversity H' (Gelwick <i>et al.</i> , 2001)	↓
MvdSim	Simpson dominance index (Peterson <i>et al.</i> , 2000 ($1/D$; $D = \sum p_i^2$))	↓
MnsBen	Number of benthic associated species	↓
MvdDiv	Simpson unbiased diversity index $D = 1 - \lambda$ (Castillo-Rivera <i>et al.</i> , 2002)	↓
MpiExo	% of invasive species	↑
MnsDia	Number of diadromous species	↓

Defining thresholds

Distribution of metric values in impact classes

Boxplots percentile method: quintiles

Using metric values in reference = moderate status

Estimate the quintiles

Score from 0 to 1

Selection of metrics

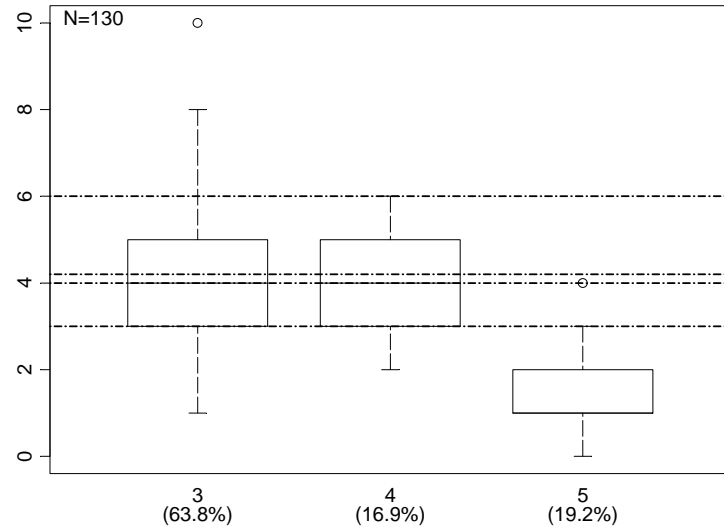
First selection

Discrimination should be a function of disturbance

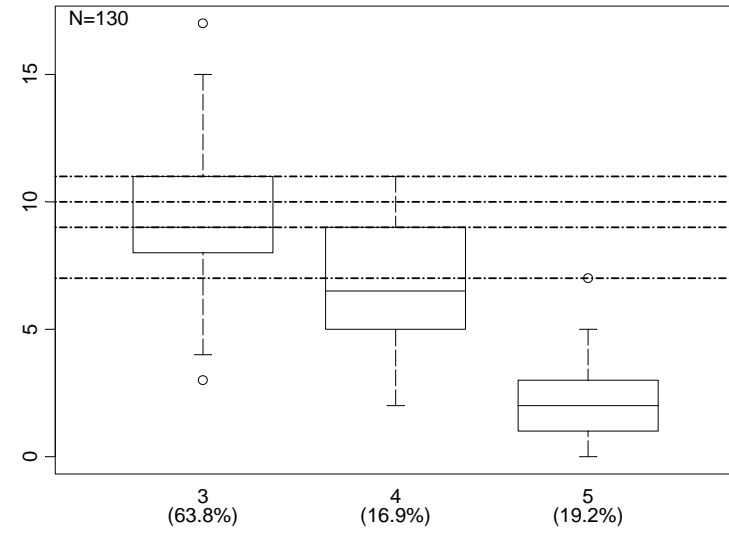
Clear separation is needed

Monotone relationship with quality

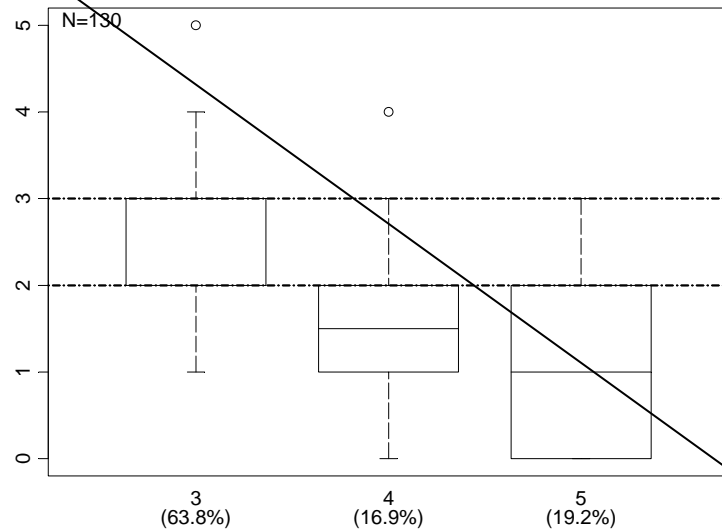
MnsBen - Number of benthic species



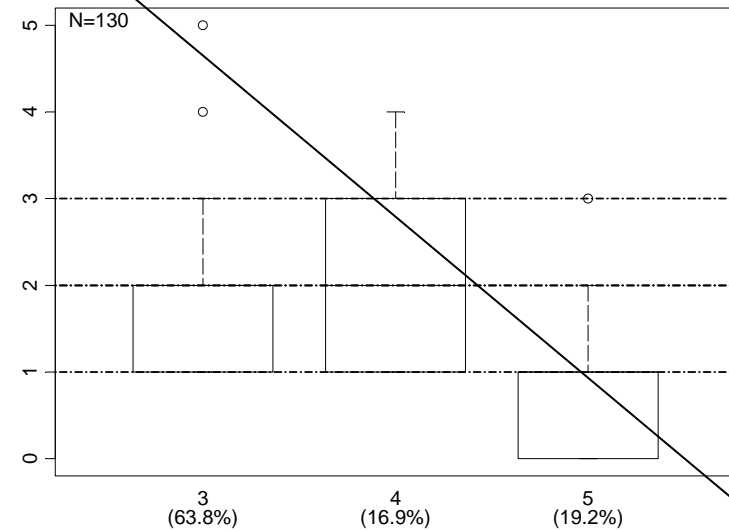
MnsBra - Total number of species freshwater species excluded



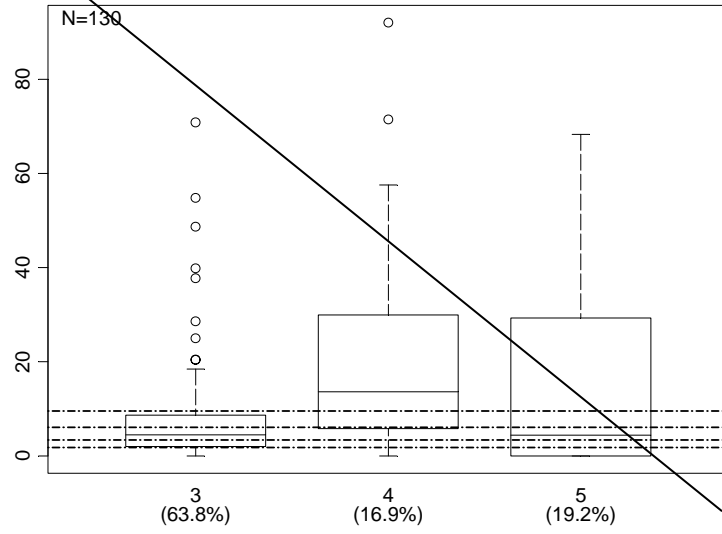
MnsDia - Number of diadromous species



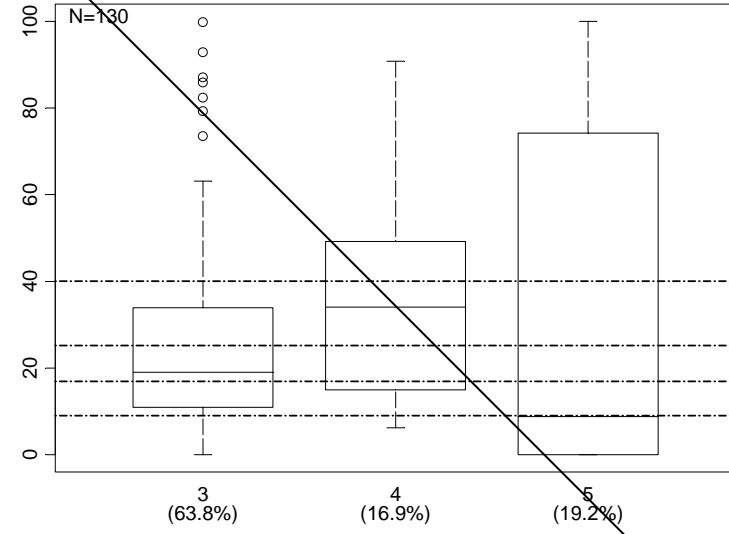
MnsErs - Number of estuarine resident species



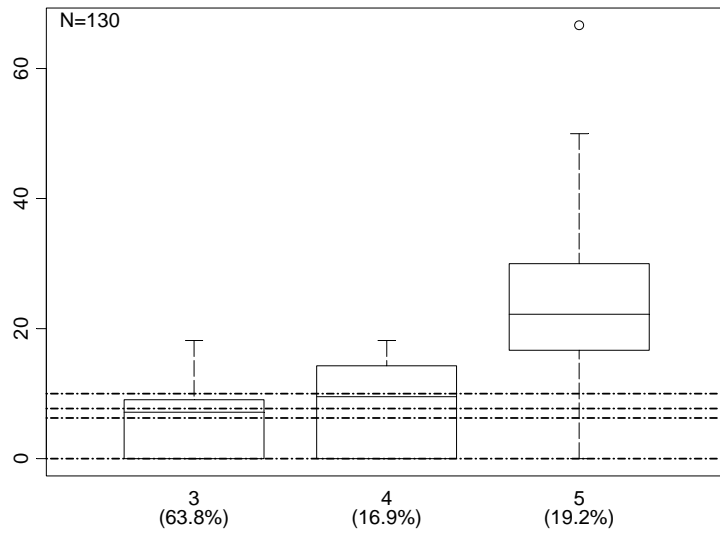
MpiDia - Percentage of diadromous individuals



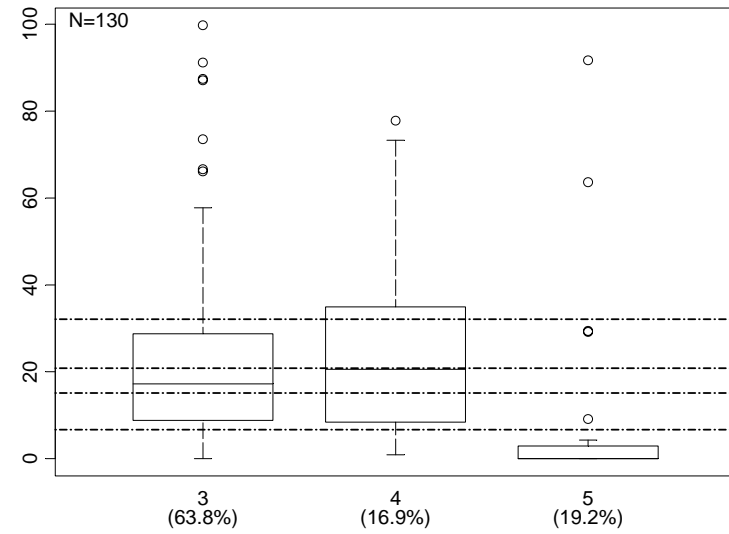
MpiErs - Percentage of estuarine resident individuals



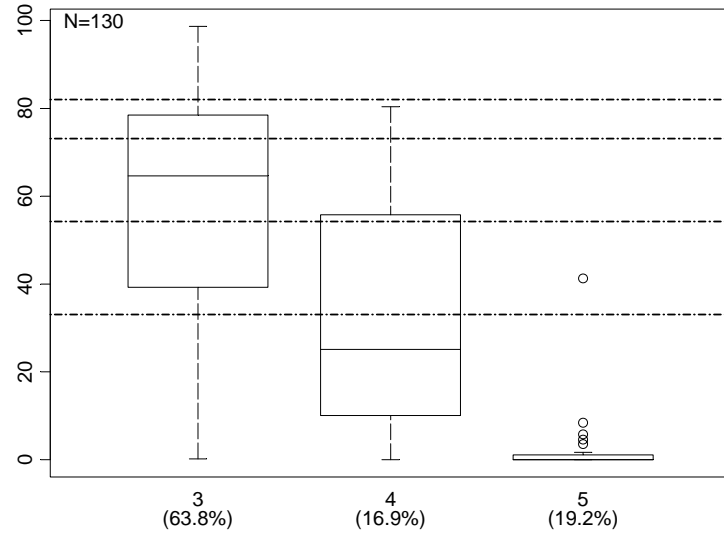
MpiExo - Percentage of invasive individuals



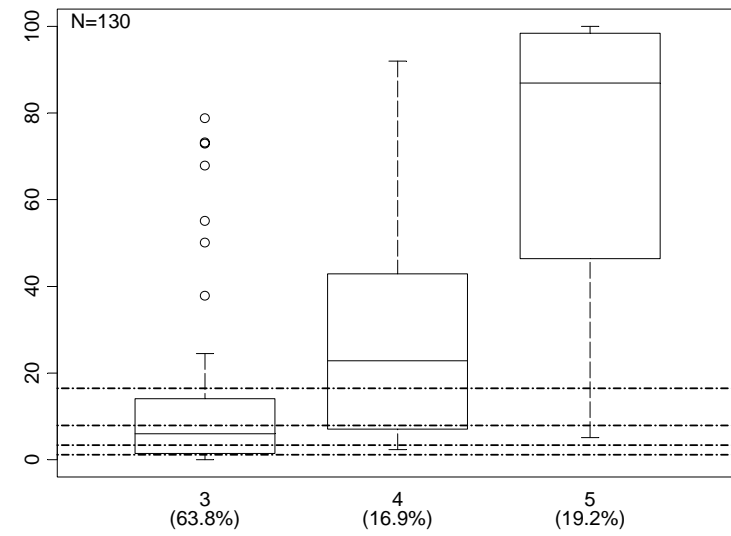
MpiFlo - Percentage of flounder individuals



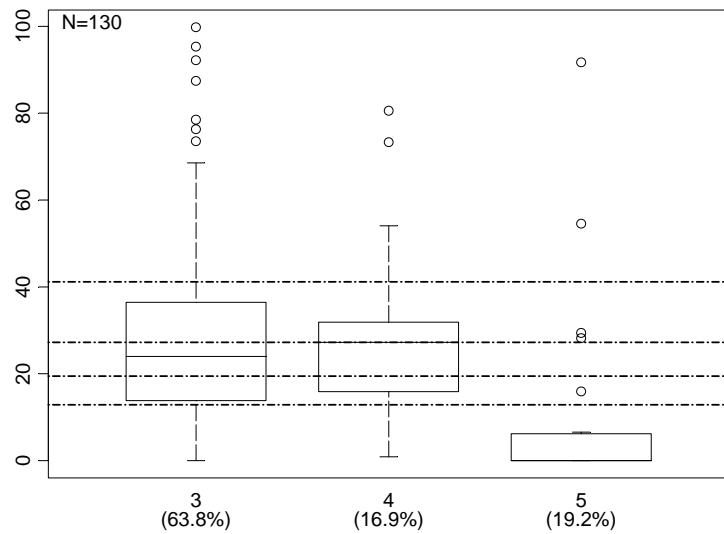
MpiMjm - Percentage of marine juvenile migrating individuals



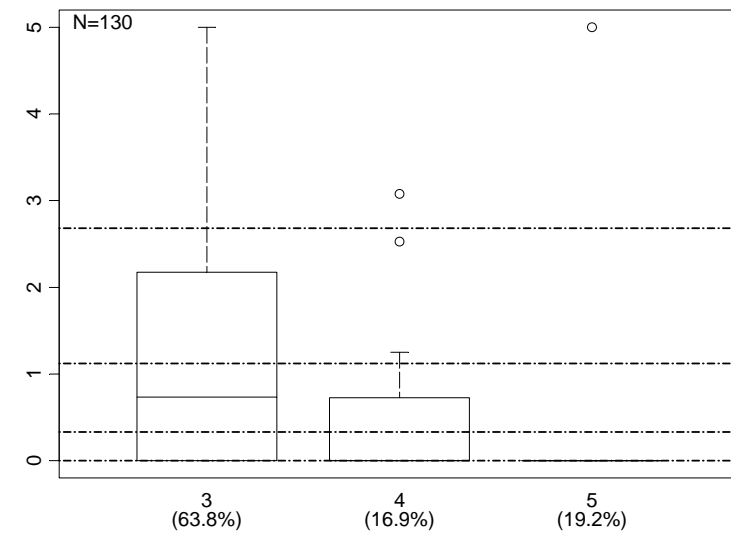
MpiOmn - Percentage of omnivorous individuals



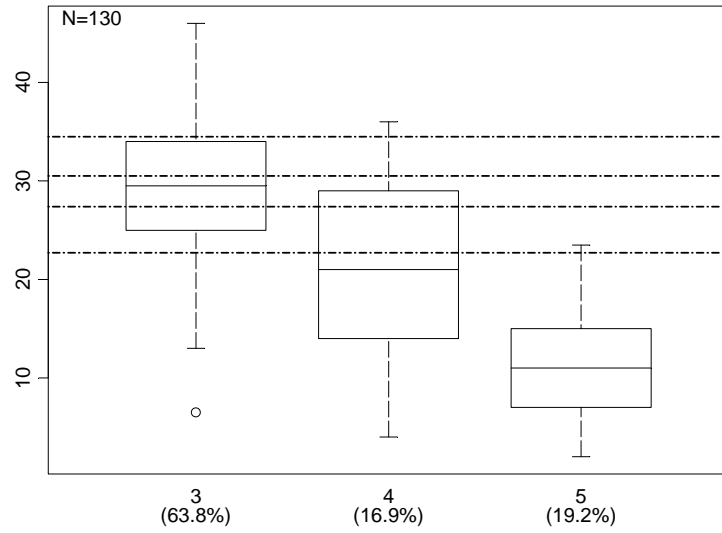
MpiPis - Percentage of piscivorous individuals



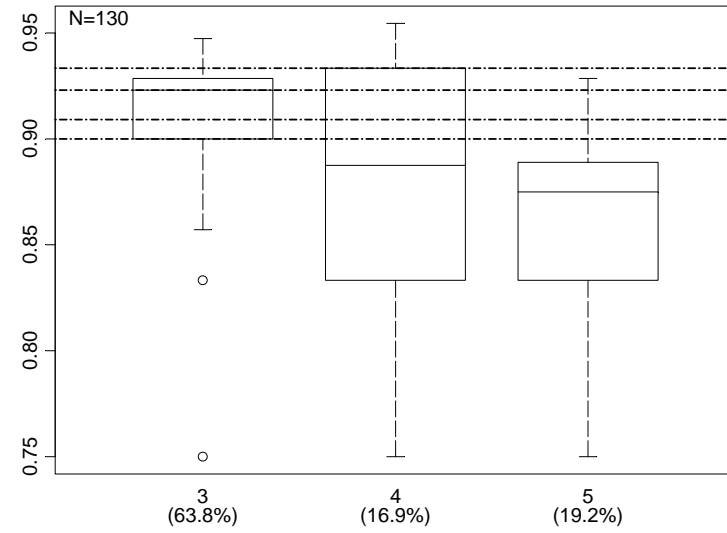
MpiSme - Percentage of smelt individuals



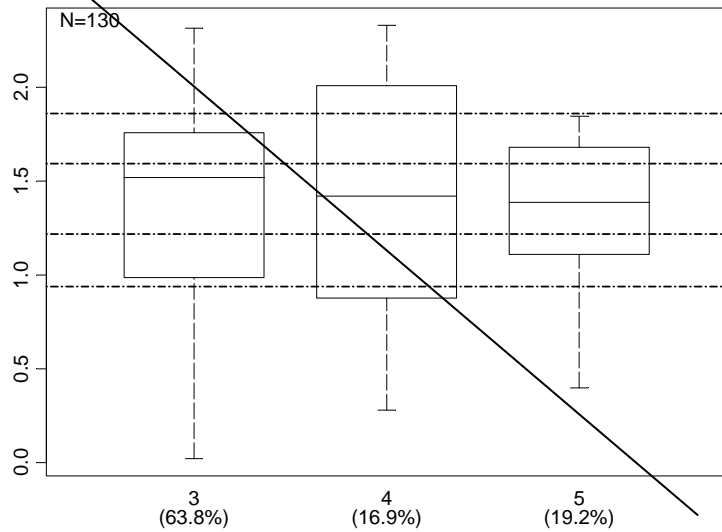
MvaTol - Total intolerance value



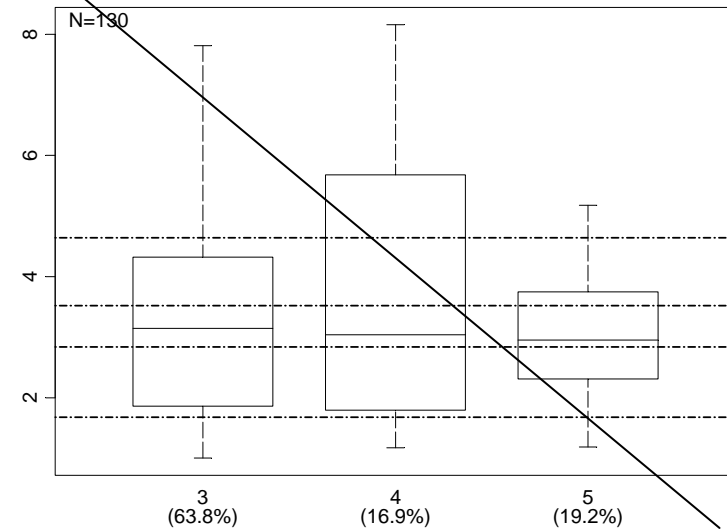
MvdDiv - Simpson diversity index D



MvdSha - Shannon diversity index H'



MvdSim - Simpson dominance index



Selection of metrics

Second selection: Combine metric scores

The Error curve (AUC)

Two types of misclassification:

Type I error underscoring

Type II error overscoring

Type I and Type II error

M: moderate P: poor B: bad	Biotic Index M	Biotic Index P	Biotic Index B
Independent classification: M		(small) type I error	(large) type I error
Independent classification: P	(small) type II error		(small) type I error
Independent classification: B	(large) type II error	(small) type II error	

The error curve

The balance between type I and type II error

Both errors should be small

There is a one-to-one relation between both errors

For a given configuration decreasing one error is at the expense of the other (general statistical theory) → **the error curve**

The error curve

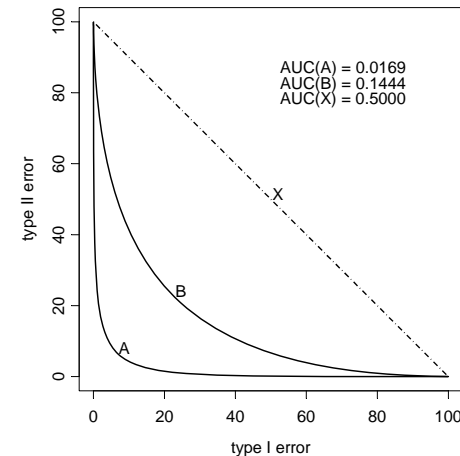
The area under the error curve (AUC)

A summary is the area under the (error) curve

- Full square: $AUC = 1$
- Half the square: $AUC = 0.5$ (no discrimination; type I = type II)
- $AUC(A) = 0.017 < AUC(B) = 0.1444$
- A measure for the level of misclassification

Curve for metric A is systematically below B

- for each choice of the type I error, the type II error is smaller
- A is **uniformly more powerful** than B



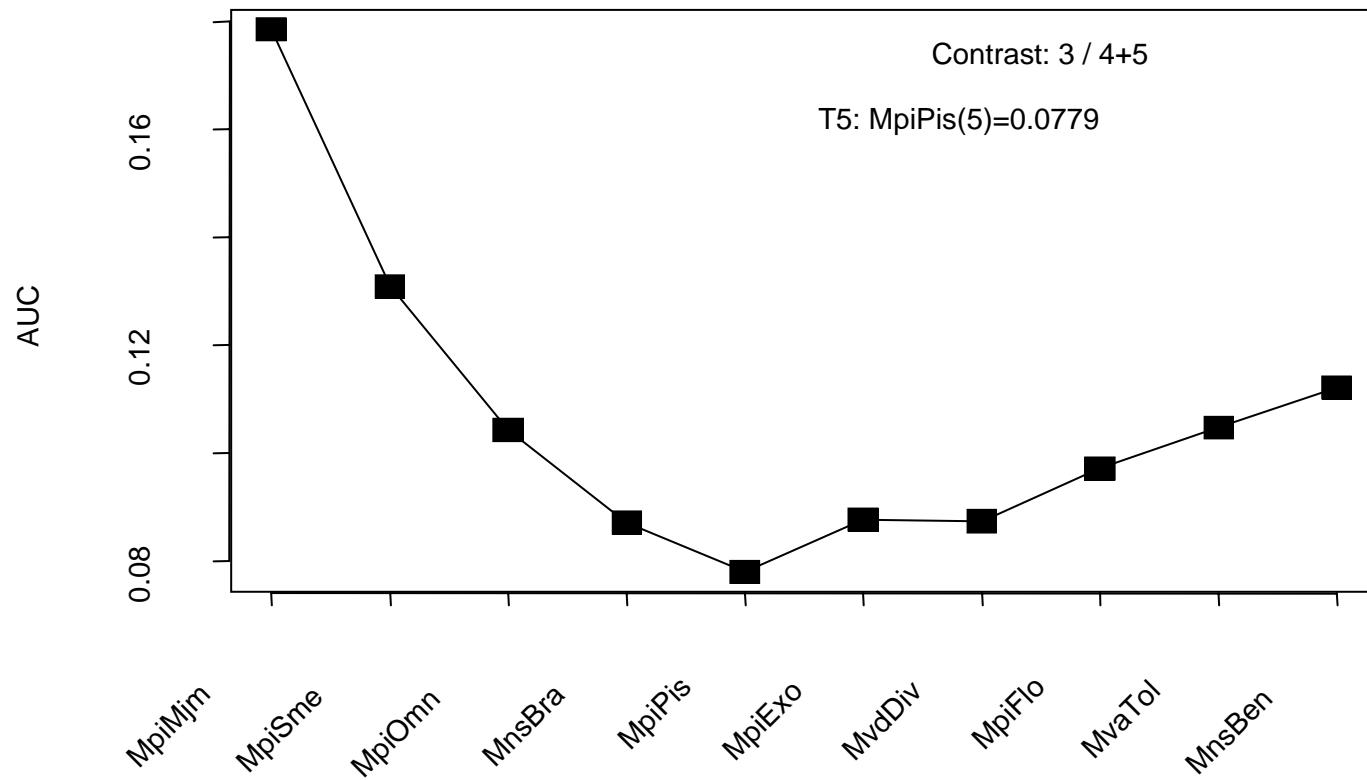
Selection of metrics

Combining metrics: stepwise introduction

Select the first metric decreasing most the AUC

Add second most discriminating metric

Stop when AUC does no longer decrease



Selected metrics

Metric			Score		
	0	0.25	0.5	0.75	1
Species richness and composition					
Total number of species	≤ 7	> 7	> 9	> 10	> 11
% Smelt individuals	≤ 0.33		> 0.33	> 1.12	> 2.68
% Marine juvenile migrating individuals	≤ 33.0	> 33.0	> 54.2	> 73.1	> 82.0
Trophic composition and habitat use					
% Omnivorous individuals	≥ 16.44	< 16.44	< 7.90	< 3.37	< 1.17
% Piscivorous individuals	≤ 12.84	> 12.84	> 19.44	> 27.23	> 41.19

Thresholds for EBI

Only three categories

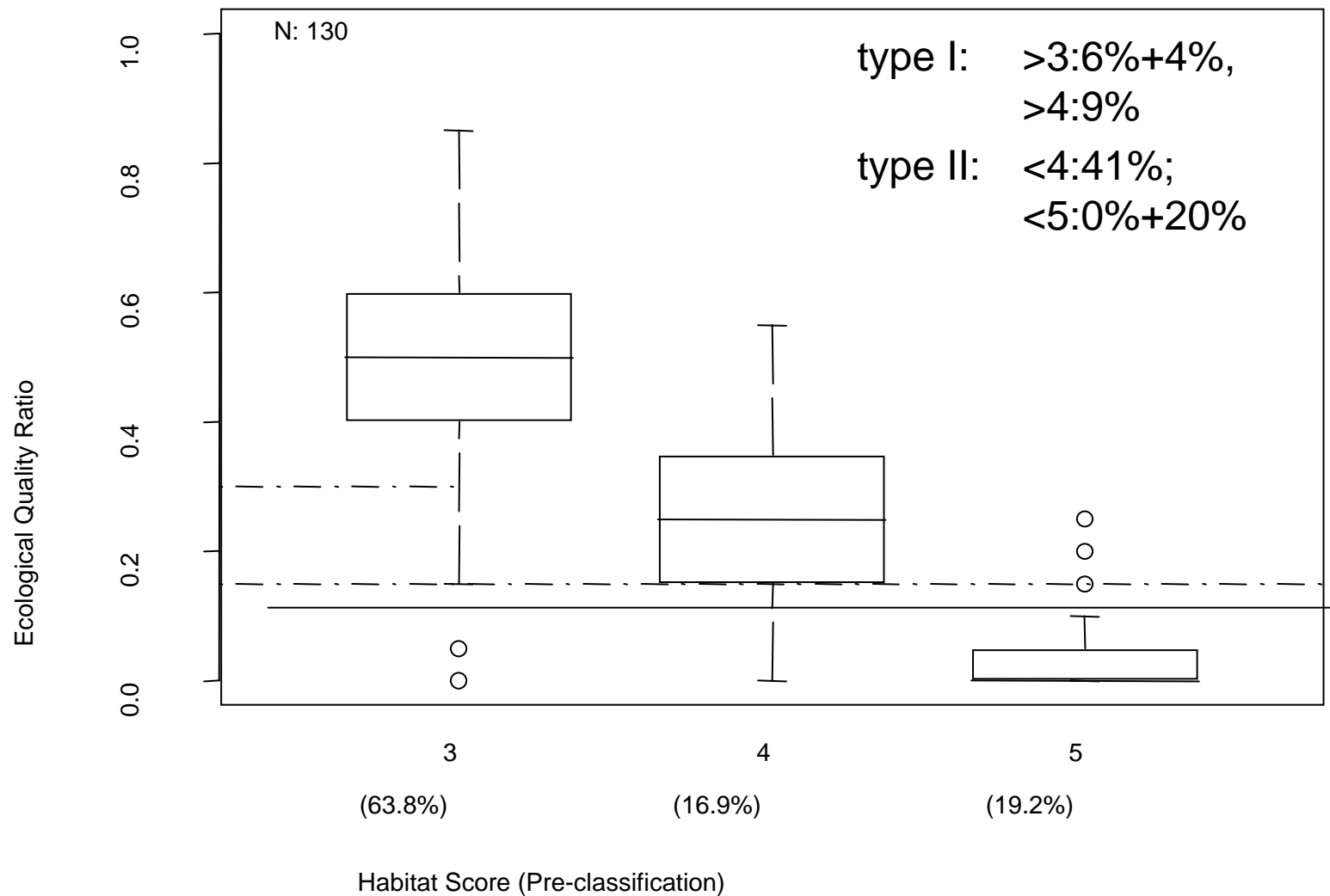
Fix threshold such that small type I error = 10 %

- on average 10 % of 3 \rightarrow 4: $T_{3;\alpha=10\%}$
- on average 10 % of 4 \rightarrow 5: $T_{4;\alpha=10\%}$

Then control the other errors

- large type I error
- small / large type II error

$$EBI = \begin{cases} 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \end{cases} \quad \text{if} \quad \begin{cases} T_{3;\alpha=10\%} < EQR \\ T_{4;\alpha=10\%} < EQR \leq T_{3;\alpha=10\%} \\ EQR \leq T_{4;\alpha=10\%} \end{cases}$$



The EBI separated less the poor status from the moderate status (small type II error).
 But the EBI separated clearly the disturbed from the poor status (80%).

Summary

- Positive
 - A transparent and general system
 - Very intuitive
 - Gives logical results
- Shortcomings
 - No sufficient data to validate