LobStAR

Lobster Eastern Scheldt Stock Assessment and Regulatory approaches

Bestandsschatting- en beheer Oosterscheldekreeft

(The Netherlands)

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The LobStAR project is a partnership between scientists and lobster fishers in the Eastern Scheldt, in the province of Zeeland, Netherlands. Through improved laboratory and field research techniques, automatic catch registration systems and expanded data collection and storage systems, the beneficiaries of the project work with local fishers to develop an innovative knowledge system to improve lobster stock assessments in the region. Projects like this, which provide the sector with a better understanding of the development of Dutch lobster stock, are crucial for the sustainable management of this unique fishery in the Netherlands.
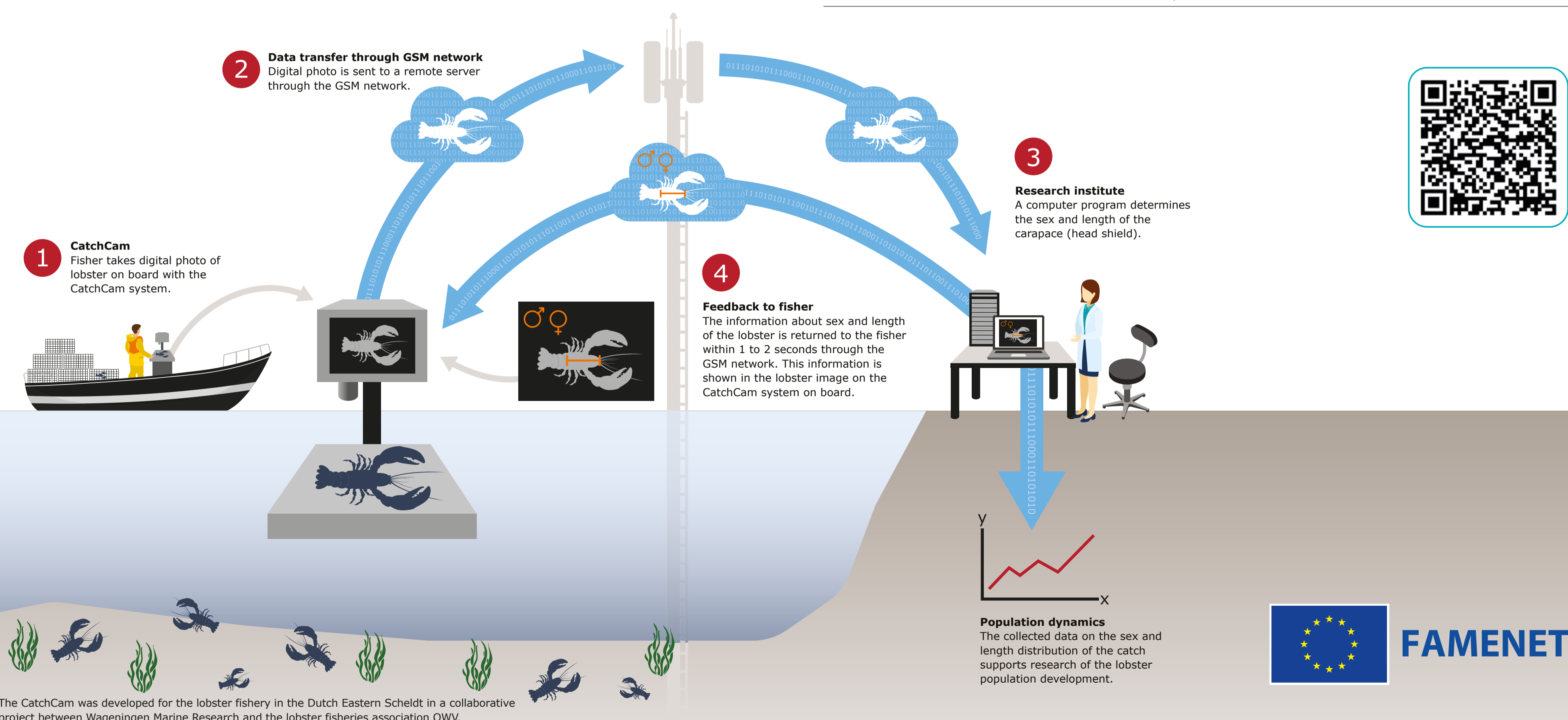
MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT

- Improved data on the growth, reproduction and mortality of East Scheldt lobsters
- Installation of 'CatchCam', an automatic catch registration system aboard fishing vessels
- Mapping of available stock assessment data
- Improvements in data collection and storage, including a possible application to report on stock data
- Gathering and disseminating knowledge from lobster fishers on stock assessment and management

FACTS AND FIGURES

Project budget	852 485 €
Co-finance	639 364 € (75%)
Beneficiaries	Wageningen Marine Research and the Association of Professional Fishermen Oosterschelde, Westerschelde and Voordelta *(Vereniging van Beroepsvissers Oosterschelde, Westerschelde en Voordelta)*

CatchCam

Automated lobster catch registration

1 CatchCam
Fisher takes digital photo of lobster on board with the CatchCam system.

2 Data transfer through GSM network
Digital photo is sent to a remote server through the GSM network.

3 Research institute
A computer program determines the sex and length of the carapace (head shield).

4 Feedback to fisher
The information about sex and length of the lobster is returned to the fisher within 1 to 2 seconds through the GSM network. This information is shown in the lobster image on the CatchCam system on board.

Population dynamics
The collected data on the sex and length distribution of the catch supports research of the lobster population development.

The CatchCam was developed for the lobster fishery in the Dutch Eastern Scheldt in a collaborative project between Wageningen Marine Research and the lobster fisheries association OWV.

FAMENET