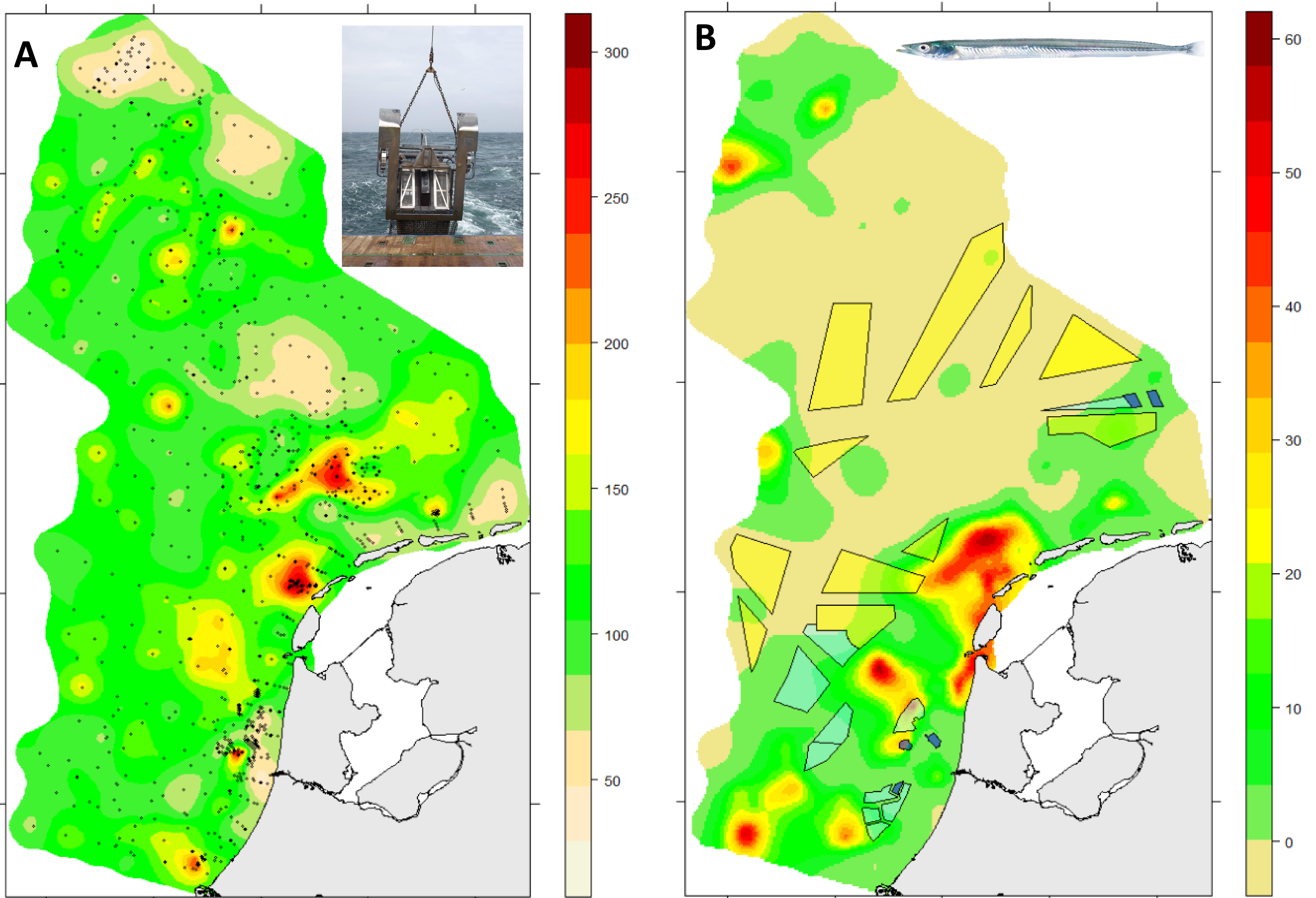




The NIOZ Triple D dredge catches small bottom fish, including burrowed sandeel, extremely well. Sandeels form an important part of the bottom fish biomass in the Dutch coastal zone and is a key prey species for marine predators. Impacts of sand mining or windfarms in sandeel habitats might have far reaching consequences in terms of food availability for seals and seabirds as well as their foraging behaviour. INLA Bayesian models were used for the spatial modeling.

Bottom fish biomass (g) per 10m²

Sandeel (%) of total bottom fish biomass



A) Black dots: Triple D dredge sampling locations. **B)** Blue operating windparks, light blue future windparks, yellow potential windparks.

- A hotspot in (burrowed) sandeel abundance is found north of Texel and Vlieland and spread along the Dutch coast.
- Triple D estimates for biomass and abundance of bottom fish are higher than expected.
- Locally sandeel can contribute to over 50% of total biomass of bottom fish.
- Overlap of windparks and sandeel grounds?