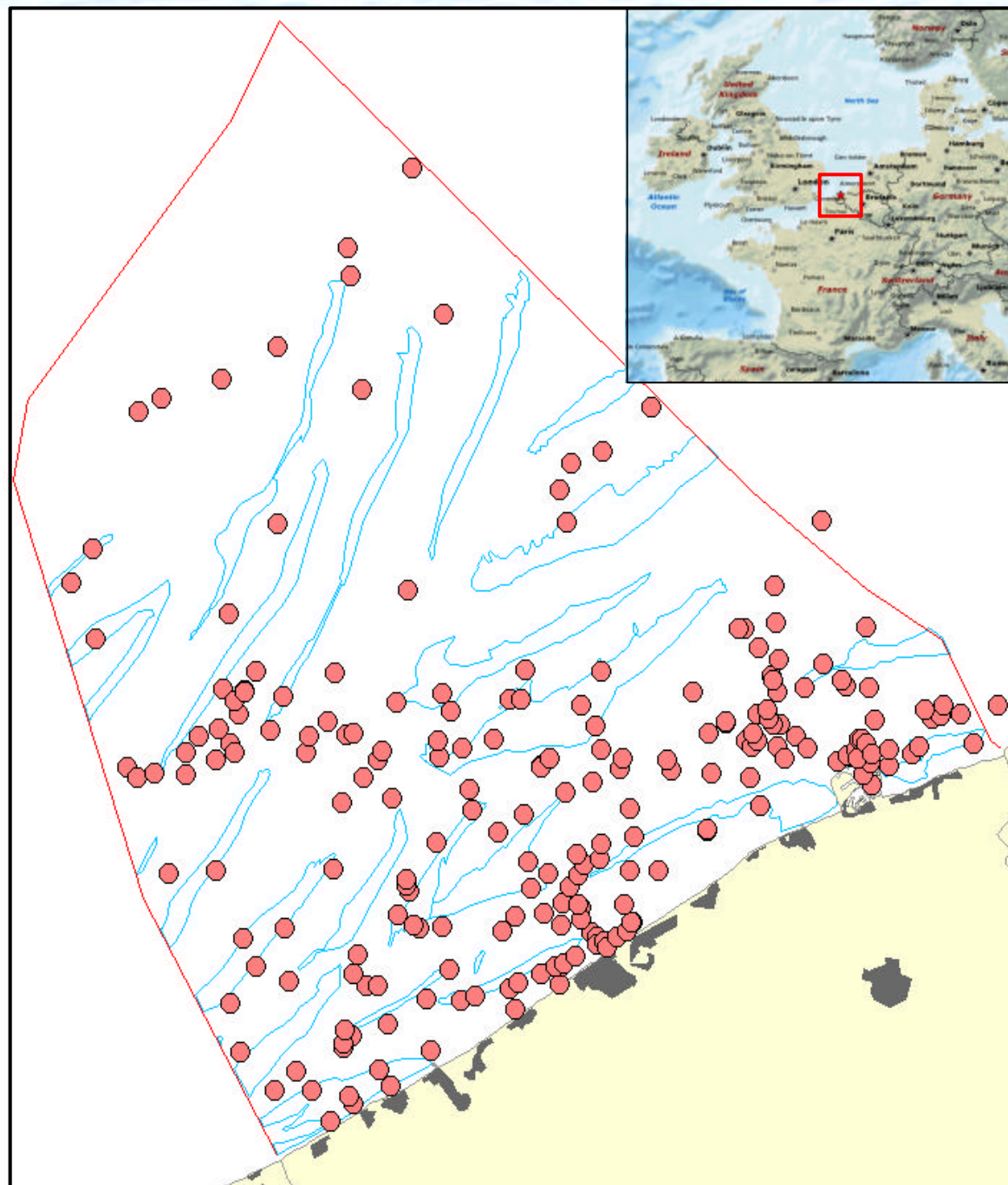


Anchoring fish exclusion cages on the seabed

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Flanders Marine Institute - VLIZ
Oostende, Belgium



InMarTech 2006




WRECK

1m

5m 

10m 

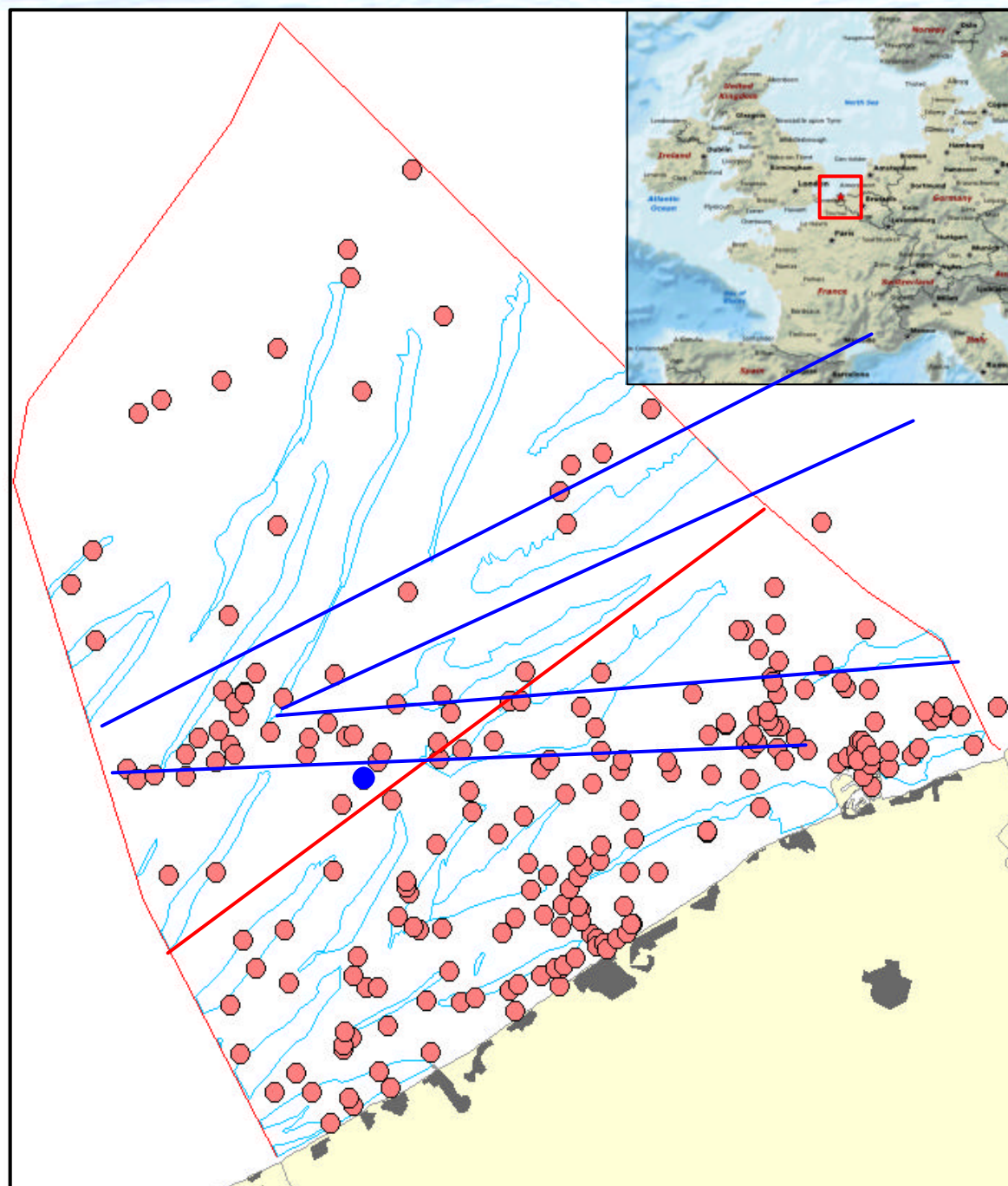
20m 

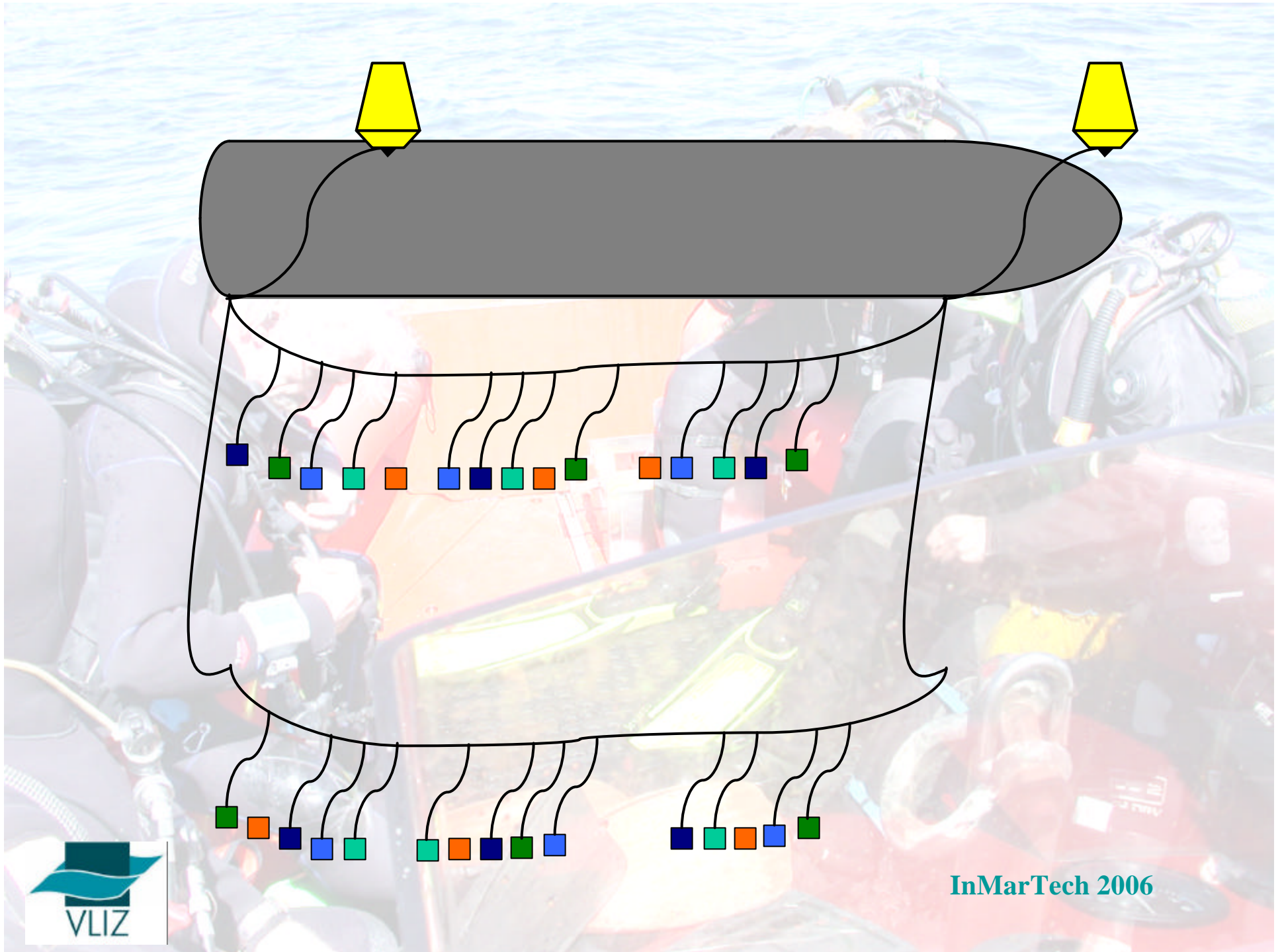


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Selection of the wreck

- Close enough to shore : short transit time
- Far enough from shore : high visibility throughout the year
- Shallow depth : increase of bottom residence time (no decompression)
- Large, fairly intact vessel
- Distant from shipping lanes
- Dive windows as large as possible (tidal height >4m)
current range 0.5-2Kn/h
currents < 0.25m/s





Selection of cage

10 & 40mm mesh

Large enough allowing seasonal quantitative macrobenthos samples

Small enough for easy handling by divers

Heavy enough to keep position on bottom

Light for handling by divers

Height: avoid drag by currents & reduce influence by cage on seabed





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Good-s & Bad-s after installing

- one cage lost during first dive
- one cage completely disappeared under the sand
- no problems with erosion around the cages
- too much biofouling on 10mm mesh cages
- so far no damage recorded through fishing (fishing not allowed in the area)
- effect of first autumn storm??