



Fish life history, angler behaviour and optimal management of recreational fisheries

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Abstract

To predict recreational-fishing impacts on freshwater fish species, it is important to understand the interplay between fish populations, anglers and management actions. We use an integrated bioeconomic model to study the importance of fish life-history type (LHT) for determining (i) vulnerability to over-exploitation by diverse angler types (generic, consumptive and trophy anglers), who respond dynamically to fishing-quality changes; (ii) regulations [i.e., minimum-size limits (MSLs) and licence densities] that maximize the social welfare of angler populations; and (iii) biological and social conditions resulting under such socially optimal regulations. We examine five prototypical freshwater species: European perch (*Perca fluviatilis*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), pikeperch (*Sander lucioperca*), pike (*Esox lucius*) and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*). We find that LHT is important for determining the vulnerability of fish populations to overfishing, with pike, pikeperch, and bull trout being more vulnerable than perch and brown trout. Angler type influences the magnitude of fishing impacts, because of differences in fishing practices and angler-type-specific effects of LHT on angling effort. Our results indicate that angler types are systematically attracted to particular LHTs. Socially optimal minimum-size limits generally increase with LHT vulnerability, whereas optimal licence densities are similar across LHTs. Yet, both regulations vary among angler types. Despite this variation, we find that biological sustainability occurs under socially optimal regulations, with one exception. Our results highlight the importance of jointly considering fish diversity, angler diversity and regulations when predicting sustainable management strategies for recreational fisheries. Failure to do so could result in socially suboptimal management and/or fishery collapse.

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Introduction

Commercial harvesting can cause severe declines in fish stocks (Worm *et al.* 2009). Similarly, recreational fisheries can also have substantial negative impacts on the world's fisheries (McPhee *et al.* 2002; Coleman *et al.* 2004; Cooke and Cowx 2004; Lewin *et al.* 2006), although they often remain 'invisible' because of absent or insufficient monitoring (Post *et al.* 2002). The lack of sustainability in some fisheries may relate to simplification or neglect of three interrelated factors, which need to be jointly considered in fisheries management: (i) the life history of the exploited population and its influence on vulnerability to over-exploitation (Reynolds *et al.* 2001; Rose *et al.* 2001; Winemiller 2005), (ii) the heterogeneity and dynamics of fishers exploiting the fishery (Radomski *et al.* 2001; Wilen *et al.* 2002; Johnston *et al.* 2010; Fulton *et al.* 2011) and (iii) the influence of management objectives and regulations on the ecological and social dynamics of the fishery (Radomski *et al.* 2001; Cox and Walters 2002; Wilen *et al.* 2002). Only by integrating these three main components – biological, social and managerial – into fisheries-projection models (Fig. 1) can fisheries dynamics be understood and more robust management predictions be achieved

(Johnston *et al.* 2010). While earlier studies have illustrated the importance of considering how differences in fish biology (e.g., productivity) can influence the efficacy of harvest regulations (e.g., Beamesderfer and North 1995), progress in integrated angler-fish population modelling has been slow (Fenichel *et al.* 2012). To our knowledge, no previous modelling study has rigorously explored the importance of considering the interrelationships between fish life history, angler diversity and various management measures for sustainable fisheries management. To advance our understanding, here we examine these interrelationships and study how the resulting dynamics of both fish and anglers affect optimal management strategies in recreational fisheries.

A key factor determining the dynamics of a fishery is fish life history (described by the combination of life-history traits that characterize a species), because it influences a fish population's vulnerability to over-exploitation (Reynolds *et al.* 2001; Rose *et al.* 2001; Winemiller 2005). Life-history traits (describing, e.g., growth, maturation or fecundity) vary substantially among species (Reynolds *et al.* 2001) and are often phenotypically plastic (Pigliucci 2005). Fish that exhibit different life-history strategies will differ in their

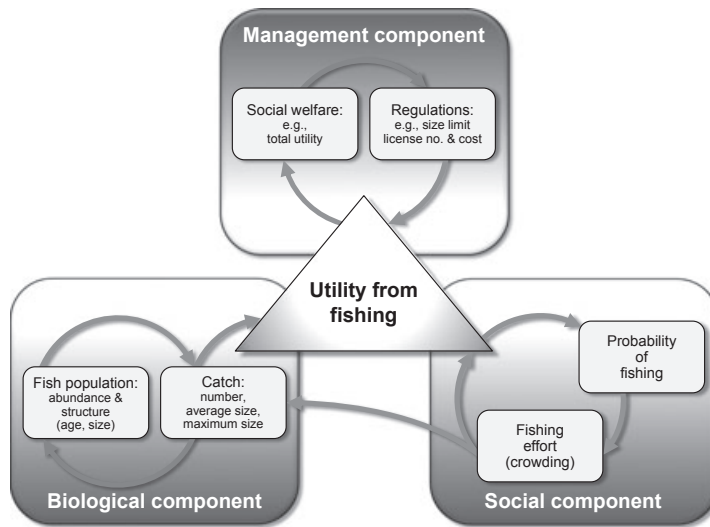


Figure 1 Fishery components and their interactions. For an overview of the corresponding integrated bioeconomic model, see Fig. 2.

production and in the degree to which density-dependent processes regulate the population, thus altering their ability to compensate for fishing mortality (Rose *et al.* 2001; Winemiller 2005; Goodwin *et al.* 2006). For example, fish that mature late, attain large maximum size and have low potential rates of population increase have been reported to be more vulnerable to over-exploitation than fish with the opposite characteristics (Jennings *et al.* 1998). However, for freshwater fish species, the relationships between risk of decline and anthropogenic factors are often not clear-cut (Duncan and Lockwood 2001; Reynolds *et al.* 2005). Thus, to provide more robust predictions about the vulnerability of freshwater fish populations to over-exploitation by recreational angling, a quantitative modelling approach that describes life-history characteristics of commonly targeted species is warranted.

A second key, yet often ignored, factor determining the impacts of fishing on fish populations is the structure and dynamics of fishers exploiting the fishery (Wilén *et al.* 2002; Johnston *et al.* 2010; Fulton *et al.* 2011). While commercial fishers are primarily motivated by maximizing yield or economic revenue (Hilborn 2007), multiple catch-related and non-catch-related attributes of a fishery (e.g., catch rates, fish size, angler congestion, aesthetic appeal, facilities, permit costs; reviewed in Hunt 2005) influence the fishing decisions of recreational anglers. Furthermore, angler populations are almost always composed of diverse angler types (e.g., Arlinghaus 2004), each exhibit-

ing specific fishing preferences and fishing practices (e.g., Aas *et al.* 2000; Beardmore *et al.* 2011). For example, some anglers prioritize fish harvest, whereas others preferentially target trophy-sized fish and voluntarily release them (Hahn 1991; Jacobson 1996; Fisher 1997). Thus, angling impacts likely differ with the type of anglers fishing (Johnston *et al.* 2010) and the life-history type (LHT) of exploited fish. Predicting the long-term outcome of fish–angler interactions requires an integrated modelling approach that incorporates population dynamics of diverse fish life histories and behavioural responses of diverse angler types to changes in fishery quality (Johnston *et al.* 2010).

A third key factor influencing any fishery system is its management component. Fish–angler dynamics do not occur in isolation from fishing regulations. Harvest regulations commonly employed in recreational fisheries influence which fish are caught and/or harvested (in terms of, e.g., species and size), but they also influence angler behaviour (Beard *et al.* 2003; Johnston *et al.* 2011) and therefore are of crucial importance for describing angler dynamics (Johnston *et al.* 2010). Fish–angler dynamics will influence how effective regulations are at meeting the management objectives they are designed to achieve, objectives that often include balancing the sometimes conflicting interests of different stakeholders with the maintenance of a biologically sustainable fishery (Cochrane 2000; Cox and Walters 2002; Hilborn 2007). Optimum social yield (OSY) incorporates numer-

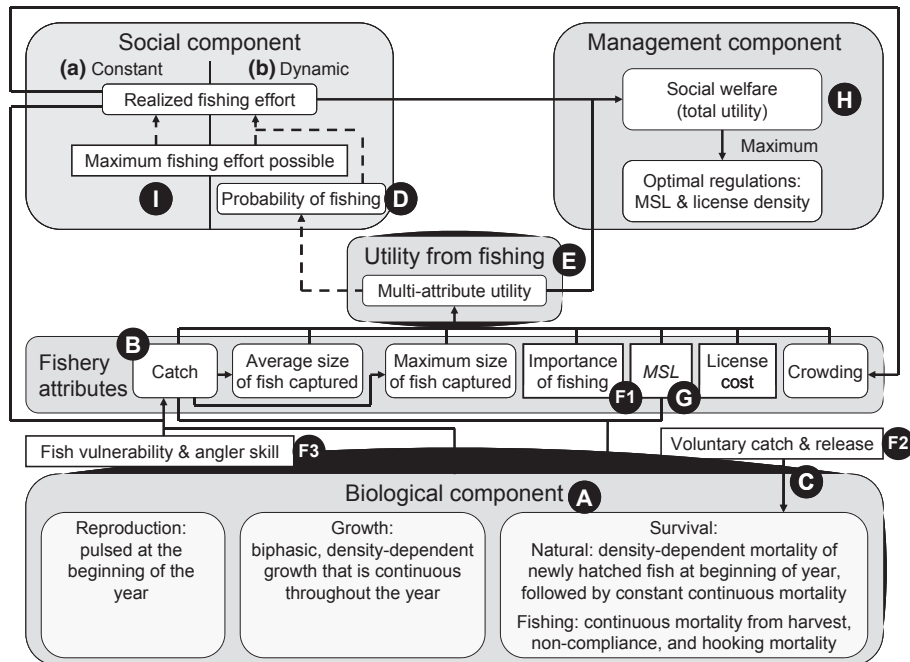


Figure 2 Schematic overview of the integrated bioeconomic model. Alphabetized black circles indicate model elements described in the section ‘Methods, Model components’. Dashed lines highlight differences between model scenarios with constant vs. dynamic fishing effort. *MSL*, minimum-size limit.

ous management objectives by integrating social, economic and biological considerations into a single measure of the utility (in terms of benefits, satisfaction and/or social welfare) a recreational fishery provides to society (Roedel 1975; Malvestuto and Hudgins 1996). The OSY approach is rarely used in practice (possibly because of the difficulty in measuring the underlying quantities), but has shown promise for the management of a northern-pike (*Esox lucius*, Esocidae) recreational fishery: a study modelling this species revealed that regulations maximizing social welfare also maintained a biologically sustainable fish population (Johnston *et al.* 2010). However, because life history influences a fish population’s response to fishing, and in turn the behaviour of the anglers exploiting it, it is unknown if this prediction holds across life histories commonly targeted by freshwater recreational anglers.

To explore the importance of jointly considering fish life history, dynamic and diverse angler behaviour, alternative management options and the nonlinear interplay between the three fishery components (Fig. 1) when managing recreational fisheries, here we use an integrated bioeconomic model. Our model is parameterized to describe five

fish LHTs representing recreationally important freshwater fish species, in conjunction with three plausible angler behavioural types (Johnston *et al.* 2010). We use this model to evaluate how differences in LHT and angler type influence recreational-fishing impacts and the socially optimal management of fisheries. Specifically, we investigate (i) how LHT influences vulnerability to overfishing under different levels of constant and, more realistically, dynamic fishing effort by various angler types; (ii) how angling regulations (e.g., minimum-size limits and licence densities) that maximized social welfare vary between LHTs and angler types; and finally (iii) how biological sustainability and social conditions under socially optimal regulations differ across LHTs and angler types. Our intention here is not to provide predictions for a particular fishery, but to gain general insights into the influence of LHT and angler diversity on the dynamics of a coupled social–ecological system, by bridging the traditional divide between fisheries science and social science (Arlinghaus *et al.* 2008; Fulton *et al.* 2011; Fenichel *et al.* 2012). Our framework can nevertheless be calibrated to a particular fishery, if appropriate data on the fish population and the preferences of

angler types are collected using fisheries-biological and human-dimensions research methods.

Methods

Model overview

We use an integrated bioeconomic model (Table A1), developed by Johnston *et al.* (2010) for a northern-pike recreational fishery, that links dynamic angler behaviour with a deterministic age-structured fish population model for a single-species, single-lake fishery. The model includes three components (Figs 1 and 2): (i) a biological component that determines the fish population dynamics of different LHTs, (ii) a social component that determines the angler-effort dynamics of different angler types based on angler-type-specific preference functions and (iii) a management component that prescribes the angling regulations. In this study, we extend the model by Johnston *et al.* (2010) to describe five distinct LHTs representing northern pike, European perch (*Perca fluviatilis*, Percidae), pikeperch (*Sander lucioperca*, Percidae), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*, Salmonidae) and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*, Salmonidae) (Fig. 3; Table S1). These LHTs were chosen because they span diverse life-history characteristics (Wootton 1984) and represent a broad range of LHTs commonly targeted by freshwater recreational anglers (e.g., Post *et al.* 2002; Almodóvar and Nicola 2004; Isermann *et al.* 2007). The LHTs vary in body size and growth rate, age- and size-at-maturation, offspring size, fecundity, lifespan, natural mortality rate and the degree to which density regulates early juvenile survival (stock–recruitment relationships) and individual growth rates (Fig. 3). Thus, the LHTs examined here differ in unexploited abundance, biomass and age and size-structure (Table 1). To allow for a direct comparison of model outcomes, the same age-structured fish population model is used for all LHTs. In all scenarios we investigate, fish populations reach demographic equilibrium prior to the introduction of fishing, and the presented results reflect equilibrium conditions after fishing is introduced (i.e., we investigate long-term dynamics). A model overview is provided below (see also Fig. 2); additional details are described in the study by Johnston *et al.* (2010). Model equations are given in Table A1 and variables are given in Table A2, qualitative descriptions of LHTs and angler types

are shown in Figs 3 and 4, and detailed parameters and part-worth-utility (PWT) equations are provided in the supplementary material (Tables S1–S4).

Model components

The biological model component determines fish population dynamics, describing reproduction, growth and survival (Fig. 2, element A). Reproduction is pulsed at the beginning of the year. To account for LHT differences in spawning time (not present in Johnston *et al.* 2010), fecundities (total egg numbers) are determined by spawner sizes and spawner numbers either at the beginning of each year (spring spawners) or in the fall of the previous year (fall spawners) (Table A1, Equation 5a; Table S1). Two important density-dependent processes, growth in body size and early offspring survival, allow for compensatory responses to exploitation (Rose *et al.* 2001; Lorenzen 2008). Density-dependent offspring survival from spawning to post-hatch occurs at the beginning of each year, described by either a Beverton–Holt type (Beverton and Holt 1957) or a Ricker-type stock–recruitment relationship (Ricker 1954b) (Table A1, Equation 5c). Growth is modelled using a biphasic growth model (Lester *et al.* 2004) (Table A1, Equation 4a–c). Growth, as well as mortality from both fishing and natural sources (for fish aged 1 year and older; Table A1, Equation 6i), is modelled in continuous time. Continuous growth allows fish to become more vulnerable to capture within a year. Continuous mortality allows for recapture and repeated exposure of released fish to hooking mortality; the latter can have serious negative impacts on some recreational fish species especially if effort is high (Coggins *et al.* 2007). The number and size of fish caught are determined jointly by the abundance and structure of the fish population, fishing effort, anglers' skills (affecting catchability) and the size-dependent vulnerability to capture (Table A1, Equation 6a), which varies among angler types (see below) (Table A1, Equation 6c; Fig. 2, element B). Fishing mortality depends on the number and size distribution of the catch, the regulated minimum-size limit and harvest practices of angler types fishing (Table A1, Equation 6h; Fig. 2, element C). Thus, fishing mortality is size dependent through both capture vulnerability and minimum-size limit.

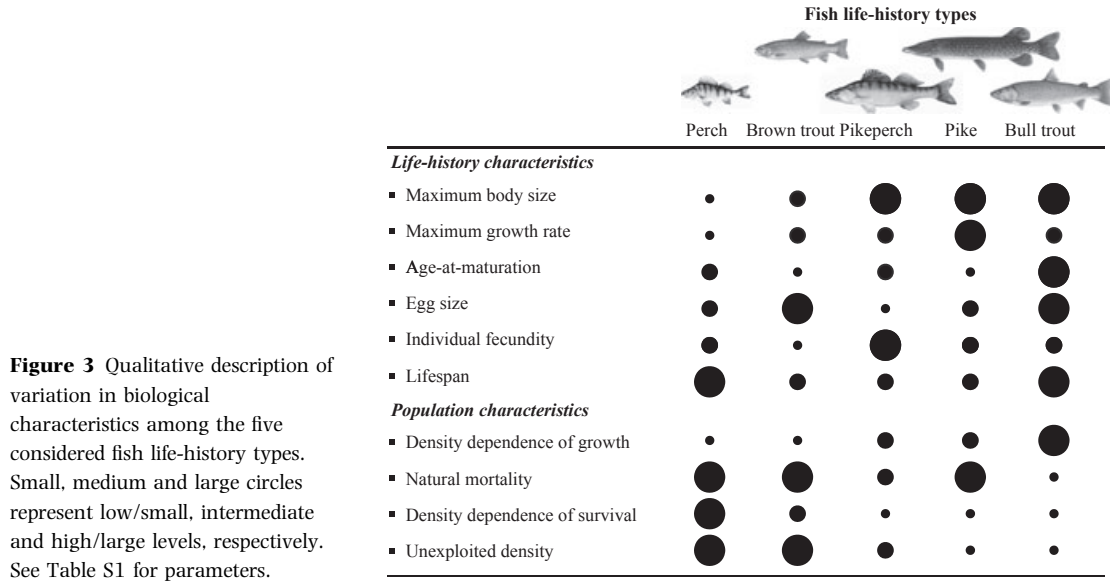


Figure 3 Qualitative description of variation in biological characteristics among the five considered fish life-history types. Small, medium and large circles represent low/small, intermediate and high/large levels, respectively. See Table S1 for parameters.

Table 1 Characteristics of fish life-history types under unexploited conditions.

	Life-history type				
	Perch	Brown trout	Pikeperch	Pike	Bull trout
Maximum body size (cm; L_{max} , Table S1)	38.5	51.5	103	117	98
Density of fish aged 1 year and older (ha^{-1})	779	300	97	23	12
Biomass fish aged 1 year and older ($kg\ ha^{-1}$)	49.1	29.5	61.0	16.1	10.0
Maximum annual growth increment of juveniles (cm)	5.5	8.4	10.0	20.7	7.7
Proportion of adults in population	0.44	0.57	0.45	0.63	0.36
Proportion of first-time spawners in mature population	0.34	0.43	0.24	0.37	0.19
Mean age (years)	2.97	2.33	4.11	2.70	5.14
Age-at-maturation (years; a_m , Table S1)	3	2	4	2	6
Mean length (cm)	13.0	17.6	31.8	40.0	33.7
Size-at-maturation (cm)	14.8	18.4	36.1	35.3	45.7
Relative fecundity (g^{-1})	65.6	1.9	150.0	25.5	1.9
Maximum recruitment density of fish aged 0 (ha^{-1})*	601.2	160.8	24.6	9.2	2.5

*Either asymptotic value of Beverton–Holt stock–recruitment relationship or peak value of Ricker stock–recruitment relationship.

The social model component determines annual fishing effort. Random utility theory assumes that anglers will have a higher probability to fish when conditions provide them with more utility (Hunt 2005) (Fig. 2, element D). Following Johnston *et al.* (2010), angling effort is determined by angler-type-specific multi-attribute utility functions, based on catch-related attributes (catch rates, average and maximum size of fish caught) and non-catch-related attributes (angler crowding, minimum-size limit and licence cost) of the fishery that are known to affect anglers’ utility and hence

participation decisions (Hunt 2005) (Table A1, Equation 1; Fig. 2, element E). In addition, angler types can differ in their fishing practices (in terms of the size of fish they target, their skill level and their propensity to voluntarily release fish), as well as in their preferences for the considered fishery attributes (Aas *et al.* 2000; Hunt 2005; Oh and Ditton 2006). Here, we describe three angler types – generic, consumptive, and trophy anglers – differing in their fishing practices and preferences (Fig. 2, elements F1 to F3; see also Fig. 4). Our parameterization of utility functions for these three

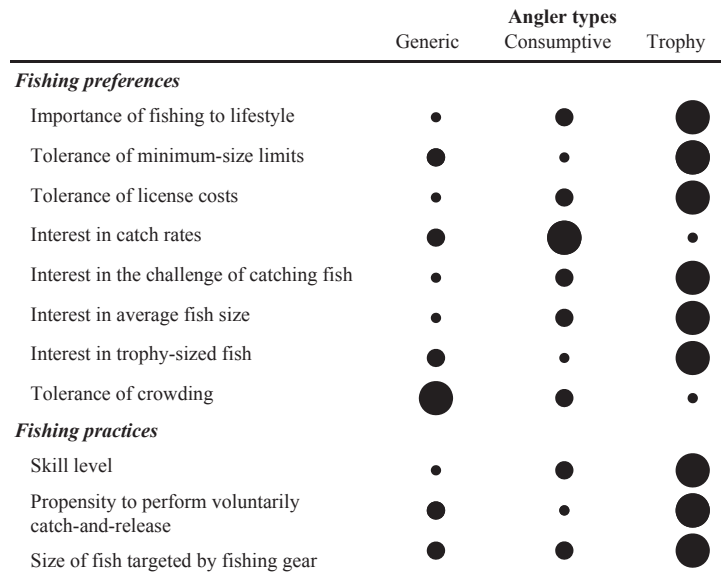


Figure 4 Qualitative description of angler-type diversity in preferences for fishery attributes and fishing practices. Small-, medium- and large-sized dots indicate low/small, intermediate and high/large levels, respectively.

angler types (Table S3) is based on angler specialization theory (Bryan 1977) as described in detail in the study by Johnston *et al.* (2010).

The management model component prescribes input regulations through licence densities ($A_{L,S}$) and output regulations through minimum-size limits ($MSLs$) (Fig. 2, element G). In our model, licence density is the number of licences issued to anglers for a single 100-ha lake, and ranges up to a maximum of one licence per hectare. We focus on $MSLs$, as these are commonly used in recreational fisheries to limit harvest (Radomski *et al.* 2001). In open-access recreational fisheries, output regulations often only reduce an individual angler's harvest, and not total harvest (Radomski *et al.* 2001; Cox and Walters 2002; Cox *et al.* 2002), whereas input regulations more directly control angler effort and thus fishing mortality (Cox *et al.* 2002); therefore, licence densities are also varied in our model. We do not include daily bag limits in our model for three reasons. First, we want to concentrate our analyses on comparing one input regulation and one output regulation. Second, the effectiveness of daily bag limits has been questioned, because in practice daily quotas are often not met (Cook *et al.* 2001) and moreover are only successful if fishing effort and thus total harvest are not too high (Post and Parkinson 2012). Third, our model includes angler-type-specific harvest preferences, which work similar to daily bag limits, by limiting some angler types' daily harvest through their propensity to voluntar-

ily release fish (Table S3). The management component of our model is also used to determine regulations that achieve an OSY. We assume such optimal regulations to be given by combinations of minimum-size limit (MSL_{opt}) and licence density ($A_{L,opt}$) that maximize the total utility (an aggregation of individual utilities across anglers; Table A1, Equation 7b) gained by the angler population at equilibrium (Fig. 2, element H). We use total utility to measure social welfare; naturally, results may differ when other welfare measures are used (Johnston *et al.* 2010).

Standardizing across LHTs

To allow direct comparison among our results for different LHTs, the vulnerability of fish to capture, as well as some baseline attribute levels used for determining angler utility that depend on fish size or abundance, needs to be standardized for LHT differences in maximum body size (L_{max}) and unexploited abundance (Table 1).

Vulnerability to capture

The size dependence of capture vulnerability is described by a sigmoidal function that varies between LHTs and angler types. These functions are characterized by the size L_{50} at which vulnerability reaches 50%, and by the steepness y with which vulnerability increases around L_{50} (Table A1, Equation 6a). In choosing L_{50} and y , we need to account for three considerations. First,

to standardize the vulnerability curve among LHTs, we allow L_{50} to increase roughly proportionally with a LHT's maximum size L_{\max} . Second, to produce realistic size-structures of catch, we need to account for a systematic bias in L_{50} : the general lack of interest in catching very small fish, presumably because they provide minimal consumptive or trophy value, reduces the relative range of sizes captured for smaller LHTs much more than it does for larger LHTs. Empirical findings show that even when anglers target smaller-bodied predatory freshwater species, they catch few very small fish (e.g., van Poorten and Post 2005; Wilberg *et al.* 2005). We account for this bias by introducing an offset L_{shift} into the sigmoidal function that shifts L_{50} to the right. Because it is independent of L_{\max} , this shift L_{shift} is more consequential for smaller LHTs than for larger LHTs and thus accounts for the aforementioned bias. Third, different angler types impose different size-selective capture vulnerabilities, with trophy anglers targeting larger fish. We account for these three considerations by determining L_{50} as a linear function of L_{\max} , $L_{50} = z_j L_{\max} + L_{\text{shift}}$ (Table A1, Equation 6b) where z_j depends on the angler type j . To estimate y and z_j for generic and consumptive anglers, we use a least-square approximation of the vulnerability of pike reported by Johnston *et al.* (2010). For trophy anglers, z_j is increased by 10% relative to generic and consumptive anglers (Table S3), because trophy anglers value, and thus target, larger fish by using different gear than the other angler types (Jacobson 1996; Aas *et al.* 2000). To the extent that empirical data are available, we find that the capture vulnerabilities thus specified produce size-structures of catch that generally match empirical observations for the described LHTs or closely related species (e.g., Paul *et al.* 2003; Post *et al.* 2003; van Poorten and Post 2005; Wilberg *et al.* 2005; Arlinghaus *et al.* 2009; see footnote Table S3).

Part-worth-utility functions

In our model, multiple fishery attributes contribute to an angler's utility (Table A1, Equation 1) and thus influence the participation decisions of anglers (Table A1, Equation 2a). PWU functions from welfare economics (illustrated in Johnston *et al.* 2010; Fig. 3) are used to describe the relative importance of each catch-related and non-catch-related attribute to an angler's overall utility (Table S2). The PWU functions also involve scaling attribute levels

relative to baseline attribute levels (defined as the levels at which the focal PWU value equals 0, and the probability to fish thus equals 50%, when all other PWU values equal 0; Table S4). However, some baseline attribute levels depend on fish size or fish abundance in a way that varies with LHT. For example, a perch angler likely gains more utility from catching a 30-cm perch than a pike angler does from catching a 30-cm pike, because of the intrinsic size differences between these two species. Thus, several baseline attribute levels are standardized so as to achieve such the desired relative scaling across LHTs.

First, *MSLs* are set as a proportion of L_{\max} ranging between 0 and 1 (Table S4). Second, the baseline catch rates C_{De} (Table S4) are assumed to equal 50% of the maximum catch rate achievable for a given LHT by a mixed angler population (comprising 40%, 30% and 30%; generic, consumptive and trophy anglers, respectively) imposing no harvest, non-compliance or hooking mortality on the fish population. For all LHT, the thus established baseline catch rates are generally within the range reported for the modelled, or closely related, species (see Table S4). Third, proportional-stock-density (PSD) categories (Gabelhouse 1984), also known as proportional size-structure (Guy *et al.* 2006), which describe the recreational value of fish based on their size relative to the species' world-record length, are used to set baseline values for the average size \bar{L}_e and maximum size L_{xe} of caught fish. Specifically, we assume that 'quality' fish (40% of L_{\max}) represent the baseline value for \bar{L}_e , and fish bordering the 'preferred' and 'memorable' categories (55% of L_{\max}) represent the baseline value for L_{xe} (Table S4).

Outline of analysis

To examine how biological impacts from recreational fishing vary among LHTs, we first run our model across a range of *MSLs* (Table S1) and fishing efforts, both of which are held constant within a model run. In these model runs, anglers therefore do not behave dynamically (Fig. 2, element I) and are furthermore assumed to be consumptive anglers killing all harvestable fish: this makes it possible to compare the biological response of LHTs at equilibrium to identical levels of fishing effort. Changes in fish abundance and biomass relative to unexploited levels (Table 1), and in the

weighted spawning-potential ratio *SPR* (Table A1, Equation 7a), are examined. The *SPR* is commonly used to assess fisheries sustainability: values below 0.2–0.3 are considered critical (Goodyear 1993), whereas maintaining *SPR* above 0.35–0.40 is likely to prevent recruitment overfishing (Mace 1994; Clark 2002).

In a second stage of our analysis, we allow angler types to respond dynamically to the perceived quality of the fishery, that is, utility affected anglers' probability to fish (Fig. 2, element D). We examine model runs across a range of *MSLs* and licence densities A_L (Table A2), for homogeneous angler populations composed of one angler type and, more realistically, for four specific compositions of mixed angler populations (Table S3). These mixed angler populations comprise either relatively equal proportions of the three angler types (40:30:30%; generic, consumptive and trophy anglers, respectively) or strongly skewed towards generic (70:15:15%), consumptive (15:70:15%) or trophy (15:15:70%) anglers. We evaluate how the interplay between life histories, dynamic angler behaviours and regulations differentially affects overfishing vulnerability, angler behaviour and optimal regulations (in terms of MSL_{opt} and $A_{L,opt}$) across LHTs and anglers populations under equilibrium conditions. The biological conditions (in terms of *SPR*) and social conditions (in terms of total utility and fishing effort) under optimal regulations are also examined, to assess whether trends across LHTs exist and whether optimal regulations imply biological sustainability. We also analyse the relative participation of angler types in mixed angler populations (in terms of the proportion of the fishing effort exerted by a given angler type relative to that type's proportion of the angler population; Table A1, Equation 7c) across LHTs, to determine whether angler types are differentially attracted to, or excluded from, particular fisheries.

Finally, we evaluate the sensitivity of fish-angler dynamics to LHT parameterization using elasticity analyses (e.g., Allen *et al.* 2009). For this purpose, we vary each life-history parameter by $\pm 10\%$ from its original value (except for age-at-maturation and maximum age, which are discrete and are therefore varied by ± 1 year) and calculate the relative change in MSL_{opt} and $A_{L,opt}$. Relative changes exceeding 10% indicate that the fish-angler dynamics are sensitive to those parameters. *SPR* levels predicted under the new optimal regu-

lations are also examined, to evaluate whether predictions about biological sustainability under socially optimal regulations are robust to changes in life-history parameters.

Results

Biological impacts under constant fishing effort

In the absence of exploitation, the five LHTs in our model differ substantially in their population characteristics. Perch is most abundant, with an unexploited equilibrium density (of fish aged 1 year and older) approaching 800 fish ha^{-1} , followed by brown trout and pikeperch (300 and 90 fish ha^{-1} , respectively; Table 1). Pike and bull trout are least abundant (<25 fish ha^{-1} ; Table 1). Predicted abundance under unexploited conditions generally fall within the range predicted in the literature, although pikeperch in our model are more abundant than what may be considered average literature values, and the predicted abundances of perch and bull trout are at the low end of the range reported in the literature (Data S1). The unexploited biomasses (of fish aged 1 year and older) predicted by our model range between 10 and 60 kg ha^{-1} across all LHTs. Pikeperch exhibits the highest unexploited biomass, followed by perch, brown trout, pike and bull trout.

When recreational fishing is introduced with a constant consumptive angling effort, the biological impacts on the five LHTs, measured relative to unexploited conditions, differ greatly (Fig. 5). Fishing reduces the abundance, biomass and *SPR* of pike, bull trout and pikeperch relative to unexploited levels, particularly under low to moderately restrictive *MSLs* (0–50% of L_{max}) and moderate to high fishing efforts (30–80 h ha^{-1} ; Fig. 5). Similarly, fishing reduces the biomass and *SPR* of perch and brown trout (Fig. 5), although their relative magnitudes of decline are generally smaller than for the other LHTs. However, unlike all other LHTs, exploitation increases perch abundance above unexploited levels under all examined *MSLs* and fishing efforts (Fig. 5). Fishing also increases brown-trout abundance (Fig. 5), but only under liberal *MSLs* and for fishing efforts below 20 h ha^{-1} , or under more restrictive *MSLs* above 60% of L_{max} .

Overall, these results suggest that the susceptibility of LHTs to declines in abundance, biomass and *SPR* is greatest to least as follows (ranked by the proportion of model runs in which *SPR* was

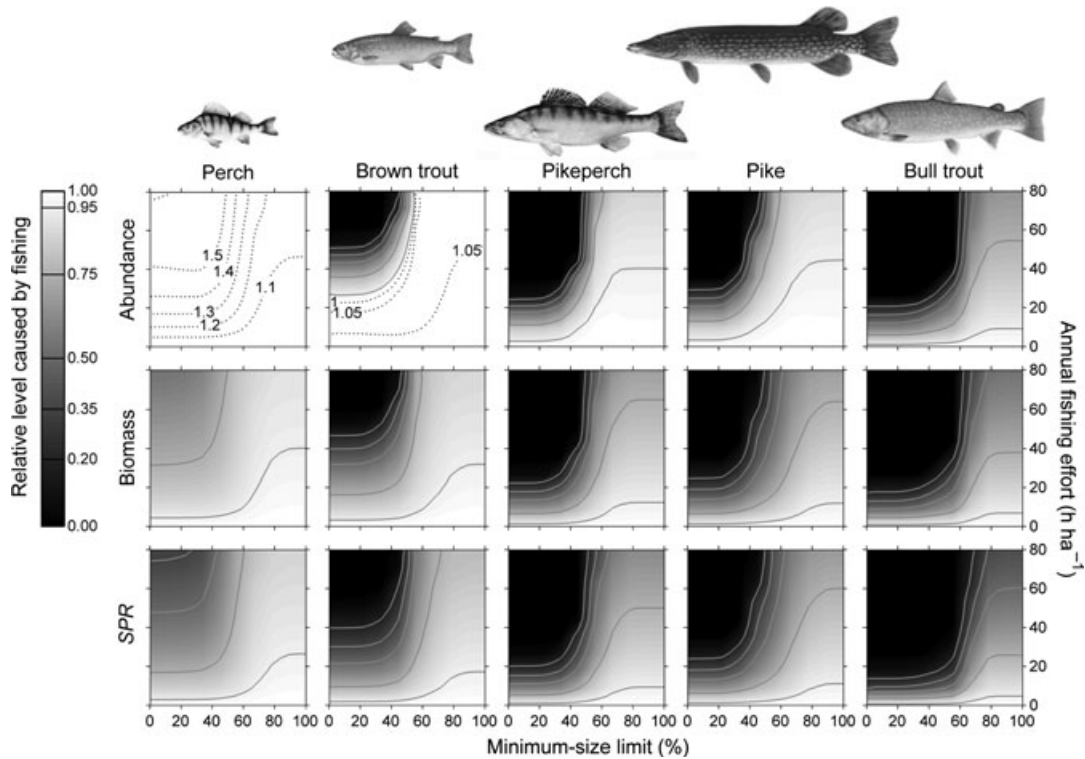


Figure 5 Impacts of fishing, over a range of minimum-size limits (as a percentage of L_{max}) and annual fishing efforts, on the density of aged 1 year and older, on the biomass of fish aged 1 year and older and on the spawning-potential ratio *SPR* (rows), across the five considered fish life-history types (columns). The shown levels correspond to fished conditions relative to unexploited conditions. Continuous contours represent relative levels smaller than 1 (greyscale bar). Dotted contours represent values relative levels >1. All panels are based on considering consumptive anglers fishing with constant effort and harvesting all harvestable fish caught.

smaller than 0.35): bull trout, pikeperch/pike (similar responses), brown trout and perch. Hereafter, we use the term ‘LHT vulnerability’ to refer the degree to which LHTs in our model are susceptible to recruitment overfishing from recreational angling. The obtained ranking suggests that LHT vulnerability to over-exploitation by consumptive anglers is negatively related to unexploited abundance and maximum recruitment, positively related to maximum body size and size-at-maturation and not strongly related to age-at-maturation, relative fecundity, or natural mortality (see Table 1 and Table S1 for values).

Biological impacts under dynamic angler behaviour

Allowing anglers to respond dynamically to the perceived quality of the fishery alters the incidence of recruitment overfishing and also causes fishing efforts to vary substantially between LHTs and

angler populations (Fig. 6). Despite this influence of LHT on the angling effort a fishery attracts, the pattern of differential vulnerability of LHTs to over-exploitation by anglers remains qualitatively unchanged, regardless of the composition of the angler population. Consistent with our aforementioned findings for the biological impacts of consumptive anglers that fish with constant effort, the biological impacts (measured by *SPR*) of dynamic angler populations are greatest to least across LHTs as follows: (again ranked as described above) bull trout, pikeperch/pike, brown trout and perch (Fig. 6).

However, the angler population’s composition does alter the quantitative magnitudes of the biological impacts anglers exert on the fished populations. Under liberal *MSLs*, the consumptive angler population reduces *SPR* more than other angler populations across LHTs, whereas under more restrictive *MSLs*, *SPR* is most reduced by the trophy anglers (Fig. 6).

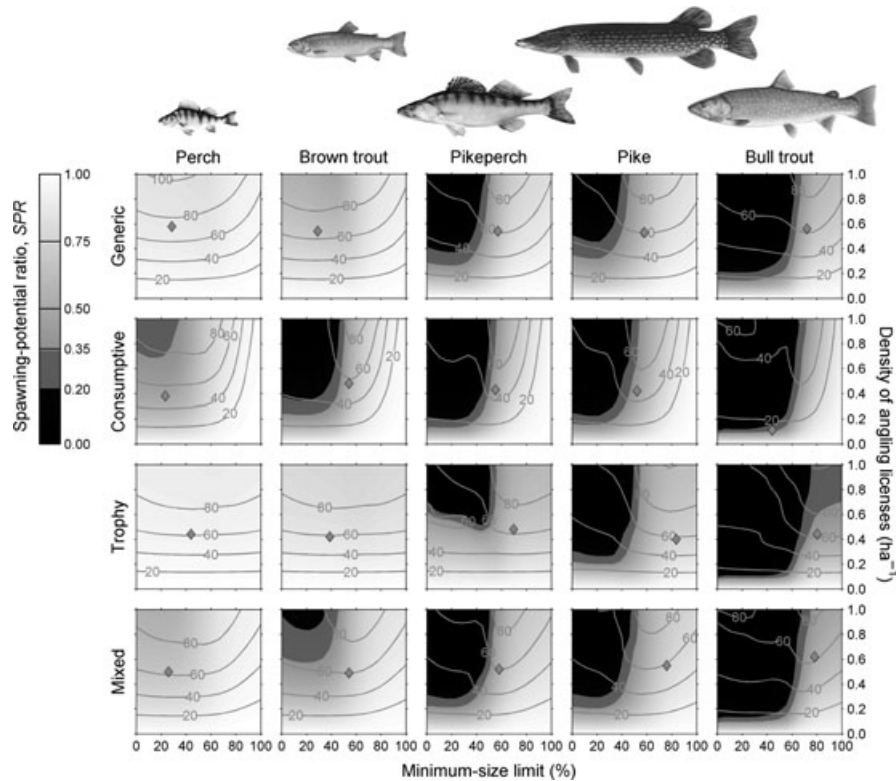


Figure 6 Impacts of fishing, over a range of minimum-size limits (as a percentage of L_{\max}), and licence densities, on the spawning-potential ratio (grey contour areas) and on the annual fishing efforts (h ha^{-1} ; grey contour curves), across the five considered fish life-history types (columns) and four different populations of angler types (rows); both homogeneous (rows 1–3) and mixed angler populations (row 4; with a composition of 40%:30%:30% generic, consumptive and trophy anglers, respectively). Grey diamonds indicate optimal regulations. All panels are based on considering anglers responding dynamically to the quality of their fishing experience.

Biological impacts on less vulnerable LHTs vary much more among angler populations, despite being generally less severe, than on more vulnerable LHTs. For example, only certain angler populations (consumptive, or consumptive and mixed) overfish perch and brown trout, whereas all angler populations overfish pike, pikeperch and bull trout under some regulations. Across the range of regulations examined, consumptive angler populations reduce the SPR below 0.35 more often than other angler populations when targeting pikeperch, perch and brown trout, whereas the trophy-angler population had the greatest impact on bull trout, and impacts on pike are similar for populations of consumptive, trophy and mixed (40%:30%:30%) anglers.

Socially optimal regulations

We also find that socially optimal regulations differ among LHTs: the optimal minimum-size limit

MSL_{opt} (measured as a fraction of L_{\max}) increases with LHT vulnerability, generally being lowest for perch (23–44% of L_{\max} , 9–17 cm), followed by brown trout (29–54%, 15–28 cm), pikeperch (54–70%, 56–72 cm), pike (52–84%, 61–98 cm) and bull trout (44–80%, 43–78 cm; Fig. 7a). In addition, MSL_{opt} varies greatly (over a range wider than 20% of L_{\max}) among angler populations (Fig. 7a): for all LHTs except brown trout, MSL_{opt} is highest for trophy-dominated angler populations (composed solely of, or dominated by, trophy anglers) and lowest for consumptive-dominated angler populations (defined analogously). For brown trout, MSL_{opt} is highest for consumptive-dominated angler populations and lowest for generic-dominated angler populations (Fig. 7a). For all LHTs, MSL_{opt} values for all mixed angler populations fall within the ranges predicted for the three homogeneous angler populations.

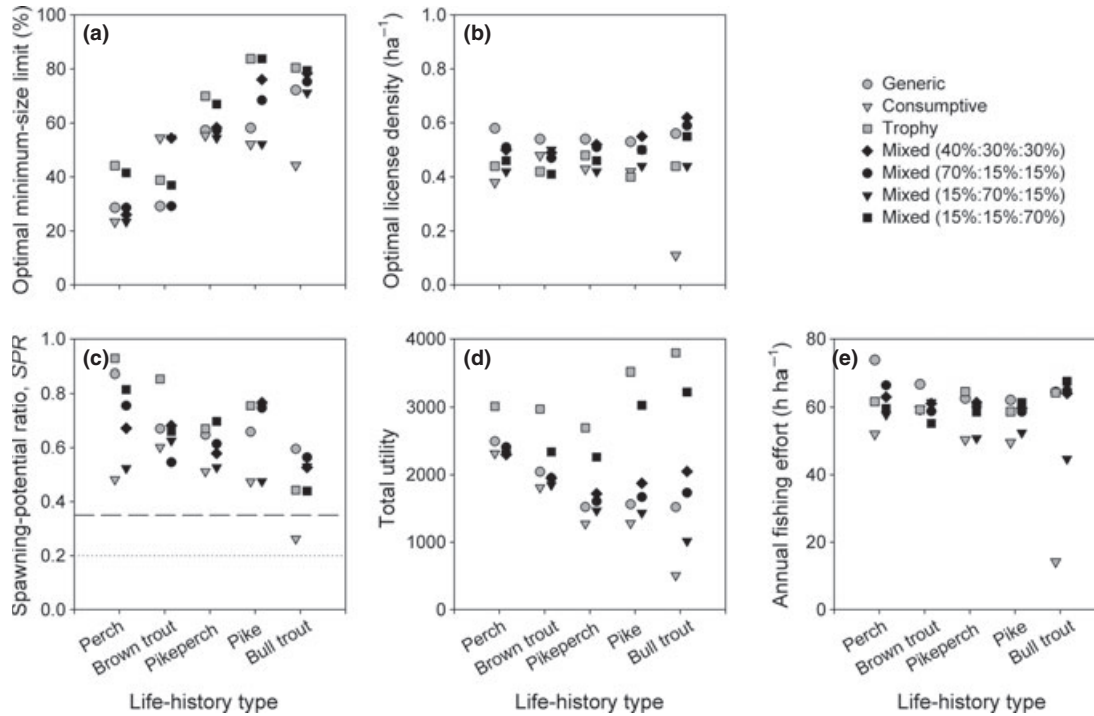


Figure 7 Predicted optimal regulations, and biological and social conditions under these regulations, for the five considered fish life-history types. (a) Optimal minimum-size limit (as a percentage of L_{\max}), (b) optimal licence density, (c) spawning-potential ratio SPR , (d) total utility and (e) annual fishing effort. Grey symbols correspond to homogeneous angler populations and black symbols to mixed angler populations (with percentages as shown for generic, consumptive and trophy anglers, respectively). In (c), a SPR below the dashed line indicates a risk of recruitment overfishing ($SPR < 0.35$) and a SPR below the dotted line indicates critical overfishing ($SPR < 0.20$).

Unlike MSL_{opt} , the optimal licence density $A_{L,\text{opt}}$ shows no general trend across LHTs, ranging from 0.4 to 0.6 ha^{-1} for most LHTs, but varying by 0.15–0.20 ha^{-1} among angler populations (Fig. 7b). One exception to this pattern occurs for bull trout, for which $A_{L,\text{opt}}$ for the consumptive angler population is very low (0.11 ha^{-1} ; Fig. 7b). Despite the general consistency of $A_{L,\text{opt}}$ across LHTs, the highest $A_{L,\text{opt}}$ for pikeperch, perch and brown trout occurs when these LHTs are targeted by a generic angler population, whereas for pike and bull trout, $A_{L,\text{opt}}$ is highest for the mixed (40%:30%:30%) angler population (Fig. 7b). On the other extreme, $A_{L,\text{opt}}$ for pike and brown trout is lowest when exploited by trophy-dominated angler populations, while for pikeperch, perch and bull trout, the consumptive-dominated angler populations have the lowest $A_{L,\text{opt}}$. Thus, unlike MSL_{opt} , $A_{L,\text{opt}}$ for mixed angler populations can exceed the range predicted for homogeneous angler populations.

Conditions under socially optimal regulations

Under socially optimal regulations (MSL_{opt} and $A_{L,\text{opt}}$), which maximized anglers' total utility, fish populations are generally not at risk of recruitment overfishing. The SPR remains above 0.35 across all LHTs and angler populations, except when bull trout is exploited by solely consumptive anglers (in which case SPR drops to 0.26; Fig. 7c). However, SPR under optimal regulations tends to be lower for LHTs that are generally more vulnerable, although it varies substantially among angler populations (Fig. 7c). Across LHTs, SPR is generally lowest for the solely consumptive angler population, except for brown trout, for which the mixed angler population skewed towards generic anglers has the lowest SPR (Fig. 7c). The trophy-dominated angler populations reduce the SPR of pikeperch, perch and brown trout the least under optimal regulations, while the mixed (40%:30%:30%) angler population had the least impact on

pike, and the generic angler population had the least impact on bull trout (Fig. 7c).

The maximum total utility gained by an angler population varies with LHT and angler population. Under socially optimal regulations, trophy-dominated angler populations gain the most total utility and consumptive-dominated angler populations the least, across LHTs (Fig. 7d). Total utility tends to be higher and vary less for less vulnerable LHTs than for more vulnerable LHTs (Fig. 7d), revealing distinct angler-type-specific LHT preferences. While total utility is high for all angler populations exploiting perch and brown trout, the total utility gained by trophy-dominated angler populations tends to increase with LHT vulnerability, being highest for bull trout and pike. By contrast, the total utility gained by generic-dominated and consumptive-dominated angler populations is highest for perch and brown trout and tends to decline with LTH vulnerability (Fig. 7d).

The annual fishing efforts that the modelled fisheries attract under optimal regulations are reasonable, when compared with the corresponding ranges reported for the different LHTs in the literature [e.g. yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*, Percidae) 3–109 h ha⁻¹ (Isermann *et al.* 2005), pike 38–91 h ha⁻¹ (Pierce *et al.* 1995) and walleye (*Sander vitreus*, Percidae) 29–112 h ha⁻¹ (Beard *et al.* 2003)], potentially being on the high side for some

LHTs [e.g. bull trout, 10–20 h ha⁻¹ (Post *et al.* 2003)]. Like $A_{L,opt}$, optimal fishing efforts show little variation among LHTs (45–70 h ha⁻¹ for most LHTs), but vary more markedly among angler populations (Fig. 7e). Consequently, optimal fishing effort shows little relationship with LHT vulnerability, only differing substantially (14.2 h ha⁻¹) for the consumptive angler population targeting bull trout. Across most LHTs, consumptive-dominated angler populations fish less than the other angler populations under optimal regulations, except for the trophy-dominated angler populations fishing for brown trout (Fig. 7e). Pike, perch and brown trout attract the most fishing effort from generic-dominated angler populations, whereas trophy-dominated angler populations fish more for pikeperch and bull trout (Fig. 7e). The optimal fishing efforts of mixed angler populations generally fall within the range predicted for the three homogeneous angler populations.

The relative participation of different angler types in the mixed angler populations shows clear trends in relation to LHTs under optimal regulations (Fig. 8). These trends occur despite differences among mixed angler populations in MSL_{opt} and $A_{L,opt}$, as well as in the conditions associated with optimal regulations (e.g. total utility and fishing effort). Regardless of LHT, generic anglers tend

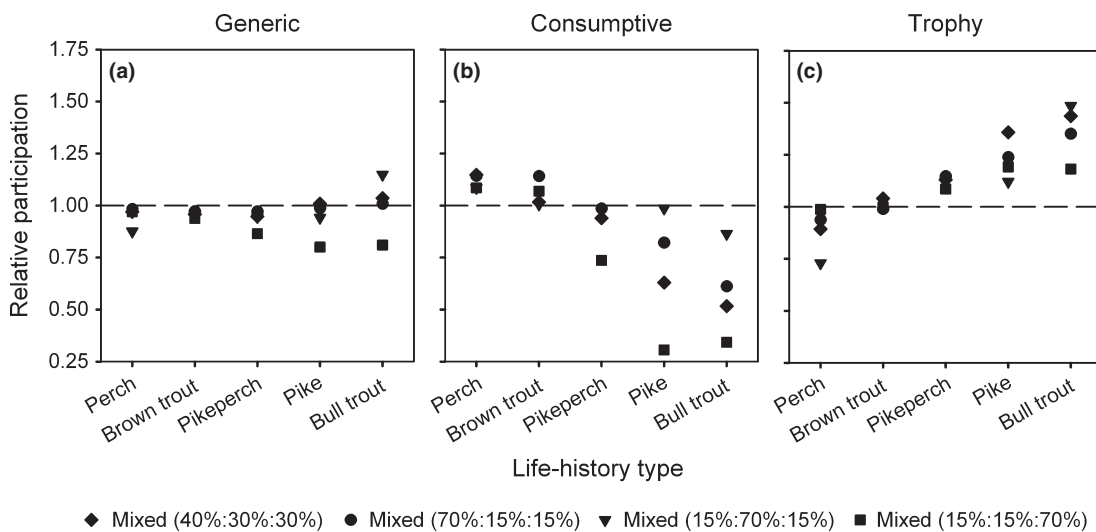


Figure 8 Relative participation, under optimal regulations, of the three considered angler types – (a) generic, (b) consumptive and (c) trophy anglers – in four mixed angler populations (indicated by differently shaped symbols) targeting one of the five considered fish life-history types. Here, relative participation is defined (Table A1, Equation 7c) as the ratio between the proportion of the fishing effort attributed to an angler type, and the corresponding proportion of that angler type in the mixed angler population.

to be underrepresented or proportionally represented in the total angling effort compared with their relative abundance in the mixed angler population (ca. 1; Fig. 8a). By contrast, the relative participation of consumptive anglers decreases (Fig. 8b), and the relative participation of trophy anglers increases (Fig. 8c), as LHT vulnerability increases. Thus, consumptive anglers tend to be overrepresented when fishing for perch and brown trout and underrepresented when fishing for pike, pikeperch and bull trout, whereas trophy anglers show the opposite pattern, being systematically attracted to the larger-bodied LHTs.

Sensitivity analyses

We find that MSL_{opt} is generally less sensitive to changes in life-history parameters than $A_{L,opt}$ (Tables S5 and S6) and that both are most sensitive to changes in age-at-maturation a_m , maximum growth increment h_{max} and instantaneous natural mortality rate m_{na} (note, however, that because the change in a_m is ± 1 year, the relative change in a_m is much greater than $\pm 10\%$). Sensitivity varies across combinations of LHT and angler type. The robustness of MSL_{opt} and $A_{L,opt}$ tends to decrease with LHT vulnerability (e.g. fewer relative changes exceeding 10% for perch compared with bull trout). The sensitivity of MSL_{opt} is relatively similar among angler types, whereas, across all LHTs, $A_{L,opt}$ is more sensitive to changes in life-history parameters when exploited by consumptive anglers, followed by trophy anglers and generic anglers.

Despite the sensitivity of optimal regulations to changes in life-history parameters, predictions about the biological sustainability of the fishery under optimal regulations are fairly robust (Table S7). For pike and pikeperch under optimal regulations, the SPR never drops below 0.35. For perch and brown trout under optimal regulations, consumptive anglers reduce SPR below 0.35 when age-at-maturation a_m is increased, but remains above 0.35 in all other cases. Similar to our main results, bull trout under optimal regulations cannot biologically sustain exploitation by consumptive anglers, except when the natural mortality rate m_{na} is decreased. Angling of bull trout by generic and trophy anglers also results in SPR values below 0.35 when a_m is increased, but remains above 0.35 in all other cases involving those angler types.

Discussion

Here, we have used a novel bioeconomic model developed by Johnston *et al.* (2010) to integrate fish life-history diversity, angler diversity and dynamics and input and output regulations, to evaluate the importance of jointly considering these components for determining optimal regulations and the vulnerability of different fish LHTs to recreational overfishing. Our study is the first to systematically investigate the response of different LHTs in an integrated framework using realistic assumptions about distinct angler types and their dynamic responses to changes in fishing quality. Therefore, our study addresses recent calls for more integrative analyses in recreational fisheries (Fenichel *et al.* 2012).

We find that LHTs are crucially important for determining the vulnerability of recreational fish populations to recruitment overfishing. LHTs differentially affect the fishing-participation decisions of angler types. We also find that because angler types differ in their effort dynamics and fishing practices, the angler population's composition influences the biological impacts of fishing on LHTs. These complex feedbacks between fish LHTs and angler populations result in large variations, across both LHTs and angler populations, in regulations that maximize social welfare. For example, more vulnerable LHTs in our model tend to have higher optimal maximum-size limits MSL_{opt} than less vulnerable LHTs, and as a second example, trophy anglers generally prefer the highest MSL_{opt} for a given LHT, while consumptive anglers prefer the lowest. Yet, despite differences in regulations that achieved optimal social yield OSY , our model predicts optimal regulations to result in biologically sustainable exploitation for all LHTs, except when bull trout are exploited solely by consumptive anglers. A management approach based on social objectives (e.g. OSY), rather than one based solely on biological objectives (e.g. maximum sustainable yield), can thus facilitate biologically sustainable exploitation. This is because biological objectives are inherently part of the social-welfare metric, through their effects on catch-related utility attributes.

Results of our study underscore the importance of considering all three components of a recreational fishery – LHTs, angler types and management regulations – in an integrated framework when predicting sustainable management strategies

for recreational fisheries. Simplification of any of these components may lead to erroneous predictions about fish-angler dynamics, which may result in socially suboptimal management and/or biological collapse.

LHT vulnerability to overfishing

Life-history traits are important for determining the vulnerability of fish populations to overfishing (Reynolds *et al.* 2001; Rose *et al.* 2001; Winemiller 2005). Thus, it is not surprising we have found differences in the susceptibility of LHTs to recreational exploitation. Numerous studies suggest that fish with certain life-history characteristics (i.e., late maturation, large maximum size, low population growth rate) are prone to experience greater population declines from fishing than others (Jennings *et al.* 1998; Reynolds *et al.* 2001; Dulvy *et al.* 2003); our model-based results are in general agreement with those empirical findings.

Specifically, we find that the naturally less abundant and large-bodied LHTs in our model (bull trout, pikeperch and pike) experience more severe population declines in response to recreational angling than the naturally more abundant and smaller-bodied LHTs (perch and brown trout) which can sustain greater fishing mortality. In fact, in agreement with warnings by Post *et al.* (2003) about the extreme susceptibility of bull trout to overfishing, we find that bull trout requires *MSLs* approaching complete catch-and-release fishing, to sustain even low fishing efforts. Thus, our results corroborate other studies (Jennings *et al.* 1998; Reynolds *et al.* 2001; Dulvy *et al.* 2003) suggesting that maximum body size is correlated with vulnerability to over-exploitation by fishing. Furthermore, our results show that indicators such as unexploited abundance, maximum recruitment and potentially also size-at-maturation (although this may simply be a correlate of maximum body size) could also be useful for identifying fish populations susceptible to overfishing, where information on those indicators is available. Moreover, our results suggest that age-at-maturation, fecundity and natural mortality are not likely to be good indicators of vulnerable LHTs, contrary to earlier suggestions (Jennings *et al.* 1998; Reynolds *et al.* 2001).

The differences among LHTs in vulnerability to overfishing relate in part to their overall productivity and their abilities to compensate for fishing-

related mortality through density-dependent gains in survivorship and/or reproductive success (Rose *et al.* 2001). This ability depends on species' life-history characteristics and on the strength and frequency of the density-dependent processes to which they are adapted (Rose *et al.* 2001; Winemiller 2005; Goodwin *et al.* 2006). For example, density-dependent survival during early life stages, which is common in many fish species (Myers *et al.* 1995), influences a population's ability to offset fishing mortality (Rose *et al.* 2001; Goodwin *et al.* 2006; Lorenzen 2008). At high population densities, even overcompensation can occur (e.g. in the form of a Ricker stock–recruitment relationship), owing to cannibalism, density-dependent disease transmission or spawning interference (Ricker 1954a; Hilborn and Stokes 2010). This means that with reductions in spawning, stock recruitment initially rises before declining (Hilborn and Stokes 2010). In our model, perch experiences large gains in recruitment because of overcompensation when egg production is reduced by fishing, ultimately resulting in an increase in population density. Overcompensation and cannibalism have been reported for this species (Ohlberger *et al.* 2011). Overcompensation for low fishing mortality also occurs for brown trout, but not when fishing effort, and thus mortality, increases under liberal *MSLs*. All other LHTs, even highly fecund pikeperch, are unable to replace, through compensatory population growth, individuals removed by fishing. In addition to this relatively low compensatory potential, the greater vulnerability of these naturally less abundant and larger-bodied LHTs to over-exploitation reflects the low maximum recruitment and population density (Table 1) of these top predators relative to perch and brown trout.

When considered alone, stock–recruitment relationships can underestimate population responses to fishing (Rochet *et al.* 2000; Rose *et al.* 2001; Rose 2005), even though they strongly influence the compensatory potential of exploited populations, because other density-dependent processes may co-determine those responses (Rose *et al.* 2001; Rose 2005; Lorenzen 2008). For example, density-dependent growth, which is included in our model, can alter a population's compensatory potential, because fish size influences fecundity, maturation and survival (Rose *et al.* 2001; Rose 2005; Lorenzen 2008). However, stock–recruitment relationships are likely more important than

density-dependent growth for determining the compensatory potential of heavily exploited populations (Lorenzen 2008). Indeed, the reductions in biomass and *SPR* we observe across LHTs in our model underscore that density-dependent changes in size-at-age cannot compensate fully for density losses caused by high fishing mortality. Density-dependent changes in fecundity, maturation and reproductive frequency and fisheries-induced evolutionary changes are not considered in our study, but could also be important for determining a fish population's response to exploitation (Rochet *et al.* 2000; Rose *et al.* 2001; Jørgensen *et al.* 2007). We therefore recommend that model extensions aim at including all salient processes influencing a population's compensatory potential.

It has been suggested that, in the absence of detailed information, qualitative 'rules of thumb' based on the life-history characteristics of exploited fish populations could aid fisheries managers in identifying those populations that are most vulnerable to overfishing (Reynolds *et al.* 2001; Winemiller 2005). For example, according to Winemiller and Rose's (1992) classification scheme, 'periodic strategists' (featuring high fecundity, late maturation and low juvenile survival) are predicted to exhibit the highest resilience to fishing, whereas 'equilibrium strategists' (with low fecundity, late maturation and high juvenile survival) should have lower resilience (Winemiller and Rose 1992; Winemiller 2005). Our results regarding the extreme vulnerability of bull trout, a salmonid likely classified as intermediate between periodic and equilibrium strategists (Winemiller and Rose 1992), and indeed its current status – 'vulnerable' in the IUCN's Red List (Gimenez Dixon 1996), and 'threatened' in coterminous USA (US Fish and Wildlife Service 2010), provide some support for these predictions, as do our findings related to pike, pikeperch, perch and brown trout, which are all broadly classified as periodic strategists (Rose *et al.* 2001; Vila-Gispert and Moreno-Amich 2002) and are all listed as species of least concern (Freyhof and Kottelat 2008a,b,c; Freyhof 2011).

However, our results caution that coarse life-history classifications, such as Winemiller and Rose's (1992), risk obscuring important life-history differences that exist within the broadly defined strategies (Rose *et al.* 2001): as we have shown here, these life-history differences can substantially influence vulnerability to over-exploitation. For example, despite four of our LHTs being classified as

periodic strategists (Vila-Gispert and Moreno-Amich 2002), we found pike and pikeperch to be much more vulnerable to recruitment overfishing than brown trout or perch. Indeed, pike and wall-eye, a congeneric of pikeperch, have been shown to be highly vulnerable to over-exploitation by recreational angling (e.g. Post *et al.* 2002). Declines in brown-trout stocks as a result of recreational fishing have also been documented (e.g. Almodóvar and Nicola 2004). Thus, in the absence of more detailed information, body size and life-history classification can provide directions for identifying LHTs vulnerable to overfishing. However, the present study and other work (Rose 2005; Coggins *et al.* 2007) suggest that, where possible, a quantitative modelling approach should be used to provide more robust predictions about the response of different LHTs to recreational angling.

Angler dynamics

When predicting the impacts of recreational fishing, one needs to consider not only fish life history but also the preferences and dynamics of anglers utilizing a fishery (Post *et al.* 2003; Johnston *et al.* 2010). Our results show that dynamic angler behaviour, regardless of angler type, does not alter the general trend in vulnerability to recruitment overfishing across LHTs our model predicts for constant consumptive fishing effort: with and without dynamic angler behaviour, bull trout are most vulnerable and perch are least vulnerable to fishing-induced *SPR* declines. Yet, the composition of the angler population and its effort dynamics are important for determining the magnitude of the impact angling has on LHTs in our model.

We find that differences in fishing practices (skill levels, propensity for voluntary catch-and-release, fish size targeted; Table S3) among angler types influence catch and harvest rates. Under liberal *MSLs*, consumptive anglers have greater impacts than other anglers types on less vulnerable LHTs in our model (perch and brown trout), because catch rates of these naturally abundant LHTs (e.g. maximum 11.3, 20.0, 15.0 harvestable-sized perch per day and 5.5, 8.6, 7.7 harvestable-sized brown trout per day for generic, consumptive and trophy anglers, respectively) are generally high, and consumptive anglers harvest all legal-sized fish caught (i.e., fish are not voluntarily released).

On the other hand, trophy anglers in our model, while also enjoying high catch rates, only harvest one fish every second day. Thus, a large disparity in harvest rates results among angler types. By contrast, catch rates of naturally less abundant LHTs, bull trout and pike in our model (with a maximum of 0.17, 0.19, 0.14 harvestable-sized bull trout per day and 0.55, 0.75, 0.80 harvestable-sized pike per day for generic, consumptive, and trophy anglers, respectively) are generally low and thus do not allow a similar disparity in harvest rates to develop. In our model, catch rates of harvestable fish often do not exceed even the conservative personal daily harvest limits set by trophy anglers, similar to reports for regulated daily bag limits (Cook *et al.* 2001). This implies that regulated daily bag limits may also have little effect, unless they are low enough to be achieved. Voluntary release by any angler type rarely occurs in our model and therefore is less important for determining the fishing impacts on the more vulnerable LHTs. Instead, the variation in the impact of anglers on those more vulnerable LHTs emerges through differences in angler behaviour and thus fishing effort.

In addition to harvesting practices, dynamic angler behaviour also determines angling impacts on LHTs. First, regardless of angler type, and despite substantial declines in fish abundances and catch rates under liberal harvest regulations, some anglers continued to be attracted to the modelled fishery. This has the potential to collapse fisheries (Post *et al.* 2002), demonstrating the importance of considering multi-attribute angler behaviour in recreational fisheries models (see also Johnston *et al.* 2010), rather than assuming that catch rates alone dictate the fishing decisions of anglers (e.g. Cox *et al.* 2003). Second, our results show how differences in behaviour among angler populations, because of angler-type-specific fishing preferences, alter angling impacts, in some cases leading to counterintuitive outcomes. For example, despite the tendency of trophy anglers to practice voluntary catch-and-release (Arlinghaus *et al.* 2007), across LHTs, populations of trophy anglers reduce the *SPR* more than other angler populations under moderate to restrictive *MSLs*. This reflects that more specialized anglers often prefer or tolerate restrictive harvest regulations (Aas *et al.* 2000; Oh and Ditton 2006; Arlinghaus *et al.* 2007) and respond to them differently than other anglers (Beard *et al.* 2003). Thus, under con-

strained harvest conditions, while the angling efforts by consumptive and generic anglers declined, in our models, effort by trophy anglers remains high, resulting in trophy anglers killing more fish than other angler types. In some cases, this mortality is sufficient to put populations at risk of recruitment overfishing (e.g. for bull trout with licence densities exceeding 0.7 ha^{-1}), even under total catch-and-release regulations.

Our results thus support claims that discard mortality can substantially impact the biological sustainability of some fisheries (Coggins *et al.* 2007). In combination, the fishing practices and fishing preferences of trophy anglers, counterintuitively, result in their having the greatest overall impact on bull trout among all studied angler populations. These findings highlight that, to prevent unexpected results, managers and researchers need to better understand the types of anglers utilizing a fishery, as well as the dynamics resulting from their differential practices and preferences, to achieve more robust predictions about recreational-fishing impacts. Where sufficient information is available, our modelling approach can be used to explore implications of management changes prior to their enactment, so as to help select practically implemented management changes based on their efficacy.

Optimal management

In our model, differences in LHT vulnerability and fish-angler interactions influence the regulations that maximize an angler population's total utility, measured in terms of *OSY*. For example, although the optimal density $A_{L, \text{opt}}$ of licences does not show a general trend with LHT vulnerability, MSL_{opt} has a strong tendency to increase with LHT vulnerability (with MSL_{opt} being generally most liberal for perch and most restrictive for bull trout).

Minimum-size limits are often set in recreational fisheries to be as low as possible (so as to maximize harvest) while allowing fish to spawn at least once (Johnson and Martinez 1995; Diana and Smith 2008). This tactic, however, may not be appropriate for all species. Whereas low *MSLs* may be suitable for perch, *MSLs* for pike – set at, for example, 46–76 cm in North America (Paukert *et al.* 2001) – are often below, or at the lower margin of, the range of MSL_{opt} predicted by our model (61–98 cm). Our findings thus suggest that species-specific considerations when setting *MSLs* could gen-

erate greater social benefits from a fishery, supporting concerns that 'one size fits all' policies may erode ecological and social resilience (Carpenter and Brock 2004). The increase in MSL_{opt} with vulnerability suggests that unexploited abundance, maximum recruitment, maximum body size and potentially also size-at-maturation (if known) can aid managers in setting more socially advantageous $MSLs$, because of the correlation of those indicators with vulnerability.

Accounting not only for LHTs but also angler diversity, however, is crucially important when establishing management regulations (Radomski *et al.* 2001; Johnston *et al.* 2010). In agreement with findings that more specialized anglers are more tolerant of restrictive harvest regulations (Aas *et al.* 2000; Oh and Ditton 2006), MSL_{opt} in our model, as a general rule, tends to be lowest for consumptive-dominated angler populations and highest for trophy-dominated angler populations. However, in the case of brown trout, consumptive-dominated angler populations have the highest MSL_{opt} , whereas generic-dominated angler populations have the lowest. The reason for this finding is that the greater harvest orientation and skill level of consumptive anglers relative to generic anglers require a higher MSL to maintain a sustainable fishery for consumptive anglers. On the other hand, the less-consumptive generic anglers can fish with high effort under the more liberal harvest regulations they preferred, because of the relatively productive nature of brown trout.

Angler population composition is also important for determining the optimal density $A_{L,opt}$ of licences, including subtle interactions with LHT differences. For example, we find that the generic angler population exhibit the highest $A_{L,opt}$ when LHT vulnerability is low, whereas mixed angler populations have an even higher $A_{L,opt}$ when LHT vulnerability is high (as it is, e.g., for pike and bull trout). This result highlights the importance of considering the complex interplay among angler types within an angler population.

More broadly, our findings support suggestions that managing for diverse angling opportunities could better conserve fish populations and increase the social welfare provided by a fishery (e.g. Aas *et al.* 2000; Carpenter and Brock 2004; Johnston *et al.* 2010). Given that angler types generally display consistent preferences for optimal regulations, some knowledge of the angler population could assist managers with meeting this challenge. How-

ever, as our previously discussed results underscore, management decisions should be based on both the life history of an exploited fish population and the diversity of interests in the corresponding angler population (e.g. Diana and Smith 2008).

Of relevance for managers faced with the challenge of maximizing angler satisfaction and participation while maintaining a viable fishery (Radomski *et al.* 2001; Cox and Walters 2002; Peterson and Evans 2003) is our promising result that adopting a socially optimal approach (based on OSY) to recreational fisheries management achieves both objectives. Specifically, SPR in our model is maintained above 0.35 except for bull trout, a LHT that because of its extreme vulnerability to overfishing cannot biologically sustain a satisfied solely consumptive angler population under optimal regulations. In most cases, however, managing for OSY is more likely to achieve management objectives and result in lower fishing mortality than managing for maximum sustainable yield (Radomski *et al.* 2001), because a viable recreational fishery provides social and cultural benefits that are not measured by yield alone (Roedel 1975; Malvestuto and Hudgins 1996). Notwithstanding these findings, given the decrease in SPR that occurs in our model with increased LHT vulnerability under optimal regulations, a precautionary approach should be adopted when setting optimal regulations for naturally more vulnerable LHTs.

Emergent LHT preferences

A final key finding of this study is the emergent preferences of angler types for particular LHTs. For example, generic and consumptive angler populations tend to gain more total utility from less vulnerable LHTs than from more vulnerable LHTs, creating an emergent preference for the naturally more abundant and smaller-bodied LHTs. By contrast, the total utility of populations of trophy anglers tends to increase with LHT vulnerability, creating an emergent preference for the naturally less abundant and larger-bodied LHTs. These trends occur despite standardizing anglers' PWU baseline expectations for life-history differences in fish size and abundance. The social welfare provided by perch is high for all angler populations, because perch can maintain high relative catch rates even when fishing mortality is high under liberal $MSLs$. However, relatively low catch rates

and aversions to restrictive regulations made the more vulnerable LHTs (pike, pikeperch and bull trout) less attractive to consumptive or generic anglers. Trophy anglers, by contrast, prefer the naturally less abundant and larger-bodied bull trout and pike, because of their tolerance for restrictive regulations and their ability to catch relatively larger fish. The greater average and maximum relative size achieved for these LHTs likely results from stronger density dependence in growth and reduced truncation of the size distribution under restrictive *MSLs*. These novel findings suggest that the intrinsic life history of fish populations strongly influence which species or LHTs an angler type prefers. Indeed, in support of these results, Beardmore *et al.* (2011) found that more specialized, trophy-oriented German anglers were particularly attracted to larger-bodied species such as pike.

One implication of angler-type-specific LHT preferences is that the socially optimal management of a given recreational fishery may systematically exclude or attract certain angler types. For example, as LHT vulnerability increases, the relative participation of trophy anglers in our modelled mixed angler populations under optimal regulations also increases, and the reverse is true for consumptive anglers. These trends occur despite large differences in the optimal regulations underlying them. Therefore, depending on the social welfare measure used (Johnston *et al.* 2010), managing for OSY may come at a greater cost to certain angler types than others, which might lead to conflict among different segments of the angling community (Loomis and Ditton 1993; Arlinghaus *et al.* 2007). However, our modelling approach can be used by managers to identify likely conflict situations, and it provides them with a tool for transparently illustrating the benefits of regulation changes to the angler community as a whole. Furthermore, understanding which angler types will be attracted to specific LHTs will aid managers in setting appropriate socially optimal regulations.

Limitations and extensions

While the present study provides important insights into the interplay between fish populations, anglers and management measures, there are several limitations to our work, and resultant opportunities for extensions, that deserve to be highlighted. A first set is related to angler dynam-

ics, while a second set is related to fish dynamics; we now discuss these in turn.

First, our model constitutes a single-species, single-lake model omitting a regional perspective and multispecies interactions. Movement among various fisheries in a landscape (Post *et al.* 2008; Hunt *et al.* 2011; Post and Parkinson 2012), or a multi-species fishery (Worm *et al.* 2009), could affect the outcomes presented here. Extending our model to include multispecies interactions or a spatial component of lakes connected by mobile anglers would be interesting avenues to pursue in future studies.

Second, by standardizing the baseline expectations of angler types for LHT differences in body size and abundance, we have assumed that angler-type-specific PWU functions are identical across LHTs. However, although B. Beardmore, W. Haider, L.M. Hunt and R. Arlinghaus (unpublished data) found no significant differences in the relative preferences (e.g., standardized for catch rate and body size) of different German angler types for several species, it is still possible that the preferences of angler types may differ among species. Species-specific or even regional differences in the utility functions of anglers could result in lower fishing effort under optimal regulations than those predicted in this study.

Third, we did not include inverse density-dependent catchability in our model. The existence of such a relationship could strongly affect the threshold effort that leads to severe overfishing (Hunt *et al.* 2011). Thus, the omission of density-dependent catchability may make our model results overly optimistic, by underestimating the risk of collapse for some species.

Fourth, other harvest regulations, such as daily bag limits, could potentially alter our study's predictions, by minimizing the disparity in fishing mortality imposed by different angler types. For example, our model may overemphasize the fishing impacts of consumptive anglers relative to other angler types, because the former are assumed to harvest all fish caught. However, this bias would only be relevant for the less vulnerable LHTs examined here, for which catch rates greatly exceed voluntary-release thresholds, and moreover, only when regulated bag limits are set low enough that catch rates can exceed them with sufficient frequency. For example, in many places anglers are allowed to harvest as many as 25 yellow perch per day, or even more (Isermann *et al.* 2007), while the maximum achieved catch rate in

our model was 21.5 fish per day. For the more vulnerable LHTs we have examined, angler types rarely manage to catch even the most conservative daily quota (personal or regulated), resulting in harvest rates that are similar among angler types. Thus, as suggested in the literature (Cook *et al.* 2001), anglers are often not limited by daily bag limits: they harvest less fish than their daily bag limit would allow, either because they voluntarily choose not to harvest so many fish or because they do not manage to catch their daily limit. Nevertheless, the inclusion of daily bag limits might still alter the effort dynamics of anglers in our model, either through regulation aversions (Beard *et al.* 2003) or through resultant changes in fish population dynamics, which would therefore make an interesting extension for future research.

Other limitations of our model relate to fish dynamics. First, our results are based on the parameterization of a single-species system without any consideration of food-web interactions. Thus, for more realistic predictions about a specific fishery, the model will need to be calibrated appropriately. However, the purpose of this work has been to encompass a range of LHTs experienced by anglers, rather than to model any one specific population.

Second, as previously highlighted, some realistic density-dependent processes resulting from phenotypic plasticity (e.g. in maturation), which could be important for determining a LHT's compensatory (Rochet *et al.* 2000) potential and thus its predicted vulnerability, were not included in our model. In addition, we did not account for any harvest-induced evolutionary changes in life-history traits (e.g., Jørgensen *et al.* 2007) that might influence a species' response to fishing, for example, through changes in its reproductive ecology (Enberg *et al.* 2010). Plastic or genetic changes that result in earlier maturation at smaller sizes, for example, could allow a fish population to withstand higher fishing pressure, especially the larger-bodied, more vulnerable LHTs. Such changes would often also influence angler behaviour, by altering the perceived quality of a fishery, for example, if mean fish size declined.

Third, unaccounted changes in demographic structure, through juvenescence or size-dependent maternal effects, could alter reproductive potential and population stability (Anderson *et al.* 2008; Arlinghaus *et al.* 2010; Hsieh *et al.* 2010). Size-dependent maternal effects would likely have more

of an influence on LHTs that have lower proportions of adults in the population and fewer first-time spawners in the mature population (e.g. bull trout; Table 1), as well as on the more vulnerable LHTs. The impacts reported here are likely to be conservative if large females are preferentially removed by fishing and size-dependent maternal effects impair recruitment at low fish population abundance.

The influences of phenotypic plasticity, fisheries-induced evolution and maternal effects on predictions about optimal regulations would be fascinating to examine, but were beyond the scope of the present study. Future research should also investigate alternative regulations, for example, slots-length limits designed to protect large spawners (Arlinghaus *et al.* 2010).

Conclusions

Our study, to our knowledge, is the first to use an integrated modelling approach, based on theories from ecology, economics and human-dimensions research, to systematically investigate how fish life-history and angler types influence the vulnerability of fish populations to recreational overfishing and the behaviour of angler populations exploiting them. Using such an approach has revealed some unexpected results and some general patterns that could not have been exposed if the interplay between fish populations, anglers and management measures had not been considered. We have also shown that socially optimal management generally achieves both social and biological sustainability, a result that can be taken as encouraging for recreational fisheries managers. In combination, our results demonstrate the benefit of integrating the traditionally separate fields of fisheries ecology and social sciences to facilitate the sustainable management of recreational fisheries. In this context, our results caution that managing all species according to the same rationale may result in the loss of social welfare and put fish populations at risk of over-exploitation.

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Appendix

Table A1 Model equations.

Equation	Description	
Individual-angler utility		
1	$U_{ij} = U_{0j} + U_{cj} + U_{sj} + U_{xj} + U_{aj} + U_{lj} + U_{oj}$	Conditional indirect utility gained by an angler of type j from choosing to fish (where U_{0j} is the basic utility gained from fishing, U_{cj} is the PWU of daily catch, U_{sj} is the PWU of average size of fish caught annually, U_{xj} is the PWU of maximum size of fish caught annually, U_{aj} is the PWU of angler crowding, U_{lj} is the PWU of minimum-size limit, and U_{oj} is the PWU of annual licence cost)
Angler-effort dynamics		
2a	$p_{tj} = \exp(\hat{U}_{tj}) / [\exp(U_n) + \exp(\hat{U}_{tj})]$	Probability an angler of type j chooses to fish, over the alternative to not fish (where \hat{U}_{tj} applies to the previous year and U_n is the utility gained from not fishing)
2b	$p_{Fj} = (1 - \phi)p_{tj} + \phi\hat{p}_{Fj}$	Realized probability an angler of type j chooses to fish (where \hat{p}_{Fj} applies to the previous year)
2c	$D_j = p_{Fj}D_{\max}$	Number of days an angler of type j chooses to fish during a year
2d	$A_{Lj} = \rho_j A_L$	Density of licensed anglers of type j
2e	$E_j = D_j A_{Lj} \bar{E}$	Total annual realized fishing effort density by anglers of type j
2f	$e_{jt} = \begin{cases} E_j / S_F & \text{if } t \leq S_F \\ 0 & \text{if } t > S_F \end{cases}$	Instantaneous fishing effort density at time t by anglers of type j
Age-structured fish population		
3a	$N_{\text{total}} = \sum_{a=0}^{a_{\max}} N_a$	Total fish population density
3b	$B_{\text{total}} = \sum_{a=0}^{a_{\max}} N_a W_a$	Total fish biomass density
Growth		
4a	$h = h_{\max} / [1 + B_{\text{total}} / B_{1/2}]$	Maximum annual growth of a fish dependent on the total fish biomass density at the beginning of the year

Table A1 Continued.

Equation	Description
4b $p_a = \begin{cases} 1 - \frac{G}{3+G}(1 + L_{a0}/h) & \text{if } a \geq a_m - 1 \\ 1 & \text{if } a < a_m - 1 \end{cases}$	Proportion of the growing season during which a fish of age a allocates energy to growth
4c $g_{at} = \begin{cases} h/S_G & \text{if } t \leq p_a S_G \\ 0 & \text{if } t > p_a S_G \end{cases}$	Instantaneous growth rate in length of a fish of age a at time t
4d $L_{at} = L_{a0} + g_{at}t$	Length of a fish of age a at time t
4e $W_{at} = wL_{at}^l$	Mass of a fish of age a at time t
Reproduction	
5a $R_a = \begin{cases} \delta W_{at} GSI / W_e & \text{if } a \geq a_m \\ 0 & \text{if } a < a_m \end{cases}$	Annual fecundity of a female of age a given their mass at time t_R
5b $b = \Phi \sum_{a=a_m}^{a_{\max}} R_a N_a$	Annual population fecundity density (pulsed at the beginning of the year)
5c Beverton–Holt: $s_0 = \alpha_{BH} / (1 + \beta_{BH} b)$ Ricker: $s_0 = \alpha_R \exp(-\beta_R b)$	Survival probability from spawning to post-hatch of fish of age 0 (applied at the beginning of the year)
5d $N_0 = s_0 b$	Density of fish of age 0 at the beginning of the year
Mortality	
6a $v_{ajt} = [1 + \exp(-\gamma(L_{at} - L_{50j}))]^{-1}$	Proportion of fish of age a that are vulnerable to capture by anglers of type j at time t
6b $L_{50} = z_j L_{\max} + L_{\text{shift}}$	Size at 50% vulnerability to capture
6c $c_{ajt} = q_j e_{jt} v_{ajt}$	Instantaneous per capita catch rate of fish of age a by anglers of type j at time t
6d $H_{ajt} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } L_{at} \geq MSL \\ f_{hj} & \text{if } L_{at} < MSL \end{cases}$	Proportion of fish of age a that are harvestable by anglers of type j at time t
6e $C_{jt} = \sum_{a=0}^{a_{\max}} c_{ajt} N_a H_{ajt}$	Instantaneous catch rate of fish that are harvestable by anglers of type j at time t
6f $C_{+jt} = \min(C_{jt}, c_{\max} e_{jt} V)$	Instantaneous harvest rate by anglers of type j at time t
6g $f_{+jt} = C_{+jt} / C_{jt} + f_{hj} (C_{jt} - C_{+jt}) / C_{jt}$	Proportion of harvestable fish killed by anglers of type j at time t
6h $m_{ajt} = f_{+jt} c_{ajt} H_{ajt} + f_{hj} c_{ajt} (1 - H_{ajt})$	Instantaneous per capita fishing mortality rate of fish of age a from anglers of type j at time t
6i $d_{at} = m_{na} + \sum_j m_{ajt}$	Instantaneous per capita mortality rate of fish of age a at time t
6j $dN_a / dt = -d_{at} N_a$	Instantaneous rate of change in the density of fish of age a at time t
Response variables	
7a $SPR = b_F / b_U$	Spawning-potential ratio (= annual population fecundity density b_F under fishing relative to annual population fecundity density b_U under unfished conditions)
7b $U_{TU} = \sum_j U_{ij} D_j A_{Lj}$	Annual total utility
7c $P_{Rj} = \frac{E_j / \sum_l E_l}{p_j}$	Relative participation of anglers of type j in a mixed angler population

Variables are listed in Table A2. Parameter values and their sources for the fish life-history types studied here are listed in Table S1. Equations for part-worth-utility (PWU) functions are given in Table S2. Parameters describing angler types and PWU functions are specified in Table S3.

Table A2 Model variables. Bioeconomic model equations are listed in Table A1, and parameters for life-history types are listed in Table S1. Angler types and their dynamics are specified in Tables S2 and S3.

Symbol	Description (unit, where applicable)	Value or range
Index variables		
t	Time within the year (years)	0.0–1.0
a	Age class (years)	0– a_{\max}
j	Angler type	generic; consumptive; trophy

Table A2 Continued.

Symbol	Description (unit, where applicable)	Value or range
Angling regulations		
MSL	Minimum-size limit (cm)	$0-L_{max}$
A_L	Licence density (= number of licences issued for a given area) (ha^{-1})	$0-1$
Age-structured fish population		
N_a	Density of fish of age a (ha^{-1})	$0-\infty$
L_{a0}	Length of fish of age a at the beginning of a year (cm)	$0-L_{max}$

Supporting Information

Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article:

Table S1. Parameters, with their units, values, and sources, for the five modelled fish life-history types (LHTs).

Table S2. Equations for angler part-worth-utility (PWU) functions, standardized for fish life-history type.

Table S3. Parameters, with their units and values, for the three modelled angler types (generic, consumptive, and trophy anglers).

Table S4. LHT-dependent baseline values for fishery attributes used in part-worth-utility functions.

Table S5. Sensitivities of predicted optimal minimum-size limits to changes ($\pm 10\%$) in life-history parameters of different fish life-history types exploited by homogeneous populations of generic, consumptive, or trophy anglers.

Table S6. Sensitivities of predicted optimal license densities to changes ($\pm 10\%$) in life-history parameters of different fish life-history types exploited by homogeneous populations of generic, consumptive, and trophy anglers.

Table S7. Predicted spawning-potential ratios (SPRs) under optimal minimum-size limits and license densities resulting from changes ($\pm 10\%$) in life-history parameters of different fish life-history types exploited by homogeneous populations of generic, consumptive, and trophy anglers.

Data S1. Parameterization of density-dependent somatic growth and stock-recruitment relationships.

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