Behavioural responses to human-induced change: Why fishing should not be ignored

Beatriz Diaz Pauli, Andrew Sih

To cite this version:


HAL Id: hal-01509714
https://hal.sorbonne-universite.fr/hal-01509714
Submitted on 18 Apr 2017

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L’archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire HAL, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d’enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License
Behavioral responses to human-induced change: Why fishing should not be ignored

Abstract
Change in behavior is usually the first response to human-induced environmental change and key for determining whether a species adapts to environmental change or becomes maladapted. Thus, understanding the behavioral response to human-induced changes is crucial in the interplay between ecology, evolution, conservation and management. Yet the behavioral response to fishing activities has been largely ignored. We review studies contrasting how fish behavior affects catch by passive (e.g., long lines, angling) versus active gears (e.g., trawls, seines). We show that fishing not only targets certain behaviors, but it leads to a multitrait response including behavioral, physiological and life-history traits with population, community and ecosystem consequences. Fisheries-driven change (plastic or evolutionary) of fish behavior and its correlated traits could impact fish populations well beyond their survival per se, affecting predation risk, foraging behaviour, dispersal, parental care, etc., and hence numerous ecological issues including population dynamics and trophic cascades. In particular, we discuss implications of behavioral responses to fishing for fisheries management and population resilience. More research on these topics, however, is needed to draw general conclusions, and we suggest fruitful directions for future studies.

1 | INTRODUCTION

Aquatic ecosystems have always experienced environmental change, but human activities have greatly accelerated such change (Halpern et al., 2008). Human activities have led to decline and even extinction of many populations. Increasing evidence shows that populations are responding to the novel human-induced selection by modifying ecologically relevant traits (Hendry, Farrugia, & Kinnison, 2008). In recent years, it has become evident that variation in behavioral responses is a key for explaining whether species adjust to the environmental change, thrive or succumb (Sih, Ferrari, & Harris, 2011). Behavioral responses to human disturbance range from initial plastic responses to evolutionary ones and have been reviewed elsewhere (Candolin & Wong, 2012; Sih et al., 2011; Smith & Blumstein, 2013; Tuomainen & Candolin, 2011; Wong & Candolin, 2015).

Notably, however, behavioral effects of harvesting, particularly fishing, have been largely ignored (but see Miller, 1957; Heino & Godø, 2002; Uusi-Heikkilä, Wolter, Klefoth, & Arlinghaus, 2008; Smith & Blumstein, 2013 for brief discussions) and are only recently getting more attention (Arlinghaus et al., 2016). This is unfortunate, because fishing is a critically important source of mortality in most fish stocks. Life-history traits are believed to be the main target of fishing selection (reviewed by Heino, Diaz Pauli, & Dieckmann, 2015), but harvesting is likely also driving the evolution of fish behavior (Arlinghaus et al., 2016; Uusi-Heikkilä et al., 2008). Studying the behavioral response to fishing and its correlated physiological and life-history traits allows us to better understand the implications that fishing-induced changes have for fish populations and management.

Fishing-induced selection affects any trait that regulates an individual's vulnerability to fishing (i.e., survival). Fishing could lead to plastic changes in behavior through developmental plasticity and learning, or evolutionary changes if the individual differences in behavior linked to vulnerability are heritable. Fishing can also alter behavior through effects of fishing-induced changes in life history and correlated behaviors. Fishing-induced change can concur, affect or counteract changes due to natural selection and other selective forces, and their interplay ultimately determines the direction and intensity of the evolutionary change (e.g., Edeline et al., 2007). The resulting phenotype change (plastic or evolutionary) may impact populations, communities and ecosystem (Arlinghaus et al., 2016; Palkovacs, Kinnison, Correa, Dalton, & Hendry, 2012). Despite the awareness decades ago that fishing could select for certain behaviors (Miller, 1957), formally studying behavioural selectivity of fishing and its ecological and evolutionary consequences has been, until recently, scarce.

Here, we (i) compile studies to present how different fishing methods (active and passive gears) are selective towards behavioural traits and (ii) discuss the population, community and ecosystem level consequences of fishing-induced changes in behaviour. We complement Arlinghaus et al.'s (2016) review on effects of passive fishing gear on behaviour by considering the effect of active gears such as trawls and the indirect effects of fishing on behaviour when it is not the target trait. Moreover, we compare the ecological consequences of a multitrait (behavioural, physiological and life history) response to fishing versus the consequences expected when only life-history traits are taken into account. Future experiments are encouraged to study the behavioural and multitrait response to active gears to obtain a more complete view of the effect of fishing on the exploited populations.
FISHING-INDUCED SELECTION ON BEHAVIOUR

Passive gears rely on fish diel and seasonal movements, and feeding behaviours (when bait is present) during the capture process. Passive fishing gears involve the capture of fishes by entanglement, entrapment or angling devices and hence rely on the target species to move towards the gear, while active fishing gears are moved by humans or machines in pursuit of the target (Gabriel, Lange, Dahm, & Wendt, 2005). Active gears have been thought to catch all individuals present in front of the trawl or seine mouth (Walsh, 1992). However, both trawls and seines allow individuals to escape the gear, either avoiding the gear, finding escape routes or during slipping of the seine (i.e., release of part of the catch over the headline right before the fish is drawn aboard; Engås & Godø, 1989; Misund, 1990; Kelleher, 2005; Heino et al., 2011). Fishing selection is well known to have direct and indirect effects on life-history traits (Heino et al., 2015). For example, size-selective fishing can directly favour slow growth (e.g., Conover & Munch, 2002) or early maturation resulting in indirect lower investment in growth during adulthood (Heino et al., 2015). Similarly, we expect fishing to be both directly and indirectly selective towards behavioural traits resulting in a multitrait response and that passive and active gears would affect behaviour differently. Thus, we review these separately in the following sections.

FISHING DIRECT SELECTION ON BEHAVIOUR

3.1 Passive gear

Early studies showed population and individual differences in angling vulnerability of several species (see Miller, 1957 for an early review). Arlinghaus et al.’s (2016) recent review concluded that boldness seems to be the behavioural trait correlated to angling vulnerability due to both selection and plasticity; for instance, bold individuals are angled more often in carp (Cyprinus carpio; Klefoth, Skov, Krause, & Arlinghaus, 2012), largemouth bass, smallmouth bass (Suski & Philipp, 2004) and brown trout (Härkönen, Hyvärinen, Paappanen, Vainikka, & Tierney, 2014). Male largemouth (Micropterus salmoides) and smallmouth bass (M. dolomieu) were more vulnerable to angling while guarding their nests (Suski & Philipp, 2004), and although boldness was not directly tested for vulnerability, guarding males were more aggressive, which is commonly associated with boldness (Sih, Bell, & Johnson, 2004). Vulnerability to angling in brown trout (Salmo trutta) was associated with exploration, which is also related to boldness (Härkönen et al., 2014). Along these lines, numerous studies have associated plastic changes due to learning or reduced willingness to forage with a decrease in vulnerability after being hooked by angling (reviewed in Miller, 1957 and Arlinghaus et al., 2016). Angling’s higher selectivity towards bold individuals results in a skewed distribution towards shy individuals in populations exposed to intense fishing pressure (a timidity syndrome; Arlinghaus et al., 2016), as seen for instance in the wild for painted comber (Serranus scriba), amago salmon (Onchorhyncus masou ishikawaee) and some coral reef fishes (Alós, Palmer, Trías, Diaz-Gil, & Arlinghaus, 2015; Bergseth, Williamson, Frisch, & Russ, 2016; Januchowski-Hartley, Graham, Cinner, & Russ, 2015; Tsuboi, Morita, Klefoth, Endou, & Arlinghaus, 2016).

Although the timidity syndrome seems intuitive, angled bluegill sunfish (Lepomis macrochirus) were shy and not bold; this discrepancy could be explained because angling took place close to refuge areas where shy individuals are more common (Wilson et al., 2011). Also, angling vulnerability in perch (Perca fluviatilis) was not related to boldness (Kekäläinen, Podgorniak, P 오늘하, Hyvärinen, & Vainikka, 2014; Vainikka, Tammela, & Hyvärinen, 2016), but rather associated with exploration (Härkönen, Hyvärinen, Niemelä, & Vainikka, 2015). These differences in results show that the link between behaviour and vulnerability to angling is related to the ecology of each species, and also to differences in experimental set-ups used. Angling might result in an increase in boldness in the population when vulnerability to passive gears is independent of size and other traits (Jørgensen & Holt, 2013), but this is not common, and hence, the general pattern might be an increase in timidity in the population which could be due to either a plastic or evolutionary change (Arlinghaus et al., 2016; Table 1, Figure 1c).

Vulnerability to gill nets and pots is associated with high activity, boldness or short habituation times in rainbow trout (Onchorhyncus mykiss; Biro & Post, 2008) and pumpkinseed sunfish (Lepomis gibbosus; Wilson, Coleman, Clark, & Biederman, 1993), in experimental ponds. In guppies (Poecilia reticulata), vulnerability to being caught by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fishing method</th>
<th>Fishing type</th>
<th>Selected behavioural type</th>
<th>References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pots and traps</td>
<td>Passive</td>
<td>Bold; Exploration and willingness forage</td>
<td>Diaz Pauli et al. (2015), Ovegård et al. (2012) and Wilson et al. (1993)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gill nets</td>
<td>Passive</td>
<td>Bold, Active; Willingness forage</td>
<td>Biro and Post (2008), Olsen et al. (2012) and Ovegård et al. (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seine</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>Probably shy, but not conclusive</td>
<td>Moav and Wohlfarth (1970) and Wilson et al. (1993, 2011)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Italics refer to behaviours affecting encounter rate, not catchability.

*Probably only applicable for species with tendency to escape downwards; e.g., for cod, yellow flounder.
Individuals that were trapped more often relative to non-exploratory fish. Behaviour that was associated with the trapping event; more exploratory and consistent horizontal movements; these behaviours might be associated with being bold. Quinn, Hodgson, Flynn, Hilborn, and Rogers (2007) showed that angling and gillnetting are selective towards early migration in salmon (Oncorhynchus nerka). Boldness is often linked to dispersal and migration in fish, as bold individuals move longer distances (Fraser, Gilliam, Daley, Le, & Skalski, 2001) and are more prone to migrate (Chapman et al., 2011). Ovegård, Berndt, and Lunneryd (2012) found that baited gears (traps and hooks) captured lower condition cod, relative to gill nets. Although they did not directly assess fishing selectivity towards behaviour, they concluded that pots and hooks might selectively capture more bold individuals, which actively make the choice of entering traps; while gill net capture depends on higher activity in individuals in better condition, it is independent of the active choice of bold individuals to approach the gear (Ovegård et al., 2012). Overall, Ovegård et al. (2012) and Diaz Pauli et al. (2015) suggest that vulnerability towards a pot or trap requires boldness and willingness to explore and enter the gear rather than just high activity, which is related to gear encounter (Table 1, Figure 1c). Whether exploration measured in laboratory conditions correlates with active decisions to enter a pot in natural conditions remains to be tested.

3.2 Active gears

The first response towards a trawl is diving as seen in cod from video recordings and tracking devices in natural conditions (Handegard & Tjøstheim, 2005; Rosen, Engås, Fernö, & Jargensen, 2012), and after experiencing the trawl once, vulnerability to trawling is reduced by leaving the area and avoiding the vessel (Pyanov, 1993). More details of fish behaviour are provided by small-scale experiments. Fish initially avoid penetrating meshes, but the probability of passing through a mesh increased with prior experience (Brown & Warburton, 1999a; Özbilgin & Glass, 2004). However, escape latency substantially differs among species and depends on the location of the escape route (Hunter & Wisby, 1964). The species-specific escape route is also evident in natural conditions; haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus) tend to escape a trawl over the headline, while cod seem to actively seek openings at the bottom (Engås & Goda, 1989; Walsh, 1992). Little is known, however, about behavioural differences between escapees and captured individuals. Sociability seems to play a role, as groups of fish were better at escaping than pairs or singletons (Brown & Warburton, 1999b; Hunter & Wisby, 1964) and explorer/bold individuals were better at escaping than nonexplorers/shy ones (Brown & Warburton, 1999a; Diaz Pauli et al., 2015). Swimming and metabolic performance might also be associated with vulnerability to trawl. In minnows (Phoxinus phoxinus), individuals with higher anaerobic capacity and burst swimming performance were less vulnerable to a trawl (Kilien, Nati, & Suski, 2015). These last studies were carried out in small experimental settings; thus, their applicability to more natural situations is unclear.

Exceptions that did look at differences in behaviour between captured fish and escapees in natural settings are Underwood, Winger, Fernö, and Engås’s (2015) study on yellowtail flounder, Limanda ferruginea, in Newfoundland and Kim and Wardle’s (2003) study on haddock, saithe, mackerel, cod and flatfish. Yellowtail flounders exhibited three different behavioural responses to an approaching trawl resulting in different catchability. Individuals that swam along the bottom in front of the trawl or rose gradually from the bottom exhibited higher capture rates, while individuals swimming directly upwards were captured less. This behaviour selectivity probably explains why swimming upwards is the most common response in yellowtail flounders (Underwood et al., 2015). According to Kim and Wardle’s (2003) study, some individuals exhibited low variation in swimming speed, while others were characterized by large variations in velocity, showing a more erratic response. Kim and Wardle’s (2003) study suggests that an erratic response close to the gear would allow escaping the net when there are large mesh sizes. This agrees with Kilien et al.’s (2015) results for minnows in laboratory conditions. Trawl vulnerability seems to be associated with activity and swimming performance close to the gear. Individuals more likely to escape are those that swim close to the bottom with erratic movements (Table 1, Figure 1b).

Trawling might also lead to changes in habitat preference. Habitat-specific fishing for Icelandic cod also seems to lead to behavioural changes in the population (Arnason, Hernandez, & Kristinsson, 2009; Jakobsdottir et al., 2011). Trawl fishing pressure in shallow waters led...
to an increased abundance of individuals adapted to deep-waters, opposing natural selection that otherwise would balance shallow-water and deep-water specializations (Jokabhodhottu et al., 2011); such fishing selection selects against specific genotypes (Arnason et al., 2009). Along similar lines, Northeast Arctic cod has shown a long-term change towards more northern spawning habitats due to fishing mortality (Opdal & Jørgensen, 2015). Alós, Palmer, Linde-Medina, and Arlinghaus (2014) showed that trawled individuals from two coastal fishes (Diplodus annularis and Serranus scriba) were shorter, deeper-bodied and had smaller mouths than random. Hence, long and streamlined individuals should become more abundant in populations exposed to trawling, probably resulting also in more individuals with active swimming, higher swimming speeds and longer foraging searches (Alós et al., 2014).

Seining was originally considered to capture behavioural types nonselectively, but wild bluegill sunfish individuals seined from a lake were bolder than individuals captured by angling (Wilson et al., 2011). In contrast, pumpkinseed sunfish seined from an experimental pond were shyer relative to passively trapped individuals (Wilson et al., 1993). Moav and Wohlfarth (1970) concluded that vulnerability to being seined in carp was related to behavioural differences, more active individuals or those that tend to use the bottom of the ponds were less vulnerable to seining, but this idea was never directly tested.

4 | FISHING INDIRECT SELECTION ON BEHAVIOUR AND COMPLEX EFFECTS ON MULTIPLE TRAITS

Because behaviour is correlated with size and life-history traits, laboratory experiments involving positive size-selective fishing (e.g., selective removal of large individuals) induced widespread changes in behaviour: more social and timid guppies (Diaz Pauli et al., 2014), less exploratory individuals in zebra fish (Danio rerio; Uusi-Heikkilä et al., 2015) and lower consumption rates and reduced willingness to forage (Menidia menidia; Walsh, Munch, Chiba, & Conover, 2006), compared to populations where small individuals were fished out (Figure 1d). These behavioural traits are associated with a slow pace of life (Réale et al., 2010), which conflicts with the usual notion of a short lifespan being associated with a fast pace of life and the expectation that fishing leads to boldness by devaluing the future (Figure 2a; Heino et al., 2013). Conflicting selection pressures and trait correlations that contradict the simple, pace of life view have also been observed in non-fishing contexts (Réale et al., 2010). Villegas-Ríos et al. (2014) studied links between physiological state (reproductive vs. feeding), activity and catchability in natural conditions for the Ballan wrasse (Labrus bergylta). Intensely feeding and highly active individuals may be more likely to be captured by gill nets, while reproductive individuals tend to move less and thus have lower catchability (Villegas-Ríos et al., 2014). Although this study correlated behavioural, physiological and catchability from different data sets, it may help to discern the vulnerability of individuals with different levels of activity, parental care and feeding within a population.

Several studies have quantified multitrait responses to fishing. Cooke, Suski, Ostrand, Wahl, and Philipp (2007) contrasted lines of largemouth bass selected for high versus low vulnerability to angling and found that males from the high vulnerability line (more aggressive and presumably bolder) were better at parental care relative to males from the low vulnerability line. Similar results were found for bluegill; lakes with high fishing pressure exhibited higher numbers of nonparental males compared to lakes with low fishing pressure (Drake, Claussen, Philipp, & Pereira, 1997). Largemouth bass from high angling vulnerability lines exhibited higher heart rate (Philipp et al., 2009), metabolic scope, more frequent startle responses with burst swimming rather than steady swimming (Redpath et al., 2010) and higher reproductive fitness (Sutter et al., 2012). Populations of largemouth bass subjected to angling are expected to respond to fishing by acquiring physiological and behavioural traits similar to those of the low vulnerability line, which depending on the context may result in populations with lower fitness and catchability, and diminishing population viability and quality of the recreational fishery (Sutter et al., 2012).

A similar complex trait response was found for vulnerability to seining by comparing two populations of carp. The populations experienced different selection pressures due to differences in their culture conditions. In China, individuals experienced high density and severe fishing, while individuals experienced no fishing pressure in Europe. Chinese individuals developed the ability to escape the seine (probably linked to higher activity; Moav & Wohlfarth, 1970), earlier maturity and slower adult growth, resulting in lower efficiency of the Chinese culture (Wohlfarth, Moav, & Hulata, 1975).

Thus, the simple expectation that direct selection from fishing should result in increased adaptation, and thus, higher fitness and viability might be violated when correlated characters exhibit maladaptive
changes (e.g., reduced parental care, willingness to forage, larval viability and reproduction; Walsh et al., 2006; Sutter et al., 2012; Uusi-Heikkilä et al., 2015). Understanding the multitrait response to fishing (of which behaviour is likely a key component) is thus of paramount importance for projecting impacts on fisheries success and on overall ecological dynamics.

5 | POPULATION, COMMUNITY, ECOSYSTEM AND FISHERIES-LEVEL CONSEQUENCES

In recent years, it has been acknowledged that rapid change in ecologically important traits can have major impacts on ecological dynamics (Schönner, 2011). The effect of size-selective fishing on life-history traits and its population level consequences are clear (Heino et al., 2013). But beyond the direct impacts on mortality rates and thus population, community and ecosystem dynamics, predator effects on prey traits (behaviour, physiology, morphology and life histories) also affect prey populations, species interactions and hence communities (Lima, 1998; Madin, Dill, Ridlon, Heithaus, & Warner, 2016). These phenotypic changes (plastic or evolutionary) likely have ecological consequences for the ecosystem and the fishery (Arlinghaus et al., 2016; Ward et al., 2016). However, both the behavioural change and the ecological consequences can be context-specific (Palkovacs et al., 2012) and depend on past evolutionary history (Sih et al., 2011). In particular, fishing might result in counterintuitive responses (Pine, Martell, Walters, & Kitchell, 2009) if the multitrait response and the context dependency are not considered.

On an ontogenetic scale, exposure to predation risk, particularly early in life, can induce prey behavioural changes that persist over a lifetime (Lima, 1998). Exposure to predation risk in one generation can carry over to produce adaptive epigenetic effects on offspring personality (Stein & Bell, 2014). Thus, exposure to fishing might result in persistent, essentially fixed antipredator/antigear behaviours (e.g., high vigilance, low activity, staying near a refuge, living in schools) that can even carry over into future generations.

On an evolutionary timescale, given that personalities (i.e., consistent behaviour) are almost always heritable (Dochtermann, Schwab, & Sih, 2015), heavy personality-dependent fishing pressure can drive the evolution of behaviour (e.g., Jakobsdóttir et al., 2011; Philipp et al., 2009). If, for example, passive gears tend to kill bold fish, this could drive the evolution of lower average boldness as seen for predator effects on prey in wild populations (Dingemanse et al., 2009) and perhaps lower variance in behavioural types (i.e., populations dominated by the less vulnerable behavioural type; Figure 1). Direct estimates of heritabilities for traits affected by fishing in the wild are still limited and can be affected by fishing selection (Küllén, Adriaenssens, Marras, Claireaux, & Cooke, 2016). Predation can affect the variance components (additive genetic or residual) and heritability values of personality traits both at ontogenetic and evolutionary levels; for instance, it can lead to higher heritability values if it represents fluctuating selection leading to increased variance in the additive genetic component, or lower values if the selection is directional (Dingemanse et al., 2009).

6 | POPULATION CONSEQUENCES

Fishing-induced changes on behaviour likely affect numerous aspects of within-species social and population dynamics. Several studies indeed show that fishing selection affects the fishes’ social interactions, feeding rates, diets, intraspecific exploitative and interference competition, size-dependent cannibalism rates, mating dynamics and parental care (Nannini, Wahl, Philipp, & Cooke, 2011; Sutter et al., 2012; Walsh et al., 2006), which in turn affects growth and recruitment. “Fast” personalities (bold, aggressive, exploratory, active) are typically associated with high metabolic rates and growth (Biro & Post, 2008) and fast life histories with early reproduction (Réale et al., 2010). Therefore, passive gear’s selectivity would result in slow personalities and slow life history (Arlinghaus et al., 2016; Figure 2b), while active gears would result in a fast pace of life, similar to what is expected when only size selection is considered (Heino et al., 2013; Figure 2a,c). However, these relationships are context-specific and such intuitive conclusions are not always met. For instance, with low food availability, largemouth bass with a “slow personality” and low metabolic rate grew faster than those of high metabolic rate and aggression (Sutter et al., 2012). In laboratory settings, populations that were positive size-selected and hence with faster life histories exhibited lower reproductive output and timid behaviours (Diaz Pauli et al., 2014; Uusi-Heikkilä et al., 2015; Walsh et al., 2006) contrary to expectations (Heino et al., 2013).

Fishing-induced changes in the average (or variation) of a population’s boldness could likely also affect the fishes’ dispersal and range expansion (Harrison et al., 2015). Both passive and active gears seem to reduce dispersal and habitat range in cod and sockeye salmon (Jakobsdóttir et al., 2011; Olsen et al., 2012; Opdal & Jørgensen, 2015; Quinn et al., 2007), although trawling could also lead to larger habitat range (Alós et al., 2014). Personality-dependent dispersal behaviour can, in principle, affect a broad range of aspects of spatial ecology including metapopulation/metacommunity dynamics, migratory success, disease spread and movement in and out of marine protected areas (Nilsson, Bronmark, Hansson, & Chapman, 2014).

Alterations in the composition of personality types in a population can also affect social interactions. Individual differences in behaviour and physiology determine the position of individuals within a group and its stability (Marras et al., 2014; Taborsky & Oliveira, 2012). Shy individuals are often more social compared to bold ones (Réale et al., 2010); hence, passive gear’s selection can lead to more tight social groups relative to active gears. But if key individuals (i.e., movement leaders or knowledgeable demonstrators; Modlmeier, Keiser, Watters, Sih, & Pruitt, 2014) were generally bold ones, the opposite would occur (Arlinghaus et al., 2016). Diverse groups relative to homogenous ones seem to perform better at different collective behaviours (Dyer, Croft, Morrell, & Krause, 2009; Fischer, Bessert-Nettelbeck, Kotschal, & Taborsky, 2015). Thus, the selective removal of any type
of individuals can disturb group stability and collective behaviour (Figure 2b,c). Because collective behaviour often underlies the dynamics of competition, mating, migration and social foraging, it can have major impacts on individual fitness and consequences at the population level (Taborsky & Oliveira, 2012).

7 | COMMUNITY, ECOSYSTEM AND FISHERIES CONSEQUENCES

Fishing-induced evolution of behaviour would also likely have important impacts on multiple species interactions, both at higher and lower trophic levels. In a simple three trophic level community (predator-consumer-producer) when fishing targets the middle species, it may affect traits that affect encounter rates with predators. Fast life histories can result in higher natural mortality when fishing is size-selective (Jørgensen & Holt, 2013; Figure 2a), but it is not clear whether this holds when fishing selects directly on behaviour (Arlinghaus et al., 2016). If fishing causes fish to be less bold and aggressive, this would likely reduce their likelihood of being killed by natural predators (Sih, Cote, Evans, Fogarty, & Pruitt, 2012; Arlinghaus et al., 2016; Figure 2b), but the opposite would be true when fishing selection is associated with active gears and boldness is favoured (Figure 2c). The effects of fishing on risk from natural predators might depend on the match/mismatch between avoidance behaviour triggered by novel fishing gear as opposed to the natural predators’ hunting mode (Sih et al., 2010). For example, passive gear that favours the survival of more timid, inactive fish might, as a by-product, decreases predation by ambush predators that rarely encounter inactive prey (Arlinghaus et al., 2016), but might also reduce escape success from active, courting predators, increasing predation.

Fishing can also affect the lowest trophic level (producers) by reducing the numbers of the target fish (consumers), thus reducing pressure on their food source (producers) and allowing the producers to become more abundant. But alterations in fish personality by active and passive gears can drive higher or lower feeding rates, respectively (Preisser, Bolnick, & Benard, 2005; Figure 2b,c), resulting in lower or higher abundances of producers. Moreover, fishing selection could also lead to changes in dietary preferences complicating this picture further. For instance, omnivorous guppies from high predation (HP) sites evolved not just faster life histories, but a tendency to consume more invertebrates and fewer algae than those that evolved under low predation (LP) pressure. Accordingly, mesocosms stocked with HP guppies had fewer invertebrates and higher algal standing stocks than those with LP guppies (Bassar et al., 2010).

Fishing targeting fish on an intermediate trophic level could potentially induce similar behavioural cascades, if fishing gears favour bold individuals (Diaz Pauli et al., 2015) or individuals with different feeding rates (Nannini et al., 2011; Walsh et al., 2006). However, if fishing targets predator (i.e., the highest trophic level rather than the middle), the consequences for the consumer and producer would be the opposite: increased abundance of consumers and decreased of producers, as described in Arlinghaus et al., 2016. Again, the magnitude of the cascading impacts on the overall food web could depend on the behavioural type, feeding rate and diet preferences of the target fish and on the complexity of the food web.

Finally, note that for some issues, in particular, ecological resilience, the effect of fishing on the maintenance of variation in personality might be more important than average personality per se. Reduced diversity can be associated with lower competitive ability and narrower resource utilization (Budaev & Brown, 2011), reduced population stability and viability and a decrease in the population's potential to adapt to changing environments to avoid extinction (Sih et al., 2012; Smith & Blumstein, 2013). In the case of exploited populations, these changes can reduce the potential for recovery. Selective fishing would then contribute to slow recovery of overexploited populations after fishing halts and the environment returns to natural conditions (Smith & Blumstein, 2013). This is expected for both size- and behaviour-selective fishing (Figure 2; Heino et al., 2013).

Overall, this section shows the relevance of behavioural responses when evaluating the ecological impact of fishing gears expanding on Pine et al. (2009). For example, gill net fishing or introducing mixed minimum and maximum size limits are suggested to slow down fisheries-induced evolution of maturation and boost yield (Matsumura, Arlinghaus, & Dieckmann, 2011; Zimmermann & Jørgensen, 2014), while pot fishery is considered to be relatively benign because of its low by-catch and low impact on the ecosystem (Blyth, Kaiser, Edwards-Jones, & Hart, 2004; FAO 2003). Although we do not disagree on the benefits of using pots and gill net instead of trawling, their behaviour and size selectivity and their consequences for diversity and viability should be considered to make more informed recommendations that take into account long-term impacts of fishing on the ecosystem. Comparable reductions in fisheries-induced evolution on maturation obtained with gill net dome-shaped selectivity on size could be obtained using mixed-gear fisheries that results in lower selectivity towards any particular behavioural type. Similar considerations should be taken into account while evaluating the benefit of no-take protected areas. These may mitigate the effect of selective fishing on behaviour (Twardek et al. in press) or may only favour shy individuals or individuals with small home ranges, while bold active ones are fished when they disperse outside the reserve, which could ultimately bias stock assessments (Alós, Puiggrós et al., 2015; Villegas-Ríos, Moland, & Olsen, 2016). Whether this is the ideal way of maintaining behavioural diversity or of producing two different populations with low genetic diversity remains to be tested.

8 | FUTURE EXPERIMENTS

At this stage, much of what we know about the selective effect of fishing on behaviour and its consequences comes from few studies whose results are highly context-dependent. Thus, drawing general conclusions are speculative at this time and more research is needed. We suggest that three different fronts should be considered:
1. Assessing the differences in behaviour between captured individuals and escapees in natural conditions would improve our understanding on the behavioural selectivity of fishing. Particularly interesting would be to apply experimental designs such as those of Huse and Vold (2010), Marçalo et al. (2013) and Ingólfssson and Jørgensen (2006) that can retain both captured individuals and escapees from active gears, where data are most limited. Then, the combined use of laboratory experiments and telemetry in natural conditions would allow assessing behavioural, physiological and life-history differences between groups and the relative importance of different traits in gear selection in the wild. This could be complemented with observations via underwater cameras or sonar during the capture process similar to those of Rosen et al. (2012) and Underwood et al. (2015). These set-ups should allow us to assess the consequences of specific and natural drivers of change in a controlled way (as shown for passive gears for instance in Olsen et al., 2012; Alós, Palmer, et al., 2015) and move us away from relying on laboratory set-ups where the selective pressures may be altered or simplified in unnatural conditions.

2. Estimates of heritability of behaviour are necessary to establish whether fishing-induced evolution of behaviour is taking place. These ideally should be obtained from natural conditions where the selection takes place using pedigree data or through laboratory-reared second-generation offspring to wild-caught parent regression, although these estimates remain challenging. Estimates of behavioural repeatability (which may set the upper level for heritability; Dochtermann et al., 2015; Killen et al., 2016) in the wild as in Olsen et al. (2012) or estimates of heritability of behaviour linked to fishing selection in laboratory conditions (Philipp et al., 2009) could be a good start.

3. Studies looking at whether escapee-only populations lead to different cascading effects in the ecosystem relative to captured-only populations or populations with mixed natural distribution of traits would greatly improve our knowledge on consequences of selective fishing. Here, the contrast of captured and escaped fish should not be limited to behaviour-selected traits, but any type of selection subjected by fishing. This type of study could involve laboratory selection experiments that create different lines representing escapees, captured and mixed phenotypes. The different lines would be then introduced to mesocosms with simplified but diverse communities to contrast their effects on overall community dynamics, including multispecies effects such as trophic cascades.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to Anders Fernö and Anne Gro Salvanes for valuable discussions and Pierre-Olivier Montiglio, Fabian Zimmerman and Mikko Heino, as well as anonymous reviewers, for very helpful comments and discussion on earlier version of the manuscript. We also thank the Norwegian Research Council (214189/F20), Leiv Eiriksson mobility grant (234569/F1) and Internal funding from CEES/IBV at the University of Oslo for funding BDP and NSF IOS 1456724 for funding AS. We credit Tracey Saxby, IAN Image library (http://ian.umces.edu/imagelibrary), for passive trap in Figure 1c.

Keywords

animal personalities, behaviour, correlated traits, evolution, fisheries management, fishing selection, predation

Beatriz Diaz Pauli1,2,3  Andrew Sih4

1Department of Biology, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway
2Department of Biosciences, Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Syntheses (CEES), University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway
3Inst. d’Ecologie et des Sciences de l’Environnement – Paris (IÉES-Paris), Sorbonne Universités/UPMC Univ Paris 06/CNRS/INRA/IRD/Paris Diderot Univ Paris 07/UPEC/, Paris, France
4Department of Environmental Science and Policy, University of California, Davis, CA, USA

Correspondence

Beatriz Diaz Pauli, Department of Biosciences, Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Syntheses (CEES), University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway.

Emails: b.d.pauli@ibv.uio.no; beatriz.diaz-pauli@uib.no

REFERENCES


for management and conservation of fish populations. Conservation Physiology, 4, cow007.


