

## From fork to fish : The role of consumer preferences on the sustainability of fisheries

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### 1 Introduction

Fisheries are facing many pressures endangering their sustainability, like climate change, pollution and overfishing (Halpern et al., 2008; Badjeck et al., 2010; Srinivasan et al., 2010; Halpern et al., 2015; Cooley et al., 2022). The livelihoods, nutrition and food security of billions of people depend on the sustainability of these fisheries (Béné et al., 2007; Jacquet and Pauly, 2008; Lancker et al., 2019; Loring et al., 2019; Fao, 2020). In that regard, there is an antagonism between the worldwide growing demand for fish and the need to sustainably manage fisheries in

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a way that protects ecosystems, but also promotes social and environmental justice (Brunner et al., 2009; Costello et al., 2020). In that context, our article investigates how to foster the sustainability of fisheries through a demand approach and consumer preferences.

Our work relates to the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>1</sup> (SDGs) 12 and 14 which promote “Sustainable consumption and production” and “conserve and sustainably use marine resources for sustainable development”, respectively. Indeed, unsustainable consumption leads to a strong degradation of ecosystems (Myers and Worm, 2003; Pauly and Maclean, 2003; Brunner et al., 2009). According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), it is becoming increasingly urgent to implement a worldwide dietary transition (Fischer and Garnett, 2016; Tilman and Clark, 2014). For a sustainable diet, the FAO recommends consuming small quantities of seafood products, which should come from certified fisheries (Fischer and Garnett, 2016). Although reducing the consumption of animal products in favour of plant-based products is a key for sustainability (Van Dooren et al., 2014; Sabate and Soret, 2014; Aleksandrowicz et al., 2016), fish has a role to play for health and food security at a local but also global level (Van Dooren et al., 2014; Béné et al., 2015). In particular, in small-scale fishing communities, fish is most of the time the only source of protein (Loring et al., 2019). As a transition strategy, fish can be used as a meat replacement in high-meat eating countries, because it causes less ecological pressure than meat (Van Dooren et al., 2018; De Boer et al., 2020).

Consumer choices, and in particular that of a more sustainable consumption, are based on a wide variety of motivations, ranging from social responsibility to specific individual needs (Oken et al., 2012; Pilgrimiené et al., 2020). Vermeir and Verbeke (2006) shows that more sustainable and ethical food consumption can be stimulated by increasing the involvement of the consumer, i.e. by making him aware that his personal values correspond to more sustainable criteria. Values play an important role in the purchase decision (Holbrook et al., 1999; Sánchez-Fernández and Iniesta-Bonillo, 2006; Gallarza et al., 2011). The PCE (Perceived Consumer Effectiveness) is also an important element: it describes the fact that the consumer is convinced that his individual efforts can contribute to solving the problem (Ellen et al., 1991; Roberts, 1996; Verbeke et al., 2007). Interesting in this perspective is that consumers, worldwide, are more and more aware of the necessity of environmental protection<sup>2</sup>. Consumer consumption and purchase of the product studied in this article, fish, depend on a variety of parameters, ranging of course from price and taste qualities (such as flavour, odour and appearance), but also perceived health benefits (or risks, like pollution), childhood habits, ease of preparation, as well as availability of the product. Other qualities can influence the act of purchase, such as the method of production (wild or farmed) and preservation (fresh, frozen, canned, smoked), the country of origin, the marketing around a product and the presence or absence of a label (Brécard et al., 2009; Carlucci et al., 2015).

In that context, ecolabels (Salladarré et al., 2010; Jonell et al., 2016; Giacomarra et al., 2021) can play a major role in increasing the awareness of consumers regarding sustainability issues. Indeed, labels allow for a better differentiation of products and thus encourage consumers to buy products that lead to a better sustainability of food systems, for instance by distinguishing

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<sup>1</sup> [Sustainable development goals](#): List of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, adopted by all United Nations Member States (193 countries) in 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Indeed, sustainable consumption is preferred to other products by more than 70% of consumers, and about 50% of consumers in China are willing to pay 10% more for sustainable products than for classic products (this phenomenon is amplified with millennials) (Wan et al., 2018; Zhang and Wang, 2021)

between labelled and non-labelled products (Roheim and Zhang, 2018). Since their introduction in the late 1990s, fishery sustainability certification have become a major ingredient of marine conservation strategies. Many of these programs emerged largely from increased concerns within civil society that current stock management and policies have failed in ensuring the sustainability of fisheries (Sainsbury, 2010). The key function of these programs is to differentiate fisheries through a set of standards relating to stock status, management practices, and ecosystem impacts. Multi-tier labels (Nadar and Ertürk, 2021) are an alternative which provide a ranking in terms of environmental impact and sustainability.

The specific objectives of this article is to contribute to sustainable seafood systems by investigating and quantifying the effect of demand through consumer preferences on the bio-economic performances of multi-species fisheries. By bio-economic performances, we mean both biodiversity, profitability and consumer utility scores. Here, we assume that consumer preferences can be modified by a regulating agency through eco-labels and in particular through multi-tier ranking. To quantify the bio-economic effects of consumer preferences, we draw on a model articulating a demand derived from a CES (constant elasticity of substitution) utility depending on different fish species, a mixed fishery supply based on the Schaeffer producer function, a market equilibrium and a multispecies resource-based dynamics. We assume that both consumers and fishers are myopic and rational in the sense that they optimize at each period their utility or profit, respectively. Combining a steady-state approach and bio-economic viability objectives (Béné et al., 2001; Doyen and Martinet, 2012; Schuhbauer and Sumaila, 2016; Oubraham and Zaccour, 2018) for the regulating agency, we exhibit mathematical conditions on consumer preferences making it possible to balance biodiversity conservation with viable catches, profits and consumer utility. Consequently, we suggest policy recommendations based on ecol-labels for the sustainability of fisheries and the seafood systems.

The analytical findings are illustrated on the coastal fishery in French Guiana, which constitutes an interesting and challenging case study in terms of sustainability and seafood system, as it relies on a very rich tropical marine biodiversity, artisanal and non selective fishing activities, while the fishing production is consumed only locally (Cissé et al., 2015).

The paper is organized as follows: Section 2 introduces the bio-economic model; Section 3 details the analytical results on sustainable preferences and the potential role of eco-label in this context; in Section 4, as an example, we apply our model and results to the case study of small-scale fishery in French Guiana. Section 5 offers a conclusion and perspectives.

## 2 Bio-economic model

Our analysis relies on a model combining a demand derived from a CES utility depending on different fish species, a fishery supply based on the Schaeffer producer function, a market equilibrium and a multispecies resource-based dynamics.

### 2.1 Demand

We first focus on the demand side. We assume that the utility of consumers depends on several fish species  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Here, we used the Constant Elasticity Substitution (CES) utility function

type to capture consumer demand (Sato, 1975; Béné and Doyen, 2008; Quaas and Requate, 2013; Stoeven, 2014; Quaas et al., 2020):

$$U(Q(t), a) = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i Q_i(t)^\sigma \right)^{\frac{1}{\sigma}}. \quad (1)$$

In formulation (1) above,  $Q_i(t)$  stands for the quantity of species  $i$  at time  $t$  while parameters  $a_i \geq 0$  refers to consumer preferences. The higher  $a_i$  is, the higher the consumer appreciates this product. What we consider here as consumer preferences are a set of beliefs that lead to a certain consumption behavior. These preferences can therefore be modified if an external factor changes the beliefs linked to the preferences. The constant elasticity of substitution,  $\sigma > 0$ , represents to what extent the consumer is ready to replace the quantity of one consumed species by another. When  $\sigma < 1$ , the products are weakly substitutable, while at the opposite,  $\sigma > 1$  means that the products are substitutable. The higher  $\sigma$  is, the more substitutable the products are.

Consumers are here assumed to be myopic and rational. More specifically, they are supposed to maximize, with respect to quantities  $Q_i(t)$ , the difference at each period of time  $t$  between their utility arising from  $Q_i(t)$  minus their costs of buying  $Q_i(t)$  which depend on price  $p(t) = (p_1(), \dots, p_n(t))$  as follows: :

$$\max_{Q_1(t), \dots, Q_n(t)} U(Q_1(t), \dots, Q_n(t), a) - \sum_i p_i(t) Q_i(t). \quad (2)$$

Applying first order optimality conditions, we obtain the relation:

$$p_i(t) = \frac{\partial U}{\partial Q_i}(Q_i^*(t), a) = \left( \sum_{j=1}^n a_j Q_j^*(t)^\sigma \right)^{\frac{1}{\sigma}-1} a_i Q_i^*(t)^{\sigma-1}, \quad (3)$$

where  $Q_i^*(t)$  refers to the optimal quantity of species  $i$  at time  $t$ . Equation (3) relates to a multispecies inverse demand function as the price emerges as a function of quantities of the different species. The use of this inverse demand allows for an endogenisation of fish prices with respect to consumer preferences  $a_i$  and quantities  $Q_i(t)$ . In other words, we obtain dynamic prices (Barten and Bettendorf, 1989; Eales et al., 1997; Holt and Bishop, 2002). From the inverse demand formulation (3), we can also derive an explicit formulation for the preference parameters  $a_i$  with respect to  $Q$  and  $p$  as proved in Appendix B.3. Such a formula is used for the calibration of current preferences in the example and Section 4 with the equation (33).

## 2.2 Supply and market equilibrium

We now focus on the supply side. For sake of simplicity, we consider that there is only one type of fleet which harvests the different consumed species. We first assume the production is based on Schaefer production functions. Thus, catches of species  $i$  reads :

$$H_i(t) = q_i e(t) x_i(t), \quad (4)$$

where  $e(t)$  is the fishing effort (typically days at sea or number of boats) at time  $t$ ,  $x_i(t)$  is the state (biomass, abundance, ...) of species  $i$  at time  $t$ , while parameter  $q_i$  corresponds to

the catchability of species  $i$  by the fleet. Profit is defined as the difference between the incomes induced by fishing and cost of operating:

$$\pi(t) = \sum_i p_i(t)H_i(t) - C(e(t)), \quad (5)$$

where  $p_i(t)$  is again the price of species  $i$  while  $C$  is the cost function of the fishing effort. We here assumed that the cost function is quadratic as in Clark (2006); P ereau et al. (2012); Pizarro and Schwartz (2018):

$$C(e) = c_0 + c_1e + \frac{c_2}{2}e^2. \quad (6)$$

Above,  $c_0$  stands for the fixed cost while  $c_1$  are cost parameters that can relate to fuel or ice consumption for operating. Quadratic cost  $c_2$  can be related to risk aversion (Tromeur et al., 2021)<sup>3</sup>.

We now integrate the inverse demand function (3) into the profit (5). We assume a situation of pure competition (Arrow and Debreu, 1954), which implies several conditions in the model. In particular, we consider that the demand for each good depends on the price of the good and that supply and demand coincide on the market. In other words, we assume that the prices  $p_i(t)$  fulfill the market clearing condition namely:

$$H_i(t) = Q_i^*(t), \quad (7)$$

where demand  $Q_i^*(t)$  is characterized above in (3). We deduce that

$$p_i(t)H_i(t) = p_i(t)Q_i^*(t) \quad (8)$$

$$= \left( \sum_{j=1}^n a_j Q_j^*(t)^\sigma \right)^{\frac{1}{\sigma}-1} a_i Q_i^*(t)^\sigma \quad (9)$$

$$= \left( \sum_{j=1}^n a_j (q_j e(t) x_j(t))^\sigma \right)^{\frac{1}{\sigma}-1} a_i (q_i e(t) x_i(t))^\sigma \quad (10)$$

$$= e(t) \left( \sum_{j=1}^n a_j (q_j x_j(t))^\sigma \right)^{\frac{1}{\sigma}-1} a_i (q_i x_i(t))^\sigma \quad (11)$$

<sup>3</sup> Assuming for instance that the costs of energy  $c_1$  are stochastic and that the expected value of a quadratic utility is considered for the profit in the following sense

$$\mathbb{E}(U(\pi)) = \mathbb{E}(\pi) - a \text{Var}(\pi) = pH - \bar{c}_1 e - a\sigma_1^2 e^2$$

where  $a$  is a proxy for risk aversion while  $\bar{c}_1$  and  $\sigma_1$  are the mean and standard deviation of linear costs  $c_1$  respectively.

Therefore, we obtain the following formulation for the profit

$$\pi(x(t), e(t)) = e(t) \left( \sum_{j=1}^n a_j (q_j x_j(t))^\sigma \right)^{\frac{1}{\sigma}-1} \sum_{i=1}^n a_i (q_i x_i(t))^\sigma - C(e(t)) \quad (12)$$

$$= e(t) \left( \sum_{j=1}^n a_j (q_j x_j(t))^\sigma \right)^{\frac{1}{\sigma}} - C(e(t)) \quad (13)$$

$$= e(t) U \left( Cpue(x(t)), a \right) - C(e(t)) \quad (14)$$

where the vector of captures by unit of effort  $Cpue(x(t))$  is defined by

$$Cpue_i(x(t)) = q_i x_i(t). \quad (15)$$

Now we consider that, in the fishery, fishers are price-taker, myopic and rational (Péreau et al., 2012). Myopic means that fishers act without considering the consequences of their actions on the future. Thus, the agents optimize their individual profit as follows:

$$\max_{e(t) \geq 0} \pi(x(t), e(t)). \quad (16)$$

Applying again first order optimality conditions on profit formulation (14) and assuming for now that the optimal effort  $e^*(t)$  is positive, we can explicitly determine the optimal effort:

$$e^*(t) = \frac{U \left( Cpue(x(t)), a \right) - c_1}{c_2}. \quad (17)$$

We observe that this optimal effort  $e^*(t)$  captures all the bio-economic ingredients, as it depends on both consumer features through  $a$  and  $\sigma$  and supply features through cost parameters  $c_1$ ,  $c_2$  along with catchability  $q_i$  and fished stocks underlying  $Cpue$ . As expected, it decreases with unit cost of effort  $c_1$  as well as risk aversion proxy  $c_2$ . As we focus on the role of consumer preferences  $a$ , we hereafter denote the optimal effort by

$$e^*(x, a) = \frac{U \left( Cpue(x), a \right) - c_1}{c_2}. \quad (18)$$

### 2.3 Multispecies resource-based dynamics

Here, we rely on resource-based dynamics for the different species in line with Tilman (1982); Tilman and Sterner (1984); Brock and Xepapadeas (2002); Bøhn et al. (2008). We thus assume that the  $n$  fish species compete for the consumption of a common resource denoted by  $y(t)$ . We consider a discrete time version as in De Lara and Doyen (2008); Béné and Doyen (2008); Gomes et al. (2021). Thus, for every species  $i$ , the state  $x_i(t+1)$  at time  $t+1$  depends on the state  $x_i(t)$ ,

the state of the resource  $y(t)$ , and optimal fishing effort  $e^*(t)$  (defined in (17)) as follows:

$$x_i(t+1) = x_i(t) \left( 1 - m_i + g_i y(t) - q_i e^*(t) \right). \quad (19)$$

In the dynamics (19),  $m_i$  stands for the natural mortality rate of the stock  $i$  while  $g_i$  is the resource-based per capita growth of species  $i$ . As in the Tilman model of mechanistic resource-based species competition, the dynamics of the state  $y(t)$  of the resource depends on the consumption of the different fish species through the relation:

$$y(t+1) = y(t) \left( 1 - \sum_{i=1}^N s_i x_i(t) \right) + I \quad (20)$$

where  $I$  is the external input (source) for this resource and  $s_i$  the consumption rate of the predator  $i$  on the resource. As an alternative to the classical theory of Lotka–Volterra about species competition, Tilman introduced this approach based on a mechanistic resource-based model of competition between species, where the growth of species is restricted by resource availability. A major interest of the resource-based model lies in an exclusion principle. This principle states that, in presence of a multi-species competition for a common resource, the species with the lowest resource requirement in equilibrium will displace all other species after a certain time period. This resource-based species competition has been taken into account for the bio-economic management of an ecosystem in Brock and Xepapadeas (2002); De Lara and Doyen (2008); Béné and Doyen (2008); Cuilleret et al. (2022).

#### 2.4 Sustainability goals

Hereafter, we examine to what extent some consumer preferences  $a$  could relax the exclusion principle underpinning the resource-based dynamics and entail more sustainability for biodiversity, catches and profits. By sustainability, we here mean that the optimal effort is positive first.

$$e^*(x, a) = \frac{U(Cpue(x), a) - c_1}{c_2} \geq 0. \quad (21)$$

Of interest is that such effort positivity requirement entails positivity of both optimal catches through equation (4) as well as profit. This occurs because such a effort constraint implies a positive gross or quasi-rent (revenue minus variable cost)<sup>4</sup>.

By sustainability, we also require the biodiversity is large enough in the sense of species richness

$$Bio(x) \geq 2, \quad (22)$$

where species richness of the ecosystem state  $x$  is defined by  $Bio(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n 1_{\mathbb{R}_+^*}(x_i)$  where  $1_{\mathbb{R}_+^*}(\cdot)$  is the characteristic (boolean) function of non negative reals  $\mathbb{R}^+$ . In constraint (22), the biodiversity requirement may seem not stringent, but in the case of a resource-based dynamic,

<sup>4</sup> As the optimum of a quadratic function, quasi-rent indeed simplifies to

$$\pi^* + c_0 = \frac{c_2}{2} (e^*)^2$$

this turns out to be very demanding, because the exclusion principle leads to a species richness equal to 1 and, in that sense, to no biodiversity.

To address the compatibility of the bio-economic constraints (21), (22) with the dynamics (19) and (20) of the ecosystem, we rely on the mathematical concept of viability kernel (Aubin, 1991; Béné et al., 2001; De Lara and Doyen, 2008; Oubraham and Zaccour, 2018):

$$\text{Viab}(a) = \{(x_1(0), \dots, x_n(0), y(0)) \mid (19), (20), (21), (22) \text{ hold true for any time } t \geq 0\} \quad (23)$$

Hereafter, we aim at identifying consumer preferences  $a$  so that  $\text{Viab}(a)$  is non-empty.

### 3 Analytical results

#### 3.1 Sustainable consumer preferences

Our main analytical result exhibits below conditions for consumer preferences  $a_i$  balancing biodiversity and economic viability throughout time in the sense of the viability kernel (23). At this stage, we need to introduce key values  $y^*$  and  $e^*$  as follows:

$$\begin{cases} y^* = \min_{i,j} \frac{m_i^* q_j - m_j^* q_i}{g_i^* q_j - g_j^* q_i} = \frac{m_i^* q_j - m_j^* q_i}{g_i^* q_j - g_j^* q_i} \\ e^* = \frac{g_i^* y^* - m_i^*}{q_i^*} \end{cases} \quad (24)$$

We then obtain conditions for the non-emptiness of the viability kernel.

**Proposition 1** *Assume that parameters  $(q, m, g)$  are such that  $y^*$  and  $e^*$  are strictly positive. Then there exists consumer preferences  $a^*$  such that  $\text{Viab}(a^*) \neq \emptyset$ . Sufficient bio-economic conditions for sustainable consumer preferences  $a^* = (a_1^*, a_2^*, \dots, a_n^*)$  are:*

$$a_i^* q_i^\sigma + a_{j^*}^* q_{j^*}^\sigma = \left( \frac{y^*(s_{i^*} + s_{j^*})(c_2 e^* + c_1)}{I} \right)^\sigma. \quad (25)$$

In particular, in that case, the state  $(X^*, y^*)$  such

$$X_{i^*}^* = X_{j^*}^* = \frac{I}{y^*(s_{i^*} + s_{j^*})}, \quad X_i^* = 0 \quad \forall i \neq i^*, j^* \quad (26)$$

satisfies  $(X^*, y^*) \in \text{Viab}(a^*)$ .

The Proof of Proposition 1 is detailed in Section B.1 of the Appendix. This proposition provides conditions for consumer preferences  $a_i$  promoting the sustainability of the fishery since it favors biodiversity with at least two viable species while also sustaining the profitability, activity and production of the fishery. The equality between two species states  $X_{i^*}^* = X_{j^*}^*$  underlying the proposition can be relaxed as in the Proposition 2 below. However, such equality is of interest in terms of biodiversity metrics as it also guarantees a score of 2 for the Simpson index<sup>5</sup> which

<sup>5</sup> The Simpson index is defined by

$$\text{Simpson}(x) = \left( \sum_j \left( \frac{x_j}{\sum_l x_l} \right)^2 \right)^{-1}. \quad (27)$$

It is optimal and equals  $n$  in the case of equi-distribution  $x_1 = x_2 = \dots = x_n$ .

is another key indicator of biodiversity assessing the evenness among the different species.

We can also go further and delineate consumer preferences sustainable in the sense of Proposition 1, whenever we assume that the sum of preferences  $a_i$  is equal to 1 as in Quaas et al. (2020). At this stage; it is convenient to introduce the notation

$$x^* = \frac{I}{y^*(s_{i^*} + s_{j^*})}. \quad (28)$$

We then obtain an explicit formula for sustainable preferences.

**Corollary 1** *Assume conditions of Proposition 1 on parameters  $(q, m, g)$ . If the sum of  $a_i$  is equal to 1, sustainable consumer preferences are characterized by the following explicit formula:*

$$\begin{cases} a_{i^*}^* = 1 - a_{j^*}^* \\ a_{j^*}^* = \frac{(c_2 e^* + c_1)^\sigma - q_{i^*}^\sigma (x^*)^\sigma}{(x^*)^\sigma (q_{j^*}^\sigma - q_{i^*}^\sigma)} \\ a_i^* = 0, \forall i \neq i^*, j^* \end{cases} \quad (29)$$

The Proof of Corollary 1 is detailed in Section B.1.1 of the Appendix. We now expand Proposition 1 by relaxing the equality between the two key species  $i^*, j^*$  underlying the stock value  $x^*$  and by providing a sufficient condition for other viable states and consumer preferences.

**Proposition 2** *Assume conditions of Proposition 1 on parameters  $(q, m, g)$ . The viability kernel  $\text{Viab}(a^*)$  includes states  $(X^*, y^*)$  such that*

$$\begin{cases} a_{i^*}^* (q_{i^*} X_{i^*}^*)^\sigma + a_{j^*}^* (q_{j^*} X_{j^*}^*)^\sigma = (c_2 e^* + c_1)^\sigma, \\ s_{i^*} X_{i^*}^* + s_{j^*} X_{j^*}^* = \frac{I}{y^*}, \\ X_{i^*}^* > 0, X_{j^*}^* > 0, X_i^* = 0 \forall i \neq i^*, j^*. \end{cases} \quad (30)$$

The Proof of Proposition 2 is detailed in Section B.2 of the Appendix. The system of two equations (30) underlying the proposition constitutes an alternative<sup>6</sup> to condition (25) regarding the identification of sustainable preferences  $a^*$  and equilibrium states  $X_{i^*}^*$  and  $X_{j^*}^*$ .

### 3.2 Labeling policies for sustainable mixed fisheries

The previous analytical results, together with their application to the case study in the following section 4, show that consumer preferences  $a_i$  for the different species can be used to promote a bio-economic sustainability by preserving biodiversity, while maintaining the economic activity

<sup>6</sup> A method to solve it would consist in considering  $X_{j^*}^* = \alpha X_{i^*}^*$  for various  $\alpha > 0$  which leads to

$$X_{i^*}^* = \frac{I}{y^*(s_{i^*} + \alpha s_{j^*})}.$$

Then the identification of relevant  $a^*$  would derive from a linear equation

$$a_{i^*}^* (q_{i^*})^\sigma + a_{j^*}^* (q_{j^*} \alpha)^\sigma = \left( \frac{c_2 e^* + c_1}{X_{i^*}^*} \right)^\sigma$$

which is similar to (25).

through fishing profitability. Such finding highlights that it is possible to regulate fishing activities and manage biodiversity by the consumer side through market-based mechanisms. At this stage, we can wonder to what extent regulating agencies can apply such results. Based on the results of section 3.1, the objective would consist in moving from current preferences denoted hereafter by  $a_i^{BAU}$  to sustainable preferences  $a_i^*$  defined in Proposition 1 or 2 or Corollary 1. Hereafter, for the sake of simplicity, we rely on the simplest condition on preferences (25) underpinning Proposition 1.

At this stage, we assume that the regulating agency targets sustainable preferences  $a_i^*$  in an inertial way, namely by limiting the changes in preferences of consumer with respect to the current situation  $a_i^{BAU}$ . Such a strategy reads:

$$\min_{a^* \text{ satisfying (25)}} \|a^* - a^{BAU}\|^2 = \sum_i (a_i^* - a_i^{BAU})^2, \quad (31)$$

where (25) refers to sustainability conditions for consumer preferences. The linear-quadratic problem (31) has an explicit unique solution<sup>7</sup> that is given by

$$\begin{cases} a_{i^*}^* = a_{i^*}^{BAU} + q_{i^*}^\sigma (q_{i^*}^{2\sigma} + q_{j^*}^{2\sigma})^{-1} \lambda \\ a_{j^*}^* = a_{j^*}^{BAU} + q_{j^*}^\sigma (q_{i^*}^{2\sigma} + q_{j^*}^{2\sigma})^{-1} \lambda \\ a_i^* = a_i^{BAU} & \text{if } i \neq i^*, j^* \end{cases} \quad (32)$$

with  $\lambda = \left(\frac{c_2 e^* + c_1}{x^*}\right)^\sigma - q_{i^*}^\sigma a_{i^*}^{BAU} - q_{j^*}^\sigma a_{j^*}^{BAU}$ . When regulating the demand-side with a sustainability purpose, eco-labels are key instruments (Wessells et al., 1999; Mason, 2006). Eco-labels support a demand-based approach to manage environmental issues. These eco-labels would lessen information asymmetry (Ward and Phillips, 2008) between producers and consumers on the sustainability of the underlying fishery, value chain and food system. The decision-maker could here choose a multi-tier design (Nadar and Ertürk, 2021). This multi-tier label system has been used on various occasions, in particular to inform about the nutritional quality of a food, for example via the Nutri-Score, which has been successfully applied in several European countries (Julia et al., 2018; Szabo de Edelenyi et al., 2019), or to classify products according to their environmental impact, such as the [Planet-score label](#) or the [Eco-score label](#), both of which have been developed by the [ADEME](#). Multi-tier labels can provide a ranking of sustainability and therefore assess the bio-economic performances of the fishery. The aim is to encourage or discourage the consumption of some species. Here, one could figure out a 2-level colour scale depending on the comparison between  $a_i^{BAU}$  and  $a_i^*$  as follows:

- **Green (sustainable) label:**  $a_i^* > a_i^{BAU}$ ;
- **Red (at risk) label:**  $a_i^* < a_i^{BAU}$ ;

From optimal characterization (32), we can note that the sustainability tier and label strongly depend on the sign of the index  $\lambda$ . In particular, whenever  $\lambda > 0$ , both species  $i^*$  and  $j^*$  should be colored green. In contrast, whenever  $\lambda < 0$ , both species  $i^*$  and  $j^*$  should be colored

<sup>7</sup> We can use for instance the Lagrangian defined by

$$L(a, \mu) = (a_i^* - a_i^{BAU})^2 + \mu \left( \left( \frac{c_2 e^* + c_1}{x^*} \right)^\sigma - q_{i^*}^\sigma a_{i^*} - q_{j^*}^\sigma a_{j^*} \right),$$

to derive first order optimality conditions.

Table 1: Parameters of the bioeconomic model for the case study in French Guiana.

Parameters	Unit	Species $i = 1$	Species $i = 2$	Species $i = 3$
		AW	GW	CsC
Interaction species - resource $s_i * 10^6$		2.5	7.6	7.0
Catchability $q_i * 10^6$		3.4	0.7	0.6
Natural mortality $m_i * 10$		0.9	1.4	1.6
Growth efficiency $g_i * 10$		5.5	1.15	5.5
Initial stock $x_i(t_0 = 2006)$	Tons	21 394	34 695	59 212
Initial catches $Q_i(t_0 = 2006)$	Tons	156	50	75
Initial Prices $p_i(t_0 = 2006)$	(€/Kilo)	3.4	1.9	1.6
Initial Resource $y(t_0)$	Tons	282 625		
Resource input $I$	Tons	318 931		
Utility elasticity $\sigma$		1.4		
Risk aversion proxy $c_2$		0.109		
Variable costs $c_1$	(€/Days $f$ )	95		
Fixed costs $c_0$	(€/Quarter)	1640		

red and considered at risk. Of interest is the fact that the sign of  $\lambda$  relies on the sustainability of the current consumer preferences  $a^{BAU}$  in the sense of equality (25).

Accounting for both the multi-species labelling, species interactions underlying the CES utility function in (3), the supply side and the market equilibrium, the combined effects of sustainability labels across the species prices can turn out complex. The example below illustrates such a complexity.

#### 4 Example: the coastal fishery in French Guiana

To study the impact of consumer preferences on the sustainability of fisheries, we apply our bio-economic model and analytical results of Section 3 to the coastal fishery in French Guiana (South America) which has been already studied in Cissé et al. (2015); Gomes et al. (2021); Cuilleret et al. (2022). This small-scale fishery is a multi-species and multi-fleet fishery landing about 3000 tonnes of fish per year, worth € 9 million (US\$ 9.78 million). The fishery harvests approximately 30 species in a non-selective way. The fishery plays a key socio-economic role for the local population, both in terms of livelihoods and food security, since the fish production is consumed only locally. The management of the fishery is currently based on the regulation of fishing effort, through a system of fishing licenses.

##### 4.1 Sustainable consumer preferences, labels and scenarios

We draw on models from Gomes et al. (2021); Cuilleret et al. (2022) and data given by [IFREMER Fisheries Information System](#) (SIH) on catches and fishing effort from 2006 to 2017, as well as on selling prices of each species, variable costs, fixed costs. We here focus on three species: Crucifix Sea Catfish (CsC, *sciades proops*), Acoupa Weakfish (AW, *Cynoscion acoupa*) and Green Weakfish (GW, *Cynoscion virescens*). We also simplify the problem by aggregating the effort, catch and profit of the different fleets. Estimated parameters are detailed in Table 1.

Table 2: BAU consumer preferences  $a_i^{BAU}$  and the sustainable preferences  $a_i^*$ .

	Acoupa Weakfish	Green Weakfish	Crucifix sea Catfish
BAU scenario $a_i^{BAU}$	100755	88464	63645
Sustainable scenario $a_i^*$	5462	78503	63645
Sustainability Label color	Red	Red	

To investigate the role of consumer preferences on the sustainability of this fishery, we contrast the trajectories of biomass, effort, catch, price and profit of three scenarios. The first scenario named ‘Business as usual’ (BAU, in black in Figures 1, 2 and 3) relies on current (estimated) consumer preferences  $a_i^{BAU}$ . The second scenario named sustainable (in blue) stems from Proposition 1 on sustainable preferences  $a_i^*$  along with the inertial strategy (32). A third intermediary scenario (in green) accounts for a progressive change of preferences between the BAU and sustainable preferences. Below we specified the mathematics and numerics underlying these three scenarios.

From the inverse demand formulation (3), we first derive an estimation for the current preference parameters  $a_i^{BAU}$ . We rely on mean prices<sup>8</sup>  $p_i(t_0)$  and catches  $Q_i(t_0)$  at year  $t_0 = 2006$  detailed in Table 1. As proved in Appendix B.3, we can indeed write:

$$a_i^{BAU} = p_i(t_0)Q_i(t_0)^{1-\sigma} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n p_j(t_0)Q_j(t_0) \right)^{\sigma-1} \quad (33)$$

Table 2 displays the estimated values  $a_i^{BAU}$  for the three species AW, GW and CsC. The GW turns out to be the species which, in the BAU scenario, displaces the other species because of the exclusion principle, which leads to a species richness at equilibrium equal to 1. Regarding the computation of the optimal consumer preferences  $a_i^*$  underlying the second scenario (blue), we need to first determine the values  $y^*$ ,  $i^*$ ,  $j^*$ ,  $e^*$  and  $x^*$ . We obtain  $y^* = 337603$  tons,  $i^* = AW$ ,  $j^* = GW$ ,  $e^* = 1638$  fishing days at sea per quarter and  $x^* = 88966$  tons. Consequently, according to the equation (24) and the application of one of the two sustainable scenarios, AW and GW will remain present at equilibrium, warranting a species richness of at least 2. We also deduce the sustainable preferences  $a_i^*$  displayed in Table 2. Comparing  $a_i^*$  and  $a_i^{BAU}$ , we obtain red labels for AW and GW. The intervention of the public decision-maker on the CsC is neutral, it does not seek to influence consumer preferences, hence:  $a_i^* = a_i^{BAU}$ .

The third scenario assumes that changing consumer behavior takes time, as it is embedded in the consumer’s habits (Amel et al., 2017; White et al., 2019). To take into account a progressive transition in the consumer’s purchasing behavior towards a more sustainable consumption shape and therefore towards  $a_i^*$ , the ‘progressive sustainable’ scenario (green within the figures) relies on a constant change  $\Delta$  ( $\Delta < 0$  in the example) applied at each period  $t$  as follows:

$$a_i(t+1) = a_i(t) + \Delta \text{ with } \Delta = \frac{(a_i^* - a_i^{BAU})}{(T - t_1)} \quad (34)$$

<sup>8</sup> Such prices turn out to remain rather steady from this period as emphasized in Kersulec et al. (2021) from IFREMER Fisheries Information System

Here we have  $t_1$ , first quarter of 2018,  $T=2100$  and  $a_i(t_1) = a_i^{BAU}$ , so at the end of the scenario  $a_i(T) = a_i^*$ .

In Figures 1, 2 and 3, we compare the three scenarios and examine the ecological, economic and social effects of the reduction in consumer preferences underpinning  $a^*$  or  $a(t)$  and potentially induced by a policy of sustainability labeling.

#### 4.2 Ecological effects

The biomass trajectories of Figure 1 show, as expected, that the two scenarios related to sustainable preferences  $a^*$ , green or blue, promote the diversity of species in the ecosystem as compared to the BAU scenario. The viability of both the AW and CsC species is indeed at stake in the long run for BAU while only the CsC collapses for the two sustainable scenarios. The three scenarios mainly differ in terms of AW biomass. In particular, we can note that, on average over the projection period from 2018 to 2100, the state of the AW with the sustainable projection based on consumer preferences  $a^*$  in blue is 2.5 times higher than in the case of  $a_i^{BAU}$  and 1.22 times higher with the progressive sustainable scenario  $a(t)$  in green. By contrast, in every scenario, the CsC collapses and is extinct in, 2050. Such an outcome arises from the exclusion principle underlying the resource-based dynamics and the highest resource requirement of this species as compared to the two others<sup>9</sup>. As regards the GW species, its biomass projections turn out slightly lower in the case of sustainable scenarios and in particular for the sustainable scenario  $a^*$ . More globally, the qualitative patterns of GW are opposite to those of AW. This is due again to the ecological competition (for the resource  $y$ ) between the species and the resource-based dynamics. Said differently, the increase of AW in the case of the sustainable scenario (blue) leads to a lower availability of the resource  $y(t)$  for the GW which alters its growth. Moreover, when the long run equilibrium is reached, after 2100, the two viable species are equally distributed, as captured by equation (26).

Our results are in line with the perspective of implementing a sustainable diet recommended by the FAO (Fischer and Garnett, 2016): a decrease in preferences for these fish species leads to a decrease of their consumption which entails their ecological viability.

#### 4.3 Economic and social effects

Of interest for food security and the sustainability of the seafood system is the long term gain of catches displayed by Figure 2 (second column) for the sustainable preferences (blue) as compared to BAU (black). Such gains occur from about 2070 and continue to increase after. These long term gains for food production stem from the gains in terms of biodiversity and in particular the viability of the AW species. However, the sustainable scenario (blue) implies a major decrease

<sup>9</sup> The resource requirement of species, noted  $y_i(t)$ , is expressed according to the following equation:

$$y_i(t) = \frac{m_i + q_i e^*(t)}{g_i} \quad (35)$$

Over the whole period from 2006 to 2100, in the BAU scenario,  $y_{i=CsC}(t)$  is on average 23% higher than that of the GW, the  $y_{i=AW}(t)$  is on average 4% higher than that of the GW. In sustainable scenarios at equilibrium  $y_{i=AW} = y_{i=GW} < y_{i=CsC}$ . See Figure 6 in the Appendix D for the evolution of the resource requirements of the different species in the BAU scenario.

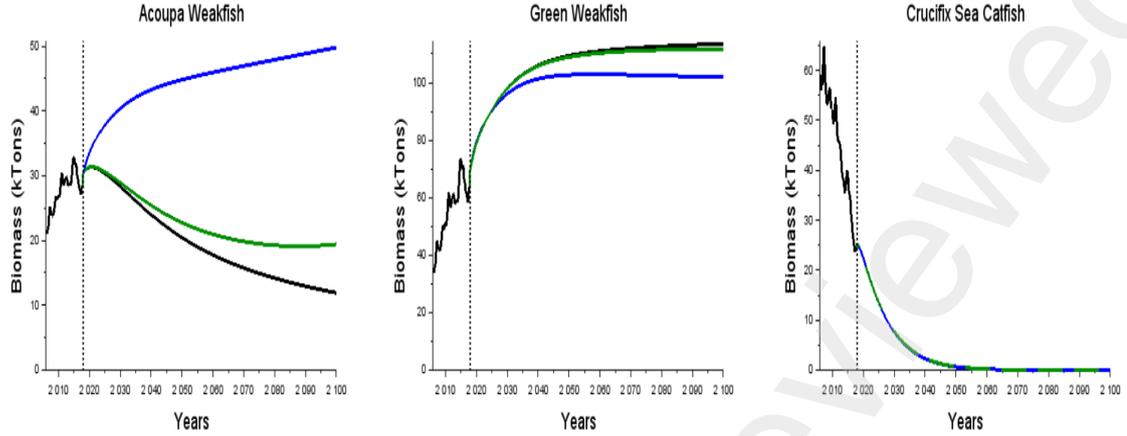


Fig. 1: Biomass trajectories  $x_i(t)$  for the three species AW, GW and CsC from 2006 to 2100 across three scenarios depending on consumer preferences  $a_i$ . The black curve represents the historical period (2006-2018) and from 2018, the projections of BAU scenario (based on consumer preference  $a^{BAU}$ ). The blue trajectories represents the stocks with the scenario based on sustainable preferences  $a^*$ . The green curve represents the species stocks for the progressive sustainable scenario  $a_i(t)$  as defined in equation (34). The black dotted line represents the beginning of the projected trajectories.

in fishing effort in the first periods when compared to BAU scenario (black). The blue fishing effort is indeed, on average over the projection period, about 50% lower than the BAU effort. In that respect, the progressive sustainable fishing effort (green) represents an interesting transition and intermediary strategy for effort toward sustainability with a reduction of effort limited to only 20% with respect to BAU on average over the projection period. Figure 2 (third column) shows that the scenario  $a^*$  also yields a major decrease of profits in the first years, aligned with the reduction of fishing effort. However, as expected by the analytical results and the underlying viability goals, these profits remain viable (positive) over time. In addition, after the first period of abrupt reduction, the profits start to grow as opposed to the decrease of profits in the BAU scenario after 2030. The progressive sustainable (green) scenario leads to a more gradual decrease in effort and profit. At this stage we can postulate that a transition in consumer preference exists (another  $\Delta$ ) where both long and short term bio-economic performances can be balanced.

Figure 3 illustrates the dynamic prices as a function of  $a_i^{BAU}$  and  $a_{i^*}$ . These dynamic prices are obtained from the inverse demand of equation (3). Because of the form of the inverse demand which involves crossed and substitution effects between species, it is difficult to determine a direct link between the preferences of a species  $i$  and its price. In particular, with the abrupt scenario  $a^*$  (blue), although consumer preferences  $a_1^*$  and  $a_2^*$  are both lower than current preferences  $a_1^{BAU}$  and  $a_2^{BAU}$ , the prices of AW and GW have opposite dynamics in the first periods. Indeed, AW price first decreases while GW price increases. In the long run (after 2070), the lower preferences  $a^*$  for the two species AW and GW entail lower prices than those of the BAU scenario. Such result on prices is more intuitive and arises from the convergence towards equilibrium values in the long run. As regards the green (progressive) sustainable scenario, not

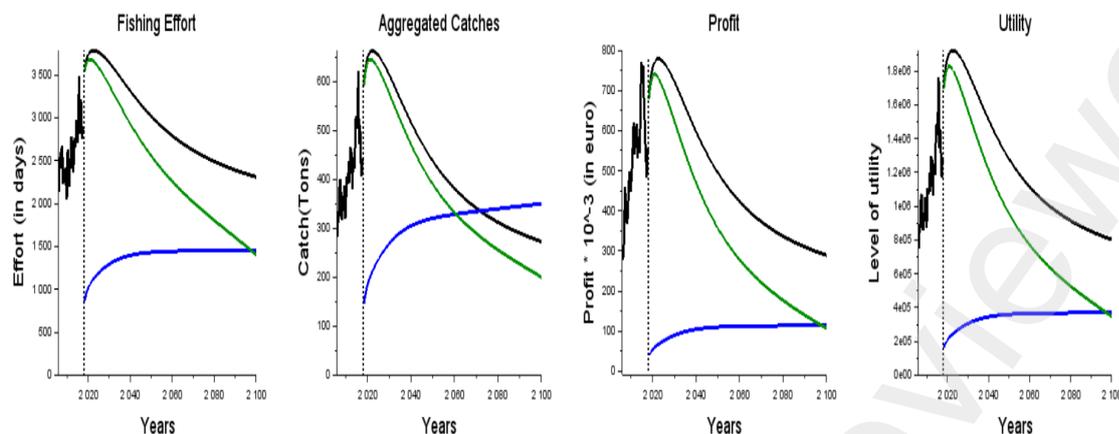


Fig. 2: Trajectories of fishing effort, aggregated catches (over species), profit and utility from 2006 to 2100 across three scenarios depending on consumer preferences  $a_i$ . The black line represents the historical period and, from 2018, the economic scores with the preferences  $a_i^{BAU}$  underpinning BAU scenario. The blue line represents the scenario with the sustainable consumer preferences  $a^*$ . The green line represents the scenario with the progressive sustainable consumer preferences  $a(t)$ . The black dotted line represents the beginning of the projected trajectories.

surprisingly, the price decline is more gradual and represents on average a decrease of 37% when compared to the BAU scenario price. On the demand side, the fourth column of Figure 2 is also informative, as it represents the level of consumer utility related to each scenario. Not surprisingly, the implementation of the sustainable scenarios implies a decrease in the level of utility derived from the consumption of the species as  $a_i^* \leq a_i^{BAU}$ .

## 5 Conclusion and perspectives

This article provides analytical results on whether consumer preferences are sustainable or not in the context of mixed fisheries where one fleet harvests several fish species. The analysis relies on a bio-economic model articulating a demand derived from the optimization of a CES utility with several fish species, a mixed fishery supply based on the maximisation of the rent of fishing activities, a market equilibrium along with a multispecies resource-based dynamics. Using a steady-state approach, we analytically identify conditions for consumer preferences allowing to balance biodiversity conservation with viable catches and profits. We deduce bio-economic policies in terms of eco-labels (or sustainability labels) for the fisheries.

By integrating consumers, fishers and fish mechanisms within the bio-economic model, the work relates to a 'fish to fork' viewpoint and food systems (Belchior et al., 2016) which justifies the title of the paper. The concept of food system has gained prominence in recent years amongst both academics and policy-makers. Experts from diverse disciplines have in particular discussed the nature and origin of the "unsustainability" of our modern food systems (Béné et al., 2019). We contribute to this field of research by designing market-based sustainability strategies for seafood systems.

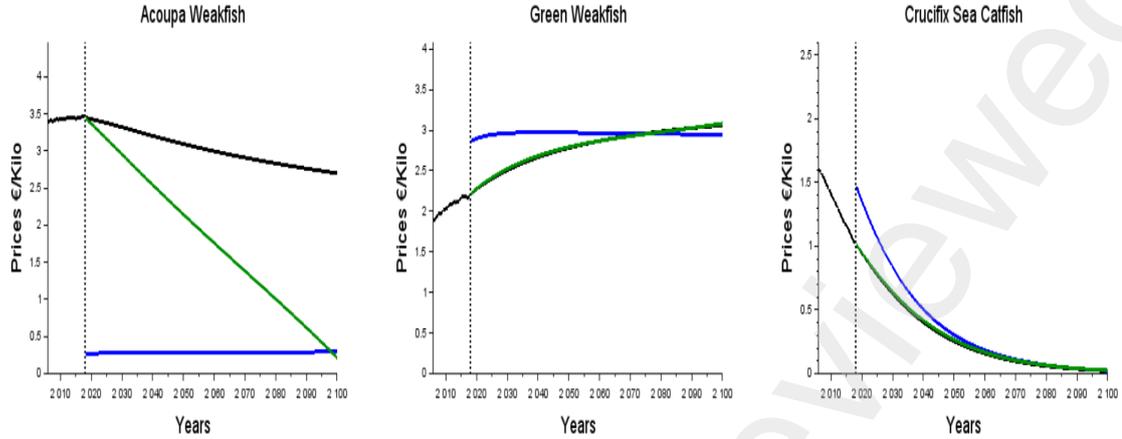


Fig. 3: Trajectories of prices  $p_i(t)$  of fished species AW, GW and CsC (in €/ Kilo) from 2006 to 2100 across three scenarios depending on consumer preferences  $a_i$ . The black line represents the historical period and from 2018 profit, effort and aggregated catches with the BAU scenario and  $a_i^{BAU}$ . The blue line represents the scenario with the sustainable consumer preferences  $a^*$ . The green line represents the scenario with the progressive sustainable consumer preferences  $a(t)$ . The black dotted line represents the beginning of the projected trajectories.

Our work also contributes to seafood certification and ecolabeling as sustainability pathways (Swartz et al., 2017). Since their introduction in the late 1990s, fishery sustainability certification have become a major component of marine conservation strategies. Many of these programs emerged largely from increased concerns within civil society that current stock management and policy have failed in ensuring the sustainability of fisheries (Sainsbury, 2010). The key function of these programs is to differentiate fisheries through a set of standards relating to stock status, management practices, and ecosystem impacts. The eco-labeling strategy we propose in our paper differs from these programs by focusing on species rather than on fleets or fisheries. We indeed suggest to color species on the market as green (sustainable) or red (at risk), depending on the viability of current consumer preferences. In other words, the policy consists in encouraging (or discouraging) the consumption and demand of fished species to increase (or decrease) the supply of these species through the optimal (myopic) fishing effort and market-based mechanisms.

Another originality of the paper is to address sustainability goals with a viability modelling approach and bio-economic thresholds (Béné et al., 2001; De Lara and Doyen, 2008; Schuhbauer and Sumaila, 2016; Doyen et al., 2017; Oubraham and Zaccour, 2018; Doyen et al., 2019). Here, bio-economic viability goals relate both to biodiversity conservation and strictly positive efforts and profits. The novelty arises from the use of this viability approach on a food system integrating consumers, producers and the ecosystem in line with the ‘fork to fish’ viewpoint. However, the viability analysis is not complete, since it does not identify so far the viability kernel (viable states) as a whole, nor all viable controls. Here, the focus is on the viability of steady states, which paves the road for a more extensive viability study and more viable policies, in particular regarding consumer preferences and eco-labels.

Another contribution of the paper is to apply the model and the analytical findings to the French Guiana coastal fishery. In particular, the account of the demand side and consumer preferences represent a key improvement with respect to the previous bio-economic works and scenarios of Cissé et al. (2015); Gomes et al. (2021); Cuilleret et al. (2022). Our results show that consumer preferences have a great impact on the viability of Acoupa Weakfish, a keystone species of the ecosystem and of the fishing economy of French Guiana. With the current consumer preferences, our projections highlight the non-sustainability of this species. Consequently, we propose eco-labels, red (at risk) for Acoupa Weakfish and also Green Weakfish, to recover the viability of AW and more globally of the coastal fishery in French Guiana. Therefore, we argue that it is possible to foster biodiversity together with profits for this tropical fishery, in particular with market-based mechanisms.

Of course, numerous improvements of the current work are possible. At the theoretical stage, key improvements of the current work include the modification of the utility function. We can refine the shape of the utility function by considering various important points in sustainable consumption like the "warm-glow" effect, the "cold prickle" effect or social norm (Andreoni, 1990, 1995; Grolleau et al., 2012). Different refinements of utility functions are elaborated in Van't Veld (2020) depending on the consumer attitude one wishes to consider. Also, we suggest to decision-makers the use of an eco-label to promote some products, but labels are not perfect. Consumers must remain vigilant with labels because they are sometimes used for marketing purposes or granted to industrial fisheries that are unsustainable, mislabelling can also be an issue (Sumaila et al., 2017; Le Manach et al., 2020), hence the importance of educating consumers to avoid greenwashing practices (Brécard et al., 2012). Integrating retailers within the supply chain is another challenge for our bio-economic model and analysis. At the level of the case study, it would be interesting to add to our model other dimensions that have a strong impact on the Guianese case study: global warming (Diop et al., 2018; Gomes et al., 2021), illegal fishing and swim bladder trade (Kersulec et al., 2021). Regarding variable costs relating mainly to the oil price, more dynamic and/or uncertain features should be taken into account (Cuilleret et al., 2022). More globally, paying more attention to food security and catch viability goals is another key challenge, in particular for tropical small-scale fisheries and seafood systems (Béné et al., 2007; Arthur et al., 2022).

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## A Appendix

### B Analytical results

#### B.1 Proof of Proposition 1

Consider  $y^*, x^*, e^*$  defined in equation (24) and assume for sake of simplicity that the species  $i$  are ranked in such a way that the max underlying  $y^*$  is realized for species  $i^* = 1, j^* = 2$  in the sense that

$$\begin{cases} y^* = \min_{i,j} \frac{m_i * q_j - m_j * q_i}{g_i * q_j - g_j * q_i} = \frac{m_1 * q_2 - m_2 * q_1}{g_1 * q_2 - g_2 * q_1} \\ x^* = \frac{I}{y^*(s_1 + s_2)} \\ e^* = \frac{g_1 y^* - m_1}{q_1} \end{cases} \quad (36)$$

Assume now that parameters  $(q, m, g)$  are such that  $y^*$  and  $e^*$  are strictly positive.

Consider now consumer preferences  $a_i$  such that

$$a_1 q_1^\sigma + a_2 q_2^\sigma = \left( \frac{y^*(s_1 + s_2)(c_2 e^* + c_1)}{I} \right)^\sigma \quad (37)$$

Let us now prove that the state  $(X^*, y^*)$  such  $X^* = (x^*, x^*, 0, \dots, 0)$  satisfies  $(X^*, y^*) \in \mathbb{V}iab(a)$ . From (37), we first have

$$U(Cpue(X^*), a)^\sigma = a_1 (q_1 x^*)^\sigma + a_2 (q_2 x^*)^\sigma = (x^*)^\sigma (a_1 q_1^\sigma + a_2 q_2^\sigma) = (x^*)^\sigma \left( \frac{y^*(s_1 + s_2)(c_2 e^* + c_1)}{I} \right)^\sigma = (c_2 e^* + c_1)^\sigma \quad (38)$$

Consequently  $e^*(X^*, a) \geq e^* > 0$ .

Furthermore, since  $X_1^* = X_2^* = x^* > 0$ , the species richness of  $X^*$  is such that

$$Bio(X^*) \geq 2.$$

Furthermore, from the very definition of  $e^*$  in (24), we have

$$-m_1 + g_1 y^* - q_1 e^* = 0,$$

Moreover, from the definition of  $y^*$  in (24), we also have

$$e^* = \frac{g_1 y^* - m_1}{q_1} = \frac{g_2 y^* - m_2}{q_2}$$

Thus, we can deduce that

$$-m_2 + g_2 y^* - q_2 e^* = 0,$$

From the definition of  $x^*$ , we also see that  $(X^*, y^*)$  is an equilibrium of the resource dynamics (20) since:

$$y^* = y^*(1 - x^*(s_1 + s_2)) + I.$$

Therefore  $(X^*, y^*)$  is a steady state of both dynamics (19) and (20). As  $(X^*, y^*)$  also satisfies the constraints (21) and (22) for any time  $t \geq 0$ , it is a viable state and belongs to the viability kernel namely  $(X^*, y^*) \in \mathbb{V}iab(a)$  (De Lara and Doyen, 2008; Aubin, 1991).

#### B.1.1 Proof of Corollary 1

We combine both the relation (25) and the definition  $x^* = \frac{I}{y^*(s_{i^*} + s_{j^*})}$  in (28) to obtain

$$(e^* * c_2 + c_1)^\sigma = a_i * q_i^\sigma (x^*)^\sigma + a_j * q_j^\sigma (x^*)^\sigma \quad (39)$$

Using  $1 = a_{i^*} + a_{j^*}$ , we deduce the required relation in Corollary 1 namely

$$a_{j^*}^* = \frac{(c_2 e^* + c_1)^\sigma - q_{i^*}^\sigma (x^*)^\sigma}{(x^*)^\sigma (q_{j^*}^\sigma - q_{i^*}^\sigma)}$$

## B.2 Proof of Proposition 2

Consider states  $(X^*, y^*)$  such that

$$a_{i^*}^* (q_{i^*} X_{i^*}^*)^\sigma + a_{j^*}^* (q_{j^*} X_{j^*}^*)^\sigma = (c_2 e^* + c_1)^\sigma, \quad X_{i^*}^* > 0, \quad X_{j^*}^* > 0, \quad X_i^* = 0 \quad \forall i \neq i^*, j^* \quad (40)$$

and

$$s_{i^*} X_{i^*}^* + s_{j^*} X_{j^*}^* = \frac{I}{y^*}. \quad (41)$$

Clearly these states  $(X^*, y^*)$  satisfy the biodiversity viability constraints since species richness  $Bio(X^*) = 2$ . Moreover from relation  $a_{i^*}^* (q_{i^*} X_{i^*}^*)^\sigma + a_{j^*}^* (q_{j^*} X_{j^*}^*)^\sigma = (c_2 e^* + c_1)^\sigma$ , we deduce

$$U\left(Cpue(X^*), a^*\right) = \left(\sum_{j=1}^n a_j^* (q_j X_j^*)^\sigma\right)^{\frac{1}{\sigma}} = (a_{i^*}^* (q_{i^*} X_{i^*}^*)^\sigma + a_{j^*}^* (q_{j^*} X_{j^*}^*)^\sigma)^{\frac{1}{\sigma}} = c_2 e^* + c_1$$

Therefore,  $e^*(X^*, a^*) = e^* > 0$  and the economic viability constraint holds true for  $X^*$ .

Moreover, from (41), the resource  $y^*$  is at equilibrium since:

$$y^* = y^* (1 - s_{i^*} X_{i^*}^* - s_{j^*} X_{j^*}^*) + I.$$

Moreover, from the definition of  $y^*$  in (24), we also have

$$e^* = \frac{g_{i^*} y^* - m_{i^*}}{q_{i^*}} = \frac{g_{j^*} y^* - m_{j^*}}{q_{j^*}}$$

Thus, we can deduce the species  $i^*$  and  $j^*$  are at equilibrium since

$$-m_{j^*} + g_{j^*} y^* - q_{j^*} e^* = 0, \quad -m_{i^*} + g_{i^*} y^* - q_{i^*} e^* = 0.$$

Therefore  $(X^*, y^*)$  is a viable steady state of both dynamics (19) and (20).

## B.3 Consumer preferences for 'business as usual' scenario

We want to prove the explicit formulation for the preference parameters  $a_i$  depending on quantities and prices:

$$a_i(Q) = p_i Q_i^{1-\sigma} \left(\sum_{j=1}^n p_j Q_j\right)^{\sigma-1} \quad (42)$$

From Section 2.1 and first order optimality conditions (3), we have

$$\frac{1}{\sigma} \left(\sum_{j=1}^n a_j Q_j^\sigma\right)^{\frac{1}{\sigma}-1} a_i \sigma Q_i^{\sigma-1} = p_i \quad (43)$$

This is equivalent to

$$a_i Q_i^\sigma \left(\sum_{j=1}^n a_j Q_j^\sigma\right)^{\frac{1}{\sigma}-1} = p_i Q_i \quad (44)$$

and yields

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i Q_i^\sigma \left( \sum_{j=1}^n a_j Q_j^\sigma \right)^{\frac{1}{\sigma}-1} = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i Q_i \quad (45)$$

Furthermore, as  $\sum_{j=1}^n a_j Q_j = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i Q_i$  we can deduce that

$$\left( \sum_{j=1}^n a_j Q_j^\sigma \right)^{\frac{1}{\sigma}} = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i Q_i \quad (46)$$

or equivalently

$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_j Q_j^\sigma = \left( \sum_{j=1}^n p_j Q_j \right)^\sigma \quad (47)$$

Combining (47) and (43), we obtain:

$$p_i = a_i Q_i^{\sigma-1} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n p_j Q_j \right)^{1-\sigma} \quad (48)$$

Thus, we can conclude.

## C Calibration for the case study of French Guiana

The calibration of this resource based model is realised by applying a least squares method in order to minimize the distance between historical catches and the catches estimated by our model. This reads as follows:

$$\min_{\text{Parameters}} \sum_{t=t_0}^{t_1} \sum_{i=1}^{N=3} (H_i^{\text{data}}(t) - H_i(t))^2. \quad (49)$$

To obtain the values of substitutability coefficient  $\sigma$  in the CES utility function as well as quadratic cost  $c_2$ , we apply a least squares method in order to minimize the distance between historical effort and the (optimal) effort estimated by our model, according to Equation (17), from 2006 to 2018 :

$$\min_{\sigma, c_2} \sum_{t=t_0}^{t_1} \sum_{i=1}^{N=3} (e^{\text{data}}(t) - e^*(t))^2. \quad (50)$$

In line with Cissé et al. (2015); Gomes et al. (2021), the model described previously has been calibrated using quarterly data and time series of landing and fishing effort from the **IFREMER Fisheries Information System** for fleets of the small scale fishery in French Guiana<sup>10</sup>. The period of calibration we use here to estimate the parameters of the model goes from  $t_0 = 2006$  to  $t_1 = 2018$  (decomposed in quarters). We consider a single fleet and our fishing effort and landings correspond to the fishing effort and landings aggregated by fleet type.

The parameters (Table 1) to be identified in Equation (19) are the natural mortality rate  $m_i$  of each species  $i$ , the catchability  $q_i$  of each species, the terms of interaction  $s_i$  between the species and the resource,  $g_i$  the resource-based per capita growth of species, the initial biomass  $x_i(t_0)$  of each species, as well as the external input of the resource  $I(t)$ . Moreover, since we here consider a quarterly time step, periods  $t_0$  and  $t_1$  corresponds

<sup>10</sup> Since 2006, IFREMER observers reconstruct the proceedings of the trip with legal fishers on a daily basis (type of vessel, fishing technology used, fishing effort, landings by species and associated costs). To estimate fishing effort, the SIH uses the monthly activity calendars and counts the number of days spent at sea per vessel. From the landing data for a given effort, IFREMER observers determine the quarterly landings for the different types of fleets and landing points using the rule of three (Weiss et al., 2018).

to the first quarter of 2006 and the last quarter of 2017 respectively. Furthermore, we used a genetic algorithm from the Scilab software<sup>11</sup> to solve numerically the minimization problem (49) and (50).

Figure 4 compares aggregated catches. We see that these historical and estimated catches are close and follow the same trends.

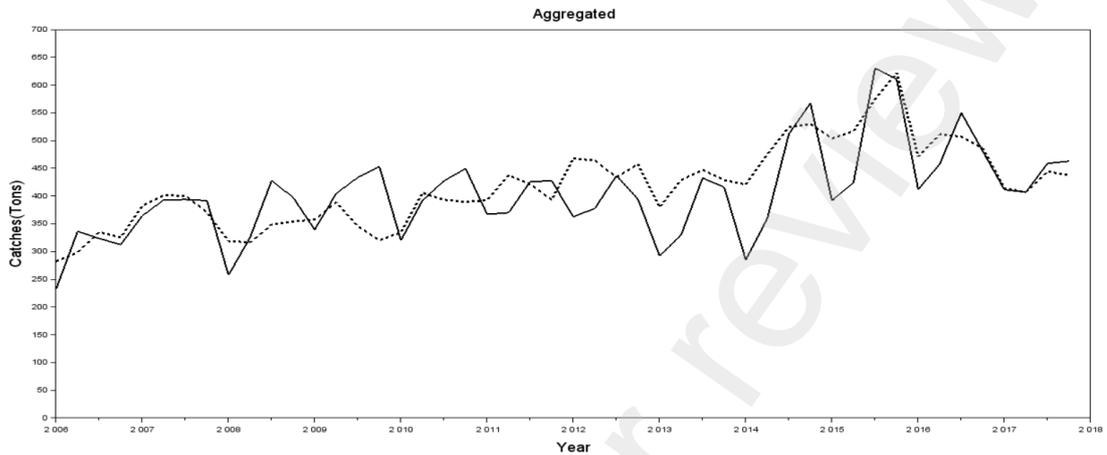


Fig. 4: Comparison of aggregated catches from the first quarter of 2006 to the last quarter of 2017. The black line represents the catches,  $H(t)$ , derived from the model. The black dotted line represents the historical data,  $H_{data}(t)$ .

Figure 5 compares historical effort with estimated effort from Equation 17 according to the minimization problem 50. To simplify, we consider here that there is only one form of preference  $a_i$  which varies with the sigma according to Equation 42<sup>12</sup>.

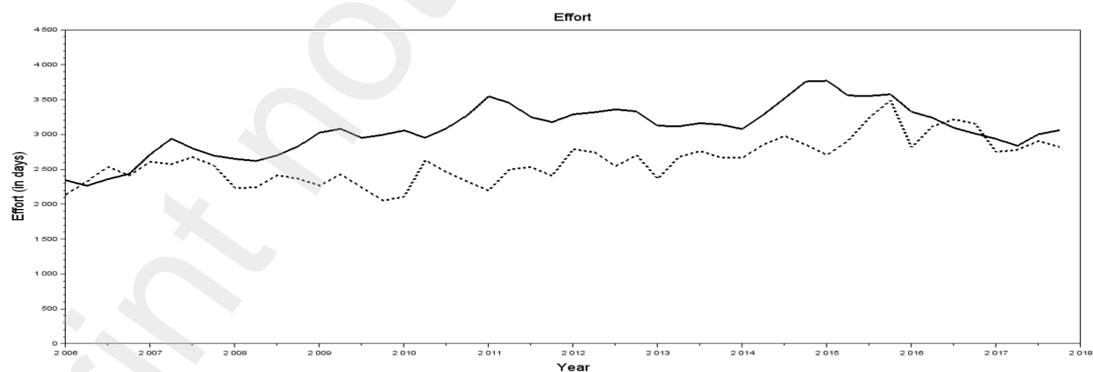


Fig. 5: The black line represents the effort,  $e^*(t)$ , derived from the model. The black dotted line represents the historical effort,  $e_{data}(t)$ .

<sup>11</sup> See <https://www.scilab.org>

<sup>12</sup> View value of consumer preferences in Table 2

## D Resource requirement for the BAU scenario

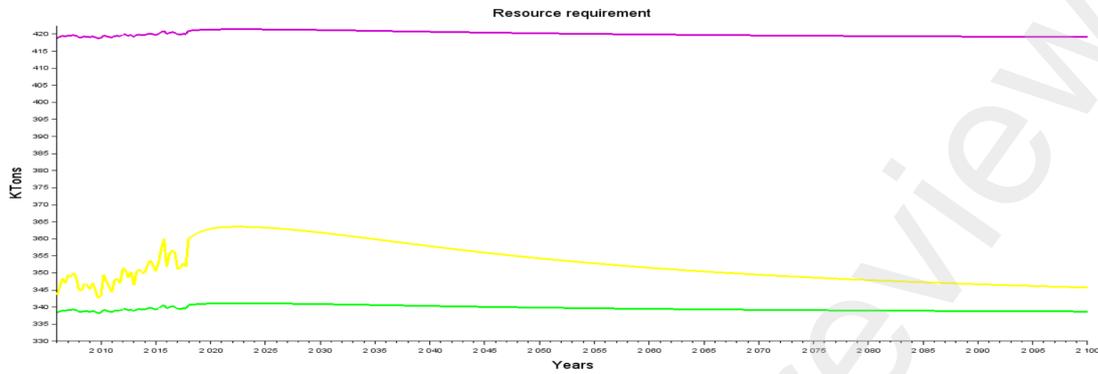


Fig. 6: Resource requirement for the BAU scenario. The purple line represents the CsC resource requirement. The yellow line represents the AW resource requirement. The green line represents the GW resource requirement.