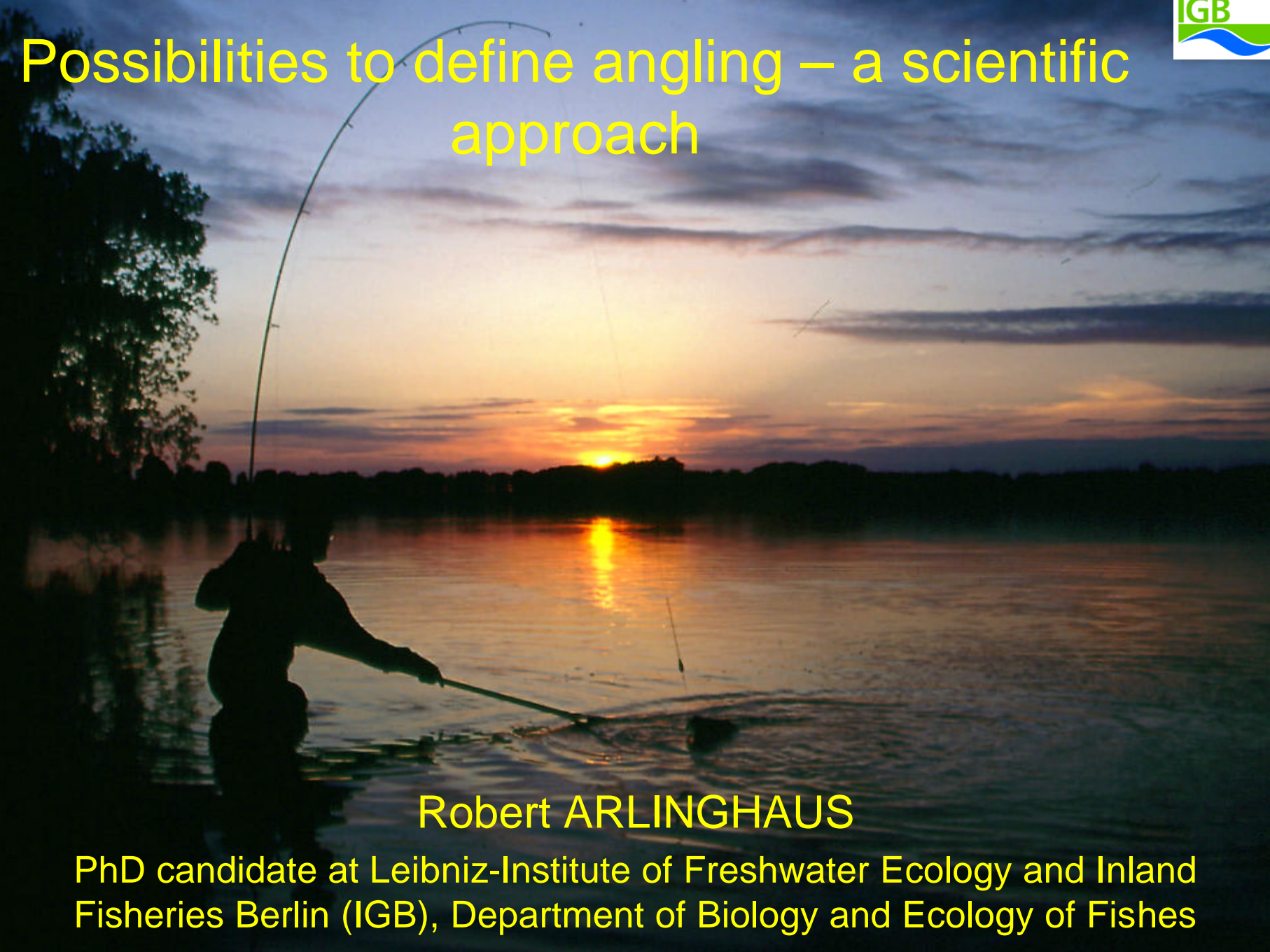


Possibilities to define angling – a scientific approach



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The necessity of an angling definition



- Simply to use a common language and understand each other (anglers, managers, politicians, scientists etc.)
 - ✓ To direct research
 - ✓ To guide lobbying
 - ✓ To be used for local management purposes
 - ✓ For legal uses

Some „definitions“ that refer to angling (1)



- Early effort by Plato (SOPHISTES) to define the art angling as:
 - ✓ “If the strike with a **HOOK** is conducted contrary to the top down manner (which is harpoon fishing) and does not hit the fish somewhere in the body like a trident but always near the head or the **MOUTH** by striking from below upwards (with a **ROD** or a cane) (Plato 360 BCA, translation from German)”.
- “Angling is to fish with hook and **LINE** (www.dictionary.com)”.
- “Angling is a form of **SPORT** hunting which consists of the **RECREATIONAL** searching for a free and unrestrained animal (fish), with the reasonable chance of gaining complete control of that animal, using a rod, line, and hook (de Leeuw 1997).”

Some „definitions“ that refer to angling (2)



- “Recreational fishing is any form of fishing done during **FREE TIME**, that is subjectively defined by the individual as being **LEISURE** (Neulinger 1974, Iso-Ahola 1980).”
- “Recreational fishing can be defined as catching fish for **FUN**...we shall not split hairs and attempt to distinguish sport fishing from recreational fishing (Pitcher and Hollingworth 2002).”
- “Recreational fishing is fishing primarily for recreation or **ENJOYMENT** as opposed to fishing whose main purpose is the production of food and other products (Policansky 2002).”

Terms used in angling „definitions“



Hook Rod

Leisure Recreation

Gear

Time

Mouth Line

Free time Not sale

Sport Pleasure

Motivation

Fun Enjoyment

Terminology on angling – a mess



- Angling, fishing,
- Angler, fishermen, fisher
- Recreational angling/fishing...
 - ✓ Sport angling...
 - ✓ Game angling...
 - ✓ Coarse angling...
 - ✓ Match angling...
 - ✓ Trophy angling...

First question to be resolved: **HOW** is the activity angling conducted?

Approaching angling by GEAR – How?



Target: fish or other aquatic animals

Means: Fishing (i.e. catching fish or other aquatic animals)

Def.: Angling is line fishing using the hooking method.

Non-angling (i.e. with all other gears, cf. Brandt 1964)

Principle: The aquatic animal to be caught finds itself unable to release the hooking device (e.g. a baited hook or a bait combined with a twine or a spider web) such that the animal can be lifted out of his element by means of a line.

Definition of an angler by GEAR – How?



Def.: An Angler is a person who tries to or catches aquatic animals with a gear consisting of line and using the hooking method

Attributes of anglers: Commercial angler, recreational angler, hobby angler, leisure angler, part-time angler...

Second question: **WHEN** does angling take place?

Approaching angling by TIME – When?



New umbrella: industrial revolution

work time

spare, free or leisure time

Angling

Commercial (i.e. during work time to earn part or the whole living)

Non-commercial (i.e. during leisure time without earning part or the whole living)

Expanded description for non-commercial angling in industrialized societies



If we assume that people chose predominantly those activities during leisure time that they subjectively find pleasant, and given that “Recreation” is something that pleasantly occupies one`s time during leisure time, non-commercial angling can be termed
RECREATIONAL ANGLING

Few exceptions (Aas 2002)

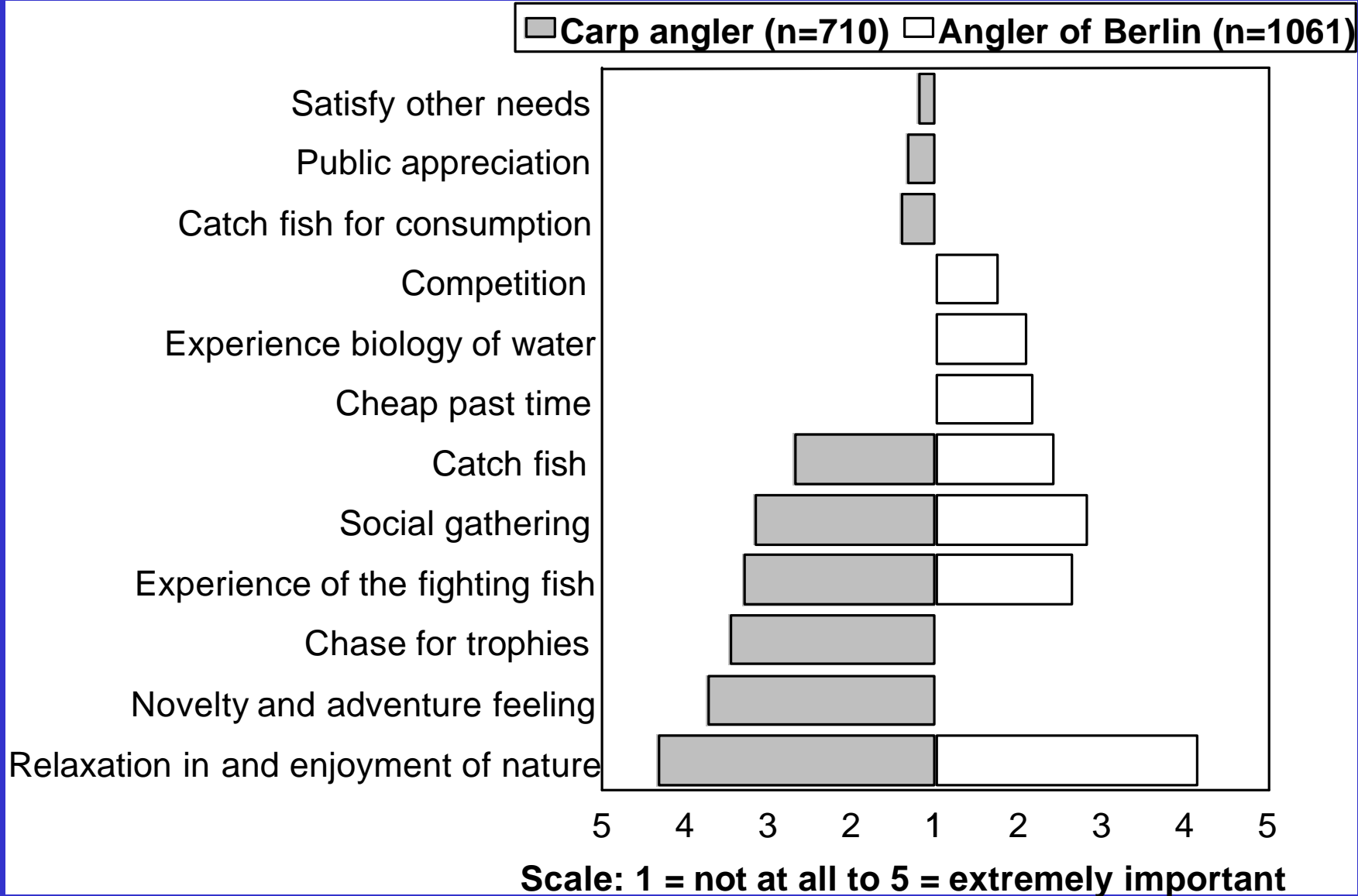
e.g. some rural or indigenous people

if in post-industrial societies the distinction between work and leisure time is not reduced

What cannot be used for an angling definition

- **WHERE:** Location and organization (e.g. saltwater, freshwater, organized in angling club or association)
- **WHAT:** Type of fish (e.g. game, coarse) or fishing (e.g. fly, match)
- **WHY:** Motivations of anglers
 - ✓ Sport (activity engaged for amusement and exercise)
 - ✓ Subsistence (supplement household's direct consumption of natural resources, cf. Glass et al. 1995)
 - ✓ Enjoyment, Pleasure, Fun
 - ✓ Achievement and Challenge
 - ✓ Social
 - ✓ Catch a particular type of fish
 - ✓ ...

Motivations of anglers in Germany



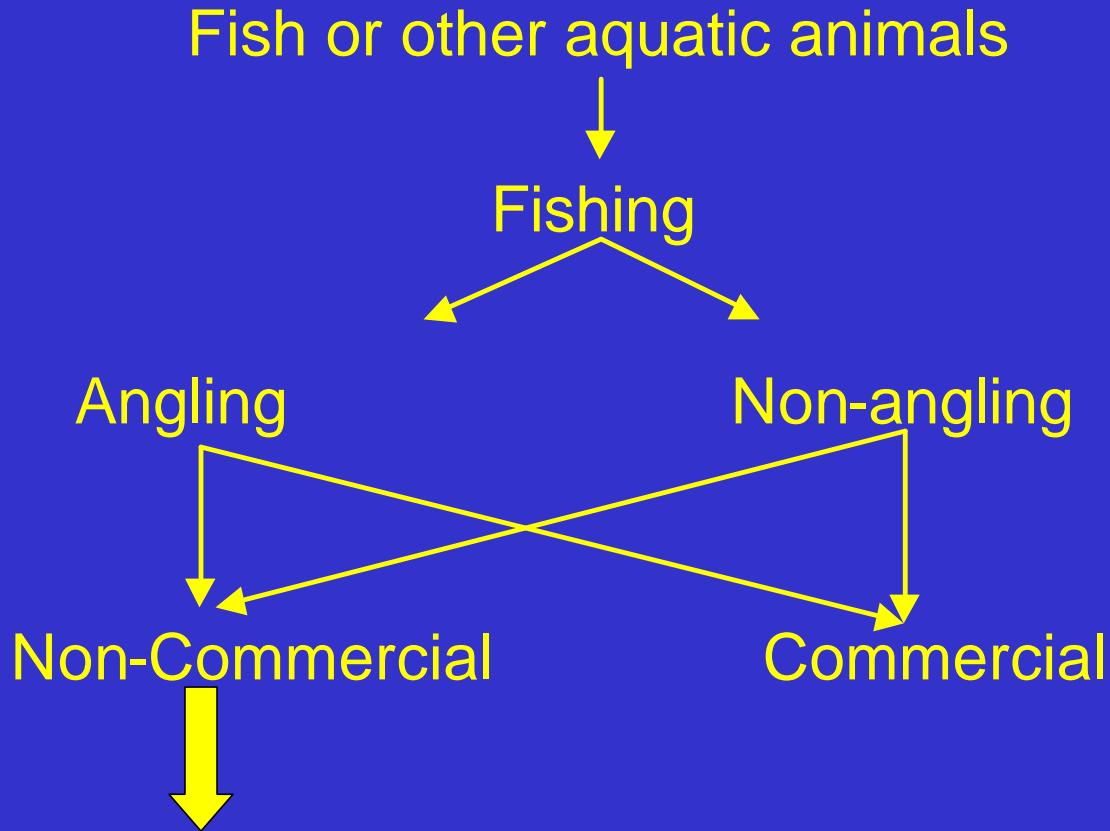
Motivations are too diverse to serve for a definition

Is it possible to scientifically define angling?

1. Possible addressing **How** and **When** (industrialized societies)
 1. How: Gear (line and hooking device) and catching method (hooking)
 2. When: Working time versus leisure time (recreation)

Exceptions are conceivable within “recreation definition” (developing countries, indigenous people etc., negligible for EAA?)
2. Impossible addressing **Where**, **What** and **Why**

Angling def. hierarchy in Western cultures



Recreational fishing (i.e. if recreation as main purpose of leisure time is assumed)

Conclusions derived from hierarchical definition in Western cultures



1. Recreational fishing is a specific non-commercial type of fishing done during leisure (free) time; is **NOT** equivalent with either angling or recreational angling.
2. Angling is not necessarily non-commercial, but recreational angling is
3. An angler is not necessarily a recreational angler, but he or she is a specific type of a fisher using line and the hooking method

Outlook for the discussion with regard to definition of recreational angling



Def.: Recreational angling is non-commercial line fishing using the hooking method (during leisure time).

Every narrowing of definition excludes recreational anglers!

1. Include ethical standard (hooking in mouth region)?
2. Exclude hand line angling by referring to rod?
3. Exclude anglers fishing without hooks by referring to hooks (e.g. eel bob anglers?).
4. Exclude angling of other aquatic animals by referring to fish?