

Global offtake of wild animals from wetlands: critical issues for fish and birds

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1 **Global offtake of wild animals from wetlands: critical issues for fish**
2 **and birds**

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18

19 **Abstract**

20 The global offtake of wild animals is valued at US\$400 billion annually and supports the

21 livelihoods of 15% of the global population. Wetlands are amongst the most important

22 ecosystems globally, but offtake may represent a substantial pressure. This study assessed the

23 availability of information and evaluated the offtake of wild animals from wetlands by focussing

24 on fish and waterbirds. A literature search identified 2726 studies on wetland offtake. Scoping of

25 these resulted in 82 studies that contained quantitative information on fish or waterbird offtake.

26 Fishing offtake statistics for inland waters are collated nationally by some governments, but other
27 sources of information are few. Reporting of fish offtake for species or across scales was
28 constrained by insufficient detail, even in relatively well-documented countries such as
29 Bangladesh. Although government hunting statistics from Europe and North America were
30 available, there was little waterbird data from less economically developed countries. The case
31 of Canada indicated that the species richness and composition of waterbirds taken varied between
32 indigenous subsistence and recreational hunting communities. Hidden (unquantified) offtake, of
33 both fish and waterbirds, hinders obtaining precise data for offtake, which may threaten the
34 conservation of species and the sustainability of wetland ecosystems.

35

36 **Keywords** Harvesting • Hunting • Fishing • Sustainable • Bangladesh • Canada

37

38 **Introduction**

39 The global harvest of wild animals from land and sea has a commercial value of over US\$400
40 billion annually and supports the livelihoods of 15% of the global population (Milner-Gulland et
41 al. 2003; Brashares et al. 2014). Throughout human history, wild animal and plant species have
42 been taken and used for food, fur and skins, fuel, traditional medicine, rituals, pets, sport, objects
43 of scientific interest and curios, and as food for farmed animals, such as wild fish used as feed in
44 aquaculture. Even today, wild species are the main source of protein for more than a billion
45 people (Brashares et al. 2014). Advances in harvesting technology (e.g. guns, sonar use in fishing,
46 wireless communication, Global Positioning System) and refrigeration have increased the
47 frequency and quantity of wild species harvests in recent decades (Tsuji and Nieboer 1999).
48 Overexploitation, the harvesting of wild species at unsustainable rates, is considered the biggest
49 driver of biodiversity declines for more than 8,000 threatened or near-threatened species assessed
50 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List (Maxwell et al. 2016).
51 Exploitation of wild species can lead to extinctions, with ultimately negative impacts on
52 ecosystem functioning and human wellbeing.

53 The taking, exploiting or harvesting of animals from the wild, referred to here as offtake,
54 is beginning to be recognised by policymakers and reflected in international and national policies.
55 While information is available for marine offtake (e.g., Pauly 2007), recent assessments of threats
56 to species highlighted the need for better knowledge on the use of biological resources, especially
57 from terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems (Pereira et al. 2012; Joppa et al. 2016). Information
58 on wild animal offtake and use is critical for reporting towards multiple international conventions
59 and targets, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi Targets (e.g.
60 Strategic Goal B) (UNEP and CBD 2010), the UN Sustainable Development Goals (especially
61 trade-offs between SDGs 2 Zero Hunger and 15 Life on Land) (UN General Assembly 2015),

62 the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Food Security Indicators,
63 and also to inform national wildlife and food security policies.

64 Wetlands are vitally important for wildlife, supporting a richness of global biodiversity
65 disproportionate to their limited extent (WWF 2018). Wetlands are areas that are inundated or
66 saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency or duration sufficient to support vegetation
67 adapted for saturated soils. They can be natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water
68 that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt up to 6 m deep (United Nations Educational
69 Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) 1971). They encompass a range of inland and
70 coastal ecosystems, including rivers and lakes, floodplains, swamps, marshes, peatlands,
71 mangroves, and rice fields. Wetland ecosystems contribute to peoples wellbeing and support vital
72 services, including nutrient cycling, carbon storage, water purification, flood attenuation, and
73 recreation (Russi et al. 2013). Their valuable provisioning services include drinking water,
74 building materials, forage, fuel and food, such as fish and rice, thereby contributing to water and
75 food security.

76 The global value of the provisioning services for coastal and inland wetlands, including
77 rivers and lakes, is likely to be equivalent to at least Int\$3.33 trillion yr⁻¹, representing almost 5%
78 of global GDP (Costanza et al. 2014). This is based on a cautious average of Int\$2,190 ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹
79 (2007 values) (de Groot et al. 2012) and a conservative estimate of the global extent of wetlands
80 at 15.2 x 10⁸ ha (Davidson and Finlayson 2018). The food service value alone is on average
81 Int\$610 ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ (de Groot et al. 2012), equivalent to Int\$927 billion yr⁻¹ for the estimated global
82 wetland resource. Animals taken from wetlands constitute a major source of protein in many
83 human diets globally (Youn et al. 2014), especially where animal husbandry is less prevalent, or
84 wetlands are not suitable for grazing livestock. Subsistence fishing, where fish are caught and
85 consumed by the fisher and family, provides an important source of high-quality protein and
86 micronutrients in many low-income countries (Youn et al. 2014). Fishing in wetlands can also

87 generate income for rural communities and represent a vital source of employment for many
88 women (Cooke et al. 2016). The fishing services at the 320,000 ha Lake Chilwa wetlands in
89 Malawi were valued at over US\$18 million in 2002 (Schuyt and Brander 2004). Sports fishing
90 on wetlands has been valued at US\$374 ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ and recreational hunting of birds and game at
91 US\$123 ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ (Schuyt and Brander 2004). Where hunting and fishing for sport or recreation
92 requires the purchase of licences, this can generate substantial income, such as the £21 million
93 (US\$27 million) spent on fishing licences in England in 2015-16 (Environment Agency 2019).

94 The biodiversity of wetlands is amongst the most threatened of any ecosystem, and
95 human offtake may represent a significant pressure affecting wetland-dependent taxa. Recent
96 indicators suggest an 83% decline in global populations of freshwater species since 1970 (WWF
97 2018). Fish and waterbirds are among the most important indicators of wetland health and
98 functioning (Weller 1999; Batzer and Sharitz 2014). The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
99 (2018) reports that 29% of freshwater fish species and 18% of waterbirds are threatened. It is
100 estimated that inland wetlands including rivers and lakes support about 15,000 species of fish
101 (Lévêque et al. 2008), of which over half are threatened, endangered, or extinct in the wild (He
102 et al. 2018). In the 20th century, freshwater fish had the highest global extinction rate of any
103 vertebrates (Burkhead 2012). Overexploitation now accounts for 55% of all threats to fish
104 populations (WWF 2018). Waterbirds depend on inland and coastal wetlands for breeding and/or
105 food, and include some of the most conspicuous and iconic wetland wildlife, including ducks,
106 geese, swans, wading birds, herons, cranes, and flamingos. Population trends for waterbirds
107 globally indicate that 38% of species are in decline, with Anatidae (ducks, geese and swans) and
108 Raillidae (rails, crakes, coots etc.) the most threatened (Wetlands International 2012). The IUCN
109 lists 58 wetland bird species that are globally endangered by hunting, with a further 68 species
110 categorised as vulnerable (IUCN 2018). In China, 71% of endangered waterbirds are threatened
111 by hunting and historical studies suggest up to 50% of overwintering birds were taken annually

112 from some floodplains (Wang et al. 2018). Many waterbirds are also taken on migration along
113 flyways between winter feeding and summer breeding wetlands (Boere and Piersma 2012).

114 In addition to fish and birds, offtake for a variety of uses represents a substantial threat to
115 a wide range of wetland vertebrate and invertebrate taxa. The IUCN lists 53 mammal species of
116 wetland habitats as vulnerable or threatened by hunting and trapping (IUCN 2018). Examples of
117 wetland-dependant mammals taken include otters that are trapped and hunted for meat as well as
118 perceived pest control in Africa and Asia, and hippopotamuses, which are often illegally hunted
119 for meat and ivory, especially since bans on the trade in elephant ivory (Veron et al. 2008).
120 Amphibians are taken for food and the pet trade (Vences and Köhler 2008) with, for example,
121 the USA importing over 14.7 million ‘wild-caught’ amphibians between 1998 and 2002
122 (Schlaepfer et al. 2005). Freshwater reptiles are amongst the most threatened wetland taxa
123 (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 2018) and turtles are the most exploited of the reptiles,
124 primarily for their meat, eggs, medicinal use and the pet trade. Consequently, 30 wetland turtle
125 species are listed as either vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered (IUCN 2018). A
126 diversity of invertebrate species, ranging from crustaceans to molluscs and insects, are taken from
127 wetlands, likely in very large numbers. Almost 50,000 tonnes of aquatic invertebrates, not
128 including crustaceans and molluscs, were caught globally in 2009, mostly in China (Welcomme
129 2011). Water beetles, for example, are consumed and used in traditional medicines particularly
130 in Asia (Jäch and Balke 2007). Historic examples of overexploitation include freshwater leeches,
131 mussels, and crayfish (Strayer 2006), and over 30% of non-marine mollusc and crayfish species
132 are globally threatened (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 2018).

133 The importance of wetland animals is not limited to their resource value for humans; they
134 also fulfil vital functions within wetland ecosystems that offtake may disrupt. These include:
135 dispersal of plant seeds by mammals and birds (Green et al. 2007); consumption of weed seeds
136 and invertebrate pests by birds in agricultural wetlands (Sandilyan and Duraimurugan 2013);

137 herbivory by birds that maintains vegetation structure and diversity (Green and Elmberg 2014);
138 nutrient cycling and aeration of sediments through bioturbation by crustaceans, amphipods and
139 gastropods (Covich et al. 1999; Vaughn and Hakenkamp 2001); and ecological engineering by
140 beavers that creates new wetlands (Rossell et al. 2005).

141 Given the global importance of wetlands and their services, the decline in their
142 biodiversity (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 2018), and the pressures on endangered wildlife,
143 it is vital that the offtake of wild animals from wetlands is evaluated. Unlike marine systems, for
144 which offtake and its sustainability have long been of interest (e.g. Pauly 2007), there is limited
145 research on animal offtake from wetlands with a global perspective. This paper assesses the
146 availability of information and evaluates the offtake of wild animals from wetlands by focussing
147 on two key taxa: fish and waterbirds. Its objectives are to:

- 148 i) Systematically search and critically review the global literature and data sources on
- 149 waterbird and fish offtake from wetlands to ascertain their availability and scope, and
- 150 ii) Analyse the data and other information reviewed to present cases that exemplify and
- 151 elucidate key trends and patterns in offtake from wetlands.

152

153 **Methods**

154 Searches for information on wetland offtake, with a focus on fish and birds, were conducted
155 between May and July 2018 by retrieving relevant literature using a series of target words
156 combined across themes in search strings in Web of Science and Google Scholar (**Table 1** Target
157 words used in Web of Science and Google Scholar searches). Boolean operators AND and NOT
158 were used to combine words and exclude other terms. A wildcard (*) was used to incorporate
159 multiple word endings (e.g. fish* er, ing, ery, etc). The full range of years available was used in
160 all searches, extending back to 1900. When less than four results were returned in a search of
161 article or report titles only, the search was expanded to include topic so that keywords would also

162 be incorporated. Additional information, such as from non peer-reviewed reports, was obtained
163 following recommendations from an expert advisory panel, which met in July 2018.

164 Screening for the most relevant information involved evaluating titles and abstracts of all
165 publications retrieved from the initial search results in relation to the following five criteria. All
166 relevant documents were identified and stored.

167

168 Subject: The scope of wetlands included was based upon the Ramsar classification of wetland
169 types (Ramsar Convention 2012), adapted by Davidson and Finlayson (2018). This comprises
170 three main types of wetland: *inland natural*, used to assess both fish and bird offtake, and *coastal*
171 *natural* and *human-made*, used for birds only to avoid likely cases of marine fisheries and
172 aquaculture. The extent of inland natural wetlands is dominated by peatlands, lakes, and marshes
173 and swamps (including floodplains), which together form over 80% of the global area of surface
174 inland wetlands, with a smaller area of rivers and streams (Davidson and Finlayson 2018).
175 Natural coastal wetlands include saltmarshes and tidal flats, which together form over 60% of
176 the global coastal wetland area (Davidson and Finlayson 2018), as well as mangroves and
177 seagrass beds. The main areas of human-made wetlands are rice fields and water storage bodies
178 such as reservoirs and ponds.

179

180 Taxa: The focal taxa were fish and waterbirds that depend upon wetlands to complete their life
181 cycle. For fish, this included wholly freshwater and diadromous species, both those that migrate
182 from marine to freshwater to breed, such as the anadromous salmonids, and catadromous species
183 like eels that return from freshwater to the sea to reproduce. Waterbird species that use inland
184 and coastal wetlands were included. Many waterbirds are mobile between inland wetlands such
185 as floodplains, wet grasslands and mires, where they might breed, and coastal wetlands such as
186 marshes or lagoons where they might stop on migration or overwinter (Weller 1999). Examples

187 include ducks and wading birds. Some sea ducks may also use inland wetlands, for example
188 during winter, inclement weather, or to breed (Duda et al. 2018).

189

190 Geography: The search was applied globally. Data from multiple sources for the same
191 geographical area were commonly found (e.g. waterbird hunting statistics for European and
192 North American countries, and river basin data, often comprising several countries, for fish).

193

194 Date: No date restrictions were applied. Data covering multiple years were of particular interest
195 as they enabled assessment of temporal trends.

196

197 Language: The search was conducted, and most information was returned, in English. However,
198 some government hunting statistics and data sets were translated into English to enable them to
199 be integrated into the assessment.

200

201 Finally, the literature was scrutinised to identify case study issues of interest, namely
202 reasons for offtake, geographical (e.g. country) or species-specific studies, examples of
203 (un)sustainable offtake, and statistical analysis. Most of the quantitative information on fish and
204 bird offtake reported in the literature was traced to two main data sources. The FAO maintain
205 national records of inland fisheries from 1950 onwards in the ‘fishstat’ database (FAO Fisheries
206 and Aquaculture Department 2016). For waterbirds, governments of many of the more
207 economically developed countries have open access data on hunting, some going back several
208 decades. The European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (<https://www.face.eu/>)
209 provides web links to national statistics for hunting in Europe.

210

211 **Results of the literature search**

212 The initial literature searches resulted in 2726 articles or reports (subsequently called studies)
213 being identified. The most successful search strings with more than 200 studies each in Web of
214 Science were: ‘floodplain* AND fish*’; ‘fish* AND exploit* NOT marine NOT reef NOT
215 coast’; ‘illegal AND bird’ and ‘inland AND fish*’.

216 Reviewing the studies highlighted a variety of terms being used to describe the taking of
217 animals by humans from the wild, including: use, exploit, overexploitation, take, offtake, hunt,
218 harvest, fish and capture. Some terms were used more frequently in relation to particular taxa,
219 such as ‘capture’ for fish and ‘hunt’ for birds, while others such as ‘harvest’ were used commonly
220 for both. However, nuanced differences in application or implied meaning for some terms were
221 apparent between taxa. For example, the term ‘exploit’ often suggested negative connotations
222 within studies on waterbirds, but for fish tended to imply their beneficial use as a resource, unless
223 overexploitation was explicitly mentioned. To overcome ambiguity, here the term ‘offtake’ is
224 used to encompass this diverse lexicon and ‘overexploit/ation’ when discussing offtake that is
225 known or suspected to be unsustainable. Offtake that is acknowledged in studies but is
226 unquantified or otherwise unreported officially is described as ‘hidden’.

227 Screening of the identified studies resulted in 82 being extracted as containing data, or
228 other quantitative information, on fish or waterbird offtake in wetlands (Table S1 & S2).

229

230 **Fish offtake**

231 Forty-one relevant studies on fish offtake were collated, of which 24 (59%) were peer-reviewed.
232 Floodplains were the most common type of wetland identified (63%) and almost half of the
233 studies were specific to single countries or river basins, of which half of these were site-specific.
234 Most studies (83%) used the term ‘exploit’ to describe the offtake of fish, often interchangeably
235 with ‘harvest’ (73%). The need for sustainable management of fisheries was referred to in many

236 studies (76%). However, examples of sustainable inland fisheries were only cited in two papers
237 (Ahmed 2008; Hortle and Bamrungrach 2015), while unsustainable inland fisheries were
238 described in four studies (Rana et al. 2009; FAO 2016; Kang et al. 2017; Funge-Smith 2018).
239 Whilst the majority of studies (76%) contained some statistics, fewer contained actual data on
240 fish offtake. Offtake by weight, either kg ha⁻¹ or annual tonnage, was more frequently reported
241 (46%) than by proportion of species taken (12%). Less than half the studies (44%) identified
242 some fish species, and these were generally a list of the most commonly caught species. Artisanal
243 or subsistence fishing was mentioned in many studies (66%), frequently within the context of the
244 importance of inland fisheries to many people around the world. Subsistence fishing was often
245 identified as an unquantified or hidden offtake. Similarly, recreational or sport fishing was cited
246 quite frequently (46%) as an unreported offtake, which could have detrimental effects on the
247 sustainability of fisheries. Recreational fishing was usually described in studies pertaining to
248 more economically developed nations. Illegal fishing was a third source of hidden offtake. Thus,
249 available fishing data are unlikely to accurately reflect the true wetland fisheries offtake.

250 Review of FAO data indicated that inland wetland fisheries account for approximately
251 15% of all capture fisheries, not including aquaculture (FAO 2016). Global offtake from inland
252 fisheries has been steadily rising since 1950 when national data began to be collated, and in 2016
253 11.6 million tonnes were taken (FAO 2018b). Over 66% of this offtake is from Asia, with China
254 taking nearly 2.3 million tonnes (FAO 2018b), representing the world's biggest inland fishery
255 (Funge-Smith 2018). Africa also makes a substantial contribution to global inland fisheries (FAO
256 2018a).

257 National offtake data from inland fisheries often neglects to record subsistence activity
258 and lacks valuable information on wetland type and species. A comparison by the World Bank
259 (2012) using eight Asian and African countries estimates that inland fish offtake may be up to
260 5.9 times greater than officially reported, due partially to subsistence fishing. Lymer et al. (2016)

261 estimate the theoretical global inland fisheries offtake to be 6.5 times higher than official data at
262 approximately 72 million tonnes each year, largely due to better estimates of yield and the area
263 of global wetlands. For some countries or river basins, offtake data can be related to wetland
264 type, but for most national statistics this information is not available and it is unclear which
265 wetlands are included. This overlooks the importance of different wetlands for fish and fishers.
266 For example, floodplains are the single largest source of inland fish offtake and likely comprise
267 two thirds of the inland wetland fisheries area (Lymer et al. 2016), yet are not identified in most
268 national statistics. Floodplains may be under-reported and often account for large increases in
269 offtake when they are incorporated into data (Welcomme 2011), such as for Myanmar where
270 annual fish offtake increased from 290,000 to 1.24 million tonnes between 2003 and 2012 (FAO
271 2016; FAO 2018a) largely because of the inclusion of floodplain fisheries. There is limited data
272 available about the fish species taken from different wetland types, and there also seems to be
273 disparities between the main species reported by national or more local records and those species,
274 if any, collated internationally (e.g. by the FAO).

275

276 **Case study: Reporting fish offtake in Bangladesh**

277 Bangladesh was selected for analysis because fishing is particularly important to the country and
278 it reports fisheries data relatively well. Over 60% of households rely on offtake of wild fish from
279 inland wetlands for income, food, or subsistence in Bangladesh (Craig et al. 2004; Hossain and
280 Wahab 2009), the third largest inland capture fishery globally producing 1,048,242 tonnes in
281 2016 (FAO 2018b). Fish are considered the most affordable and rich source of (animal) protein
282 in Bangladesh (Galib et al. 2009). As a topographically low-lying country, almost half of
283 Bangladesh's territory is covered by inland waters (Hossain and Wahab 2009). During the wet
284 season, lasting 4-6 months each year, seasonal floodplains expand to cover up to 55,000 km²
285 (38% of land area) (Hossain and Wahab 2009). During the dry season, the main rivers (Meghna,

286 Ganges, Jamuna), their tributaries, and canals cover 4797 km² (3%); estuarine areas (incl. the
287 Sundarbans) 5518 km² (4%); and large permanent or semi-permanent depressions, known locally
288 as ‘beels’, amount to 1142 km² (1%) (Hossain and Wahab 2009).

289 Fish offtake from wetlands in Bangladesh is relatively well documented in annual
290 yearbooks released by the Government Department of Fisheries (Department of Fisheries 2017),
291 allowing critical comparison of trends. Yearbooks provide information on total fish offtake
292 quantity and by inland wetland type such that change in offtake over time can be assessed (**Fig.**
293 **1**). Data indicate that over two-thirds of fish in wetlands in Bangladesh are taken from floodplains
294 (Lymer et al. 2016), from which offtake in the last 13 years has fluctuated but overall increased
295 (Fig. 1). Offtake from rivers and estuaries has also grown and there has been a slight increase in
296 offtake from beels (Fig. 1). Additional official information includes fish offtake by district, fish
297 species caught by weight, and percentage of catch per wetland type. Data on subsistence fishing,
298 accounting for 53% of total offtake or 81% of offtake from floodplains, is provided separately
299 (e.g., Department of Fisheries 2017). Subsistence fishing in Bangladesh, usually with few
300 restrictions (Mustafa and Brooks 2008), is important especially for a minority of the population
301 who tend to fish smaller fish, often women and children (Craig et al. 2004) and at certain locations
302 (e.g. Dogger beel, which is mostly fished by subsistence fishers (Siddiq et al. 2013)).

303 Reporting of fish offtake is fraught with difficulties and limitations, especially at the
304 species-level and comparing across different scales. Over 260 species of fish have been recorded
305 in Bangladeshi inland waters (Rahman et al. 1999). The main groups that are commercially fished
306 include Hilsa shad, carp and catfish, as well as prawns and shrimp (Fig. 2, Table 2) (Craig et al.
307 2004), with the majority of fish taken being consumed, e.g. 77 of the 81 species caught in the
308 Chalan beel are consumed (Galib et al. 2009). Offtake of most fish has increased in recent years
309 (Fig. 2). At national level, data on offtake resolved by species are not readily available, as species
310 data are reported by amalgamated species categories (Table 2) and reporting is likely limited to

311 the economically important species. Tracking change in offtake of individual species or even of
312 species categories can be difficult, as categories and their species composition have changed over
313 time (Table 2). Similarly, national statistics on species offtake, e.g. for beels, cannot readily be
314 compared to data from regions and individual wetlands (Fig. 3). By aggregating data, potentially
315 valuable information for species or sites is lost. For example, species classified as “major carp”
316 constitute almost 30% of offtake from beels nationally yet these species are absent or comprise
317 less than 5% from some sites (Fig. 3a). Studies of individual wetlands often include valuable data
318 on fish diversity, offtake rates, types of fishing gear used and reasons for fishing. Discrepancies
319 when comparing national and regional or individual wetland data are partially caused by
320 inconsistent species classification. An example is the Ashura beel, a 252 ha wetland in north east
321 Bangladesh, where native “other carp” are unreported at national level yet inspection of species
322 records show comprise 30% of the catch (Fig. 3b) (Mustafa and Brooks 2008). Such data
323 comparison highlights that regionally preferred species may go unmentioned in national statistics
324 or aggregated in the “other fish” category (Fig. 3).

325 While national statistics show increases in some fish offtakes in Bangladesh, local studies
326 suggest that illegal fishing, use of illegal gear, pollution, wetland loss and degradation and
327 overexploitation threaten the sustainability of wetland offtakes. Declines in fish diversity have
328 been reported at Chalan beel (Galib et al. 2009; Sayeed 2014), Bamal, Salimpur, Kola and
329 Bashukhali (BSKB) beel (Rahman et al. 1999), Goakhola beel (Mustafa and Brooks 2008), and
330 Tanguar Haor (Ramsar Convention 2000). Reported causes of such declines include small-
331 meshed nets (Galib et al. 2009), poor water quality (Ahmed et al. 2009), hydraulic engineering
332 interfering with migratory species (Halls et al. 1999), and overexploitation of larger species
333 (Rahman et al. 1999; Ahmed 2008; Mustafa and Brooks 2008).

334

335 **Waterbird offtake**

336 Forty-one studies were identified on waterbird offtake from wetlands, of which 30 (73%) were
337 peer-reviewed. There was a paucity of information with a global representation, with most studies
338 (73%) based on a country, flyway, or continent. Where data were available, they were derived
339 mainly from government statistics from more economically developed countries and apparently
340 reflected recreational offtake. Data from less economically developed nations were limited,
341 which may reflect ineffective regulation of bird offtake in these countries even though it is often
342 illegal. In these countries offtake was almost always for subsistence or income generation rather
343 than recreation (UNEP and CMS Secretariat 2014). Offtake was described as ‘hunt(ing)’ in
344 almost every study (95%), often used interchangeably with ‘harvest(ing)’ (66%), and
345 ‘exploitation’ of birds was also used occasionally (36%). ‘Sustainable’ was often applied (61%)
346 as an aspiration for waterbird offtake, rather than suggesting that it is currently sustainable. There
347 were only three studies (Sodhi et al. 2011; UNEP and CMS Secretariat 2014; Madsen et al. 2015)
348 that reported examples of sustainable bird offtake, with four times as many examples of
349 unsustainable offtake reported. Statistics or estimates of waterbird offtake were found in 73% of
350 the studies. These included bag counts, illegal offtake and population indicators, and ranged from
351 individual countries to continental estimates. Most studies (66%) encompassed all waterbirds,
352 although there were eight studies focussed on geese and four on ducks. The most frequently
353 articulated motive for waterbird offtake was for recreation or sport (59%) rather than for
354 subsistence (32%). Hidden offtake through illegal hunting of waterbirds was referred to in 51%
355 of the studies, although this was generally an acknowledgement that it was taking place, and only
356 five studies presented any data for estimated illegal offtake (Gray and Kaminski 1994; Brochet
357 et al. 2016; BirdLife International 2017b; Brochet et al. 2019; Ilyashenko and Mirande In prep).

358 Counts (or estimates) collected by governments for birds taken by legal hunting are
359 theoretically accessible for 21 European and North American countries. These constitute a

360 valuable resource, especially for recent years as these statistics are available online, but the
361 national datasets are generally of variable quantity and quality. In Europe, the type of data
362 collected, the species reported, and the temporal extent of the recording, varies greatly. For
363 example, hunting data from Austria extending back to 1983 is available online, however the data
364 are presented in just four broad categories for waterbirds: snipe, ducks, geese and coot (Statistik
365 Austria 1983-2018). Records from the Czech Republic in contrast can list 13 individual species,
366 but the time series is less detailed with many years showing data for only three species (Czech
367 Statistical Office (CZSO) 2008-2018). Some other countries do not appear to collect or make
368 available any official data for bird hunting, such as the UK, making it difficult to assess the
369 sustainability of such offtake. Records of recreational hunting from the USA and Canada are
370 relatively comprehensive, including data on ducks, geese, rails and other species. In the USA,
371 data have been collected since the 1952/53 hunting season, and are currently collated for 41
372 species by state and flyway, with analyses of sex and age ratio of some species and information
373 on the number of hunters (Raftovich et al. 2016). However, the data depend upon survey
374 information from hunters, which relies on the accuracy of their bird identification. Christensen
375 et al. (2017) found that hunters in Denmark asked to identify between five goose species averaged
376 76% accuracy. Some species were more easily identified than others (e.g. Canada goose) and
377 adults were more accurately identified than juveniles.

378 Some waterbird taxa are readily identifiable and cosmopolitan, allowing comparisons
379 between countries, and support relatively long runs of offtake data in national sets so that
380 temporal trends can be evaluated. The mallard is probably the most hunted waterbird species,
381 especially in more economically developed countries where recreational hunting predominates.
382 National statistics indicate that the offtake of mallards varies greatly between countries and over
383 many years (Fig. 4). Numbers hunted range from a few thousand in Switzerland (Eidgenössische
384 Jagdstatistik 2019) to over five million in the USA (Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl

385 Committee 2015), no doubt related to the populations of mallards and hunters in countries of
386 such contrasting size. However, despite some large peaks and troughs in the numbers of birds
387 hunted over time, all countries show a decrease in offtake in recent decades (Fig. 4). The
388 reduction in mallards taken in the USA in the 1980's may have directly reflected a declining
389 species population at the time, but the decrease in mallards hunted since 2000 is in contrast to an
390 increase in its population (Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Committee 2015). Another
391 explanation is that the number of people hunting has decreased, which may be the case in Canada
392 where the number of waterbird hunters has fallen sharply since the mid-1970's (Gendron and
393 Smith 2017), mirroring the decrease in mallards taken. However, in Hungary the number of
394 recreational hunters (as opposed to professional hunters) has quite steadily increased from about
395 19,000 in 1960 to 58,000 in 2016 (Sándor et al. 2017), yet the number of mallards taken has
396 fallen since 1989 despite a relatively stable European population (BirdLife International 2017a).
397 Evidently, trends in offtake over time and between countries are complicated by indirect human
398 factors, such as conservation policies and social changes.

399

400 **Case study: Waterbird offtake by indigenous and recreational hunters in Canada**

401 Canada was selected for analysis because it is estimated to support almost a quarter of the global
402 wetland area, not including rivers and lakes (Bridgham et al. 2006), and has a tradition of hunting
403 waterbirds. Wetlands cover approximately 1.3 million km², or 13% of Canada's terrestrial area
404 (Environment and Climate Change Canada 2016). Its diverse resource of over 90,000 wetlands
405 (Lehner and Döll 2004a; Lehner and Döll 2004b) occurs in prairies, boreal forest, along
406 coastlines and in the tundra, and includes various types such as marshes, swamps and open water,
407 although peatland bogs and fens dominate (Bridgham et al. 2006).

408 Most of the waterbird species taken in Canada are migratory (Table 3; Canadian Wildlife
409 Service Waterfowl Committee 2017). Populations of most North American migratory birds have

410 been declining since the 1980's (Kirby et al. 2008), although those of some species, such as
411 Canada goose, are increasing (Sauer et al. 2013). Offtake by hunting is generally considered one
412 of the causes of migratory species declines, such as in the Middle East and to a lesser extent
413 Europe (Kirby et al. 2008), but the impact of offtake on North American migratory species
414 overall is unknown (UNEP and CMS Secretariat 2014).

415 Canada's 172 migratory waterbird species (UNEP and CMS Secretariat 2014) are hunted
416 by both recreational hunters and indigenous people. Canada offers a revealing perspective on
417 waterbird offtake because of these two very different hunter communities. A larger proportion of
418 indigenous Inuit hunt, between 30% (Joint Secretariat – Inuvialuit Settlement Region 2003) and
419 70% (Berkes et al. 1994; Wein and Freeman 1995), whereas less than 0.5% of the general
420 population take part in recreational hunting (Joint Secretariat – Inuvialuit Settlement Region
421 2003). Wildfowl (geese, swans and ducks) are the most frequently hunted by number of
422 individuals taken by indigenous peoples (Wein and Freeman 1995; Usher 2002). Furthermore,
423 indigenous hunters tend to take more individuals compared to recreational hunters (Fig. 5); for
424 example, approximately 56,000 Canada geese were taken by 1,500 Omushkego Cree, while
425 83,900 geese were taken by over 82,500 recreational hunters in 1993 in Ontario (Berkes et al.
426 1994).

427 Recreational hunters are required to obtain permits, so detailed hunting records of
428 migratory birds are available in annual reports (e.g., Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl
429 Committee 2017). Records on hunting have been collected by state and species, for some dating
430 back as far as 1974, and information on population trends are available for 40 species (e.g.,
431 Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Committee 2015). Less detail is generally known about
432 offtake by indigenous people as most of those with such status are not required to obtain a licence
433 nor are they restricted to particular seasons and bag counts, although hunting is restricted within
434 the tribal territory (Truesdale and Brooks 2017). Strong hunting traditions are maintained in

435 Canada's indigenous populations as many live at least a partial subsistence way of life (Peloquin
436 and Berkes 2009). Although indigenous people make up less than 5% of the population,
437 approximately 35% of hunting in Canada is for subsistence purposes, much higher than the 4%
438 in the United States and many European Countries (UNEP and CMS Secretariat 2014).

439 Information and insights on offtake by Canada's indigenous people can be gleaned from
440 ethnographic studies and surveys (Berkes et al. 1994; Joint Secretariat – Inuvialuit Settlement
441 Region 2003; Peloquin and Berkes 2009). A detailed survey of the offtake by Inuvialuit, Inuits
442 of arctic western Canada, from 1988 to 1997 provides data on the month and quantity of each
443 species hunted, and the number of hunters (Joint Secretariat – Inuvialuit Settlement Region 2003)
444 (**Fig. 5a**). When compared to the offtake by recreational hunters in the Northwest Territories (**Fig.**
445 **5b**), there are substantial differences in species composition. Snow goose, greater white-fronted
446 goose and eider ducks were the largest counts year-on-year for indigenous subsistence hunters,
447 whereas recreational hunters favoured mallard, snow goose, wigeon (a dabbling duck) and scaup
448 (a diving duck) (**Fig. 5**). Inuvialuit hunters took a much wider variety of species than recreational
449 hunters (Table 3). This is partially because the Inuvialuit settlements are generally coastal and
450 therefore have access to a greater range of sea duck species, also because recreational hunters are
451 prohibited to take some species (e.g. swans), and because the strong taste of some species (e.g.
452 long-tailed duck) makes them less desirable to recreational hunters (Canadian Wildlife Service
453 Waterfowl Committee 2015).

454 Historically in Canada, migratory waterbird hunting was seasonal and likely sustainable
455 (Tsuji and Nieboer 1999). Migratory waterbirds were easily obtained when species returned to
456 the same locations each year (Kristensen 2011). For example, Canada geese were traditionally
457 harvested by the Cree of Northern Ontario when abundant in late spring (Tsuji and Nieboer
458 1999). As hunting and refrigeration technology advanced, diets changed and traditional
459 knowledge and codes of conduct that prevented overexploitation have been lost, such that

460 subsistence hunting should no longer be assumed to be sustainable. Moreover, contemporary
461 pressures in addition to hunting may interact to impact upon waterbird populations. For example,
462 continuous but incremental changes in climate as well as local hydroelectric development are
463 understood to be the reasons for decreases in geese numbers rather than overexploitation at James
464 Bay, Quebec (Peloquin and Berkes 2009).

465 To sustainably manage waterbird populations, comparable information on all offtake and
466 hunters is crucial, including indigenous subsistence activity. Harvesting information was
467 collected from indigenous people in Canada for over 40 years (Usher 2002; Joint Secretariat –
468 Inuvialuit Settlement Region 2003), usually using questionnaires and/or interviews, but these
469 various studies were not continued. While there is no evidence of a general lack of participation,
470 women and children’s harvests could be under-reported (Berkes et al. 1994), some hunters
471 declined to be interviewed or became fatigued (Joint Secretariat – Inuvialuit Settlement Region
472 2003), and some indigenous peoples groups withheld detailed information for ethical reasons or
473 to protect traditional knowledge (Benoit 2007). Current officially collated records are therefore
474 probably only capturing some of the waterbird offtake in Canada; examples include the Brant
475 goose of which ‘a few thousand’ are harvested by subsistence hunters, although the reported
476 harvest is only in the hundreds (Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Committee 2015), and
477 Common eider, for which subsistence offtake is not included (Merkel and Barry 2008). Trends
478 from the Maritimes region in southeast Canada suggest a decline in both indigenous and
479 recreational hunting between 1993 and 2004, although the decline is less steep for indigenous
480 peoples (Benoît 2007). However, contemporary published research on indigenous harvesting is
481 lacking, which would be important to assess recent trends in waterbird offtake.

482

483 **Conclusions**

484 Wetlands globally provide extremely valuable provisioning services and are biologically diverse.

485 Offtake represents a pressure on wetlands that has not been evaluated, but this systematic review

486 of the literature and data sources revealed the following critical issues for fish and waterbirds.

487

488 **Semantics**

489 There is a diverse lexicon associated with offtake in the literature and this is applied

490 inconsistently between taxa. For example, while similarities were found between fish and bird

491 taxa in the ubiquitous use of the term ‘harvest’, the term ‘exploit’ appeared to have different

492 connotations and frequency of use. Within fishery studies, exploit was used often and in general

493 to describe fish as a resource, unless over-exploitation was explicitly stated. Within studies of

494 waterbird offtake, exploit was used less frequently and was more likely to have a negative

495 association.

496

497 **Data availability and quality**

498 There is a paucity of data globally for waterbird offtake, and especially for less economically

499 developed countries, while fishing data from inland waters are collected globally by the FAO

500 (e.g. FAO 2018a). Nearly all data for both fish and bird offtake used in studies are derived from

501 government sources. However, data quality for both taxa are variable with species or site

502 information lacking, including for fish offtake from floodplains which are by far the most

503 important inland fisheries (Lymer et al. 2016). Long-term fish and bird records are often

504 incomplete or inconsistent, making monitoring of offtake and populations difficult. Information

505 on the type of wetland providing the offtake is also frequently absent, potentially hampering

506 conservation priorities and policies. Where data are absent, for example when Governments fail
507 to collect or publish data, there is a reliance on estimates for larger-scale geographic areas.

508

509 Disparities between records

510 Offtake records collected locally, nationally and internationally are frequently incomparable
511 because they are not reported consistently. The aggregation of data for national statistics is
512 common, such as amalgamating carp species in fisheries and ducks and geese for waterbirds, and
513 may be a response to variable data recording. However, it can lead to the loss of important
514 information, such as hunting pressure on individual species, some of which may be rare.

515

516 Hidden offtake and by-catch

517 Hidden offtake, which is unreported and frequently illegal, is widely recognised as a problem. It
518 hinders obtaining accurate values for offtake and official statistics are highly likely to be a
519 substantial undercount. Subsistence, recreational or sports fishing, and fishing by illegal methods,
520 are the main sources of hidden offtake for fish in wetlands. Illegal shooting and trapping are the
521 main activities for hidden offtake of birds. Estimates of the amount of hidden offtake for fish and
522 birds from wetlands are not available, but clearly this may be a serious pressure on species.
523 Official figures suggest that legal fish offtake is increasing (FAO 2018b) while migratory
524 waterbirds are declining (Kirby et al. 2008), even if the hunting of waterbirds in North America
525 at least may be decreasing (U.S. Department of the Interior et al. 2016).

526 Offtake may result in significant numbers of animals taken as by-catch. Although this
527 review did not specifically include this issue, it is known that the by-catch of fishing may include
528 birds, turtles and macroinvertebrates (Davies et al. 2009) and that by-catch represents a threat to
529 vertebrate species at risk of extinction (Ripple et al. 2019).

530

531 Socio-economic and cultural factors

532 Reported offtake of birds is most frequently for the purpose of sport or recreation, while fish
533 offtake (that was not commercial) is mainly to support subsistence fishers. This difference
534 reflects the trend for waterbird data to originate from more economically developed countries
535 with studies on fish offtake more likely from less economically developed nations, where the
536 largest inland fisheries tend to be found. Within countries, different communities may target
537 different species for offtake, based upon cultural traditions, and differentially contribute to
538 official data reporting. Such socio-economic and cultural factors may make comparisons between
539 taxa or within countries challenging, and may require participatory methods to gather necessary
540 information (e.g. Wiber et al. 2004).

541

542 Sustainability

543 Studies of fish and birds frequently refer to the need for sustainable management of fishing and
544 hunting, but unsustainable practices are more likely to be indicated in the literature than
545 sustainable ones. Nevertheless, authors are inclined to show caution in suggesting current offtake
546 is unsustainable, most likely due to underreporting and incomplete data on offtake, along with a
547 lack of reliable population statistics, making it difficult to accurately assess sustainability. The
548 overexploitation of species could clearly affect population viability and risk extinction, and it
549 could also affect ecosystem functioning and services. The loss of provisioning services in
550 wetlands will reduce food availability and income, and may impact income from tourism and
551 recreation, affecting some of the most impoverished people in less economically developed
552 countries (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005). Wetland animals may be particularly at
553 risk from overexploitation due to the fragmented and isolated nature of many wetlands, which

554 makes it difficult for some species to move between them (Brinson and Malvárez 2002) and
555 maintain a viable population (He et al. 2017). Moreover, many waterbirds are migratory, moving
556 between countries along transcontinental corridors known as flyways. National datasets do not
557 capture all offtake along the flyway, leading to a lack of integrated understanding and
558 management of international bird populations. Management is further complicated by the
559 diversity of customs and cultures represented along the flyway, and by the different legislation
560 and policies on hunting practised by countries, making sustainable offtake of migratory bird
561 species particularly problematic (Madsen et al. 2015).

562 Examples of sustainable offtake for fish and waterbirds are rare in the literature. The
563 Svalbard-breeding population of the pink-footed goose has an internationally coordinated
564 adaptive hunting management framework along its relatively short Northern European migratory
565 flyway (Clausen et al. 2017). Evidence suggests that offtake has not affected population growth
566 but still caution is recommended due to variable data availability in countries along the migratory
567 corridor and potential population inertia in long-lived species such as geese (Clausen et al. 2017).
568 Management plans may provide a useful tool for control of offtake to achieve sustainability
569 targets. For example, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, which implemented
570 sustainable harvesting and wetland protection and restoration programs across Canada, USA and
571 Mexico, has probably helped reverse the waterbird population declines of the 1980's by
572 restricting hunting to allow recovery (North American Waterfowl Management Plan 2012).

573

574 Further research

575 An accurate evaluation of the global offtake from wetlands requires data for species and sites
576 recorded consistently over many years; it is evident from this review that, other than for a very
577 few cases, such information is lacking. This study has shown that reliable data on wetland offtake
578 is at best patchy over space and time and at worst absent, similar to terrestrial wild animal offtake

579 (e.g. Ingram et al. 2015; Joppa et al. 2016). Data gaps and insufficiencies are often due to
580 unreported and illegal offtake, or inconsistent or aggregated reporting, while comparison between
581 different communities and countries is difficult when data are not standardised. One solution to
582 data gaps and variabilities is modelling, based on estimates extrapolated from known data sources
583 (e.g. as done for terrestrial offtake Ziegler et al. 2016; Benítez-López et al. 2019). Thus, where
584 data are available, these could be used to model offtake in other areas and over time periods
585 where data are scarce, and thereby used to not only estimate global offtake of for wetlands but
586 also to predict offtake in the future. Modelling may also allow integration of data on other
587 pressures that interact with offtake to pose cumulative or synergistic threats to species. In this
588 review, for example, specific studies were found that reported waterbird deaths from poisoning
589 by lead shot as an indirect consequence of hunting (Andreotti et al. 2018), but these were not
590 included in national statistics for offtake.

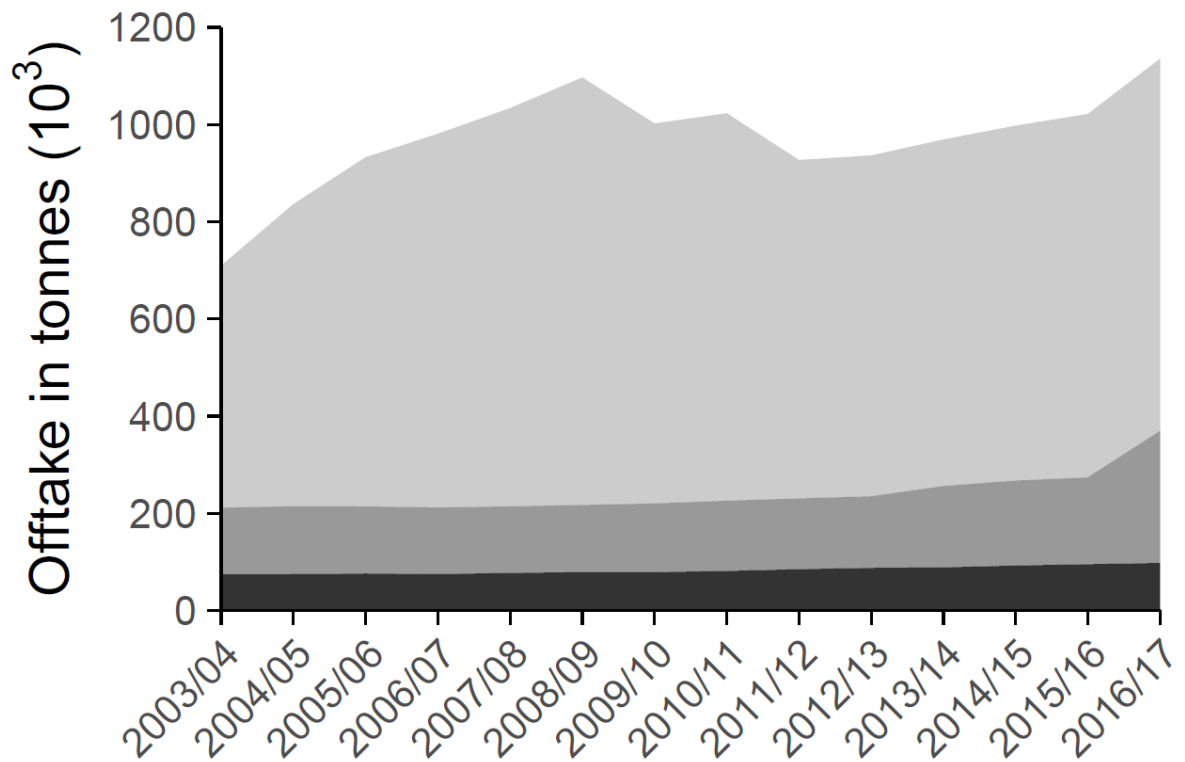
591 Further research to assess the global offtake from wetlands is overdue because current
592 levels and trends are not known, although this study suggests wild fish offtake may be increasing
593 and offtake represents a potentially significant pressure on species and biodiversity. Given the
594 importance of wetland offtake for provisioning services, the sustainable management of wetland
595 resources is vital to prevent biodiversity loss and food poverty to some of the world's most
596 vulnerable people (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005). Better information on offtake
597 would support monitoring and refinement of global conservation and development policies, such
598 as the Aichi Biodiversity targets (UNEP and CBD 2010) and Sustainable Development Goals
599 (UN General Assembly 2015), as well as facilitate better management plans, species and site
600 protection, and restoration initiatives for wetlands.

601

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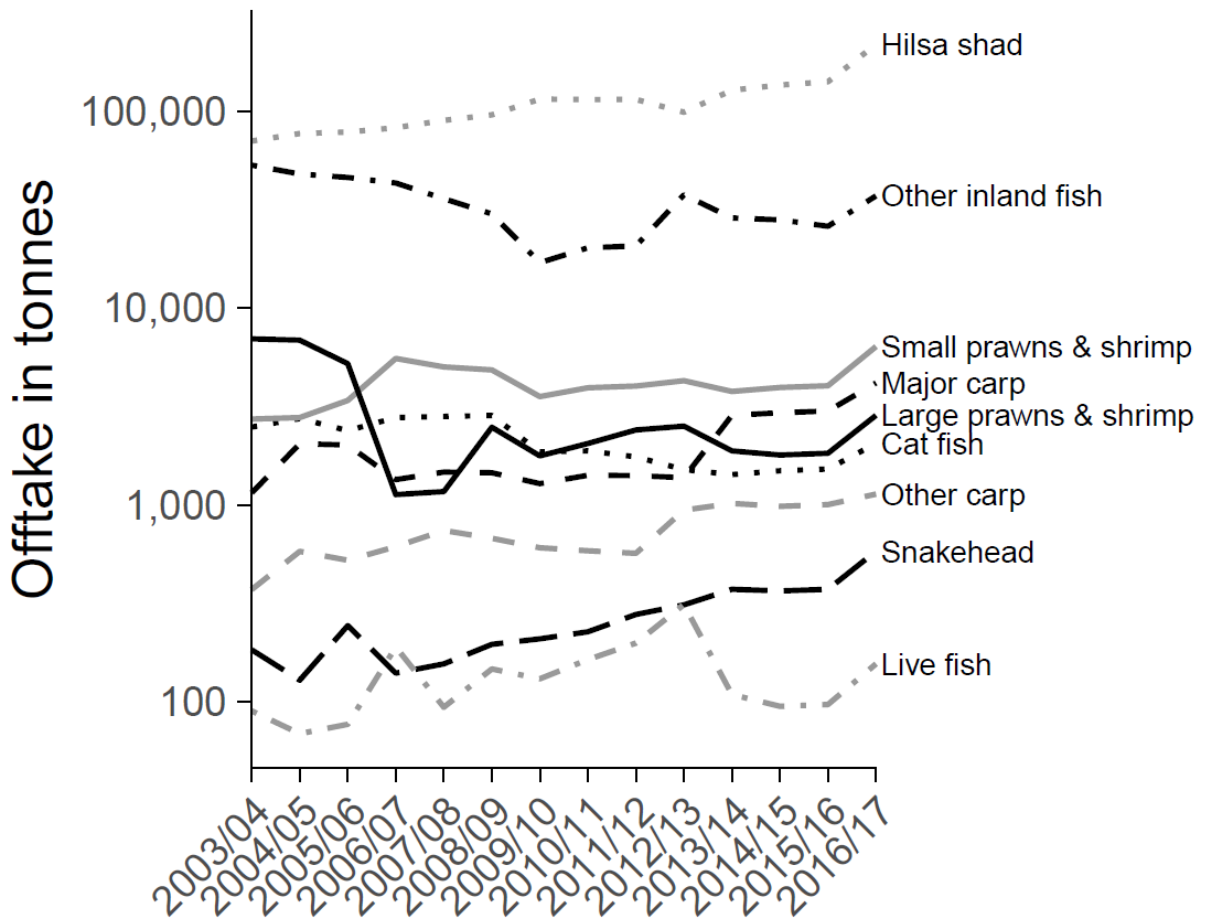
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606 **Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.



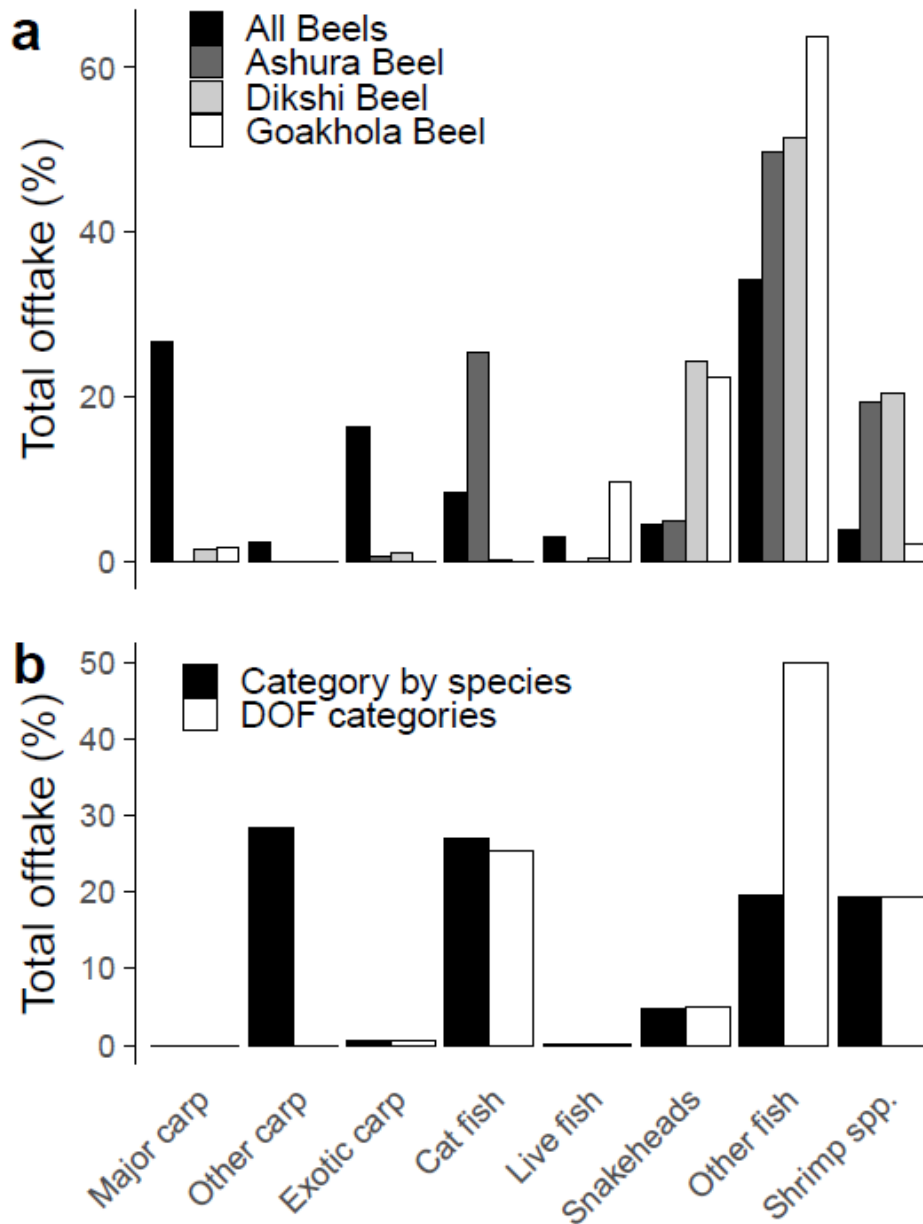
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609 **Fig. 1** Total fisheries offtake from beels (black), rivers and estuaries (dark grey) and floodplains
 610 (light grey) in Bangladesh between 2003 and 2017. Bangladesh fisheries yearbooks provide data
 611 for Kaptai Lake and Sundarbans as inland waters; these are excluded here as Kaptai Lake is man-
 612 made and the Sundarbans are saline mangrove systems. Data from Department of Fisheries
 613 (2004-17)



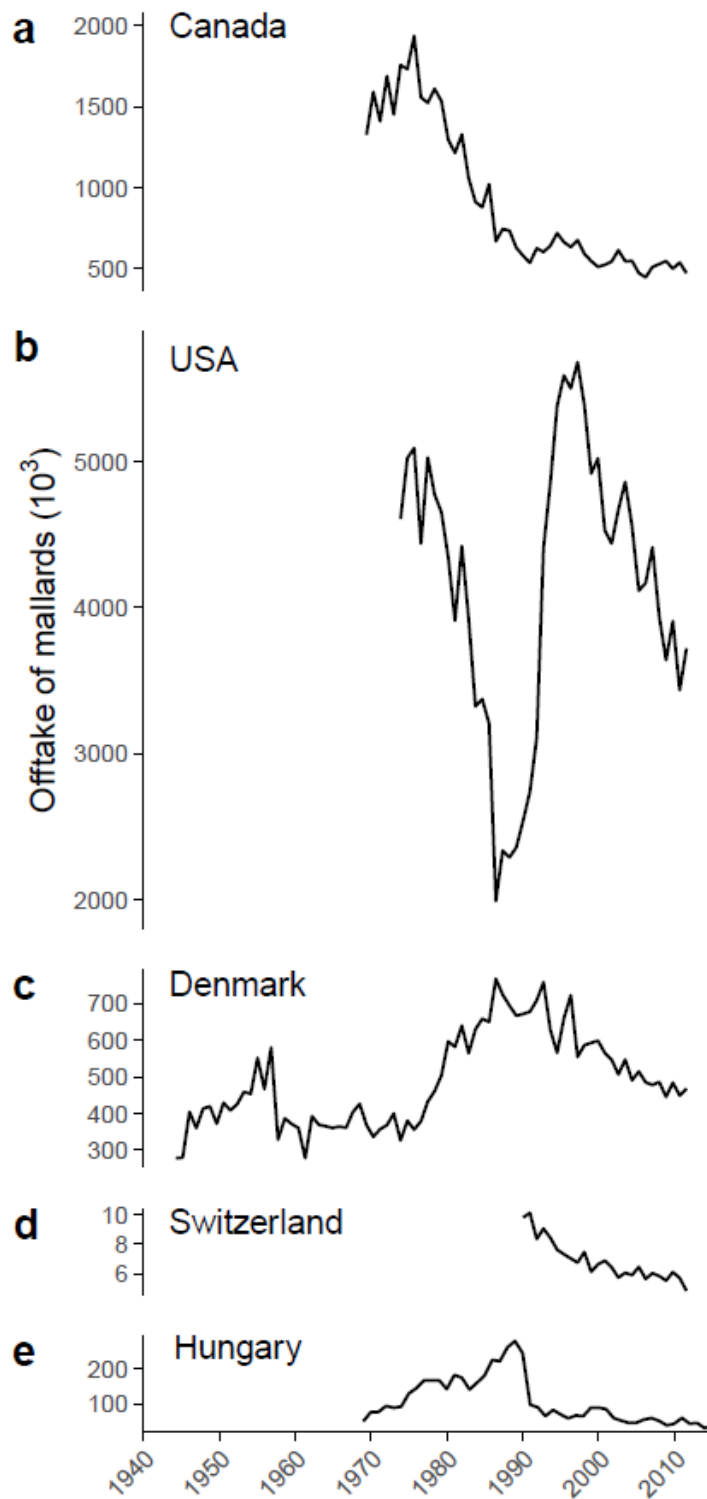
614

615 **Fig. 2** Offtake of the major groups of fish and crustaceans in rivers and estuaries of Bangladesh
 616 from 2003 to 2017. Data from Department of Fisheries (2004-17). See Table for species
 617 information



618

619 **Fig. 3** Comparisons of fisheries offtake (aggregated over 1997-2002) between (a) all beels in
 620 Bangladesh (black bars, data from Department of Fisheries (2004) and three individual beels,
 621 Ashura (dark grey), Diskshi (light grey) and Goakhola (white) (data from Mustafa and Brooks
 622 (2008), with species grouped by national categorization from Department of Fisheries (DOF),
 623 and (b) categories for Ashura beel containing all species taken as assigned to national DOF
 624 categories by the authors (black bars) and species officially reported in national DOF categories
 625 (white bars), for which many species are aggregated into “other fish”. Note: no major carp species
 626 were taken at this location. Species lists by DOF categories are shown in Table 2



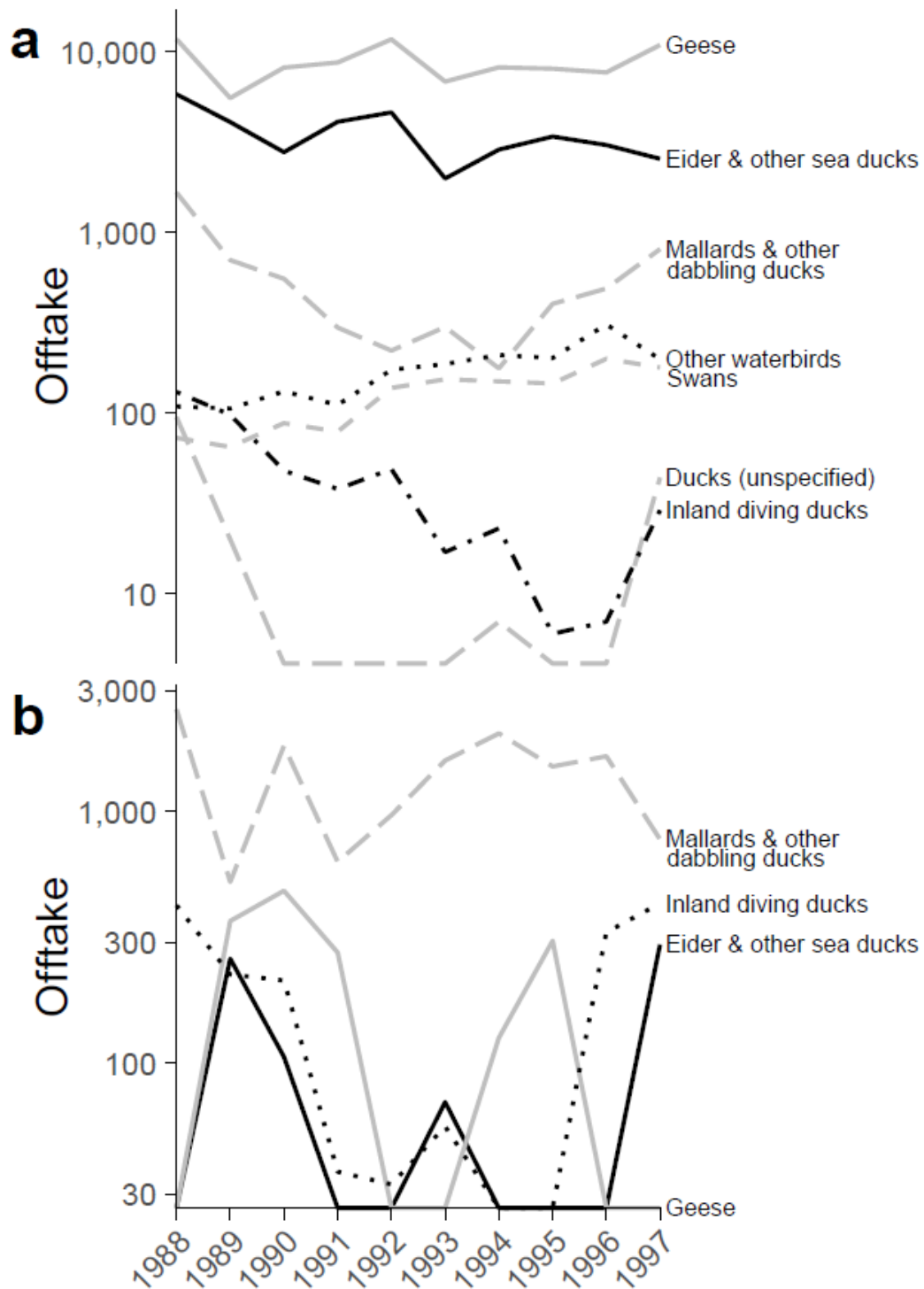
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628 **Fig. 4** Number of mallards taken according to national hunting statistics for (a) Canada and (b)

629 USA (Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Committee 2015), (c) Denmark (Danish Centre for

630 Environment and Energy 2019), (d) Switzerland (Eidgenössische Jagdstatistik 2019) and (e)

631 Hungary (Sándor et al. 2017)



632

633 **Fig. 5** Offtake of waterbirds (number of individuals) from 1988 to 1997 in Canada by (a) Inuit
 634 indigenous hunters in the Inuvialuit settlement region (Joint Secretariat – Inuvialuit Settlement
 635 Region 2003) and (b) recreational hunters in the Northwest Territory (Government of Canada
 636 2017). Species lists by categories are shown in Table 3

637 **Table 1** Target words used in Web of Science and Google Scholar searches

Offtake theme	Wetland theme	Fish theme	Waterbird theme
Bag(s)	Wetland(s)	Fish(ing/er/ery)	Waterbird(s)
Count(s)	Floodplain(s)	Inland	Wader(s)
Offtake	Swamp(s)	Stock	Duck(s)
Harvest(ing)	Pothole	Recreation(al)	Geese
Exploit(ation)		Sport	Anatidae
(Un)sustainable			Waterfowl
Hunt(ing/er)			Flyway(s)
Subsistence			
(Il)legal			

638

639

640 **Table 2** Fish species categorised by the Department of Fisheries yearbooks for Bangladesh.

641 Exotic carp are not recorded in rivers and estuaries, while Hilsa shad is not found in beels and
 642 floodplains. This table uses the categories as represented in the 2016/17 yearbook, although
 643 species have been moved between categories, and categories have been added or removed, since
 644 2003/04. Data from Department of Fisheries (2017)

Category	Common names (Bengali)	Scientific names
Major carp	Rui	<i>Labeo rohita</i>
	Catla	<i>Catla catla</i>
	Mrigal	<i>Cirrhinus mrigala</i>
Other carp	Kalibaus	<i>Labeo calbasu</i>
	Bata	<i>Labeo bata</i>

	Gonia	<i>Labeo gonius</i>
Exotic (non-native) carp	Silver	<i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i>
	Grass	<i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i>
	Common or Mirror	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>
	Big head	<i>Hypophthalmichthys nobilis</i>
	Black	<i>Mylopharyngodon piceus</i>
Catfish*	Pangas	<i>Pangasius pangasius</i>
	Boal	<i>Wallago attu</i>
	Air	<i>Sperata aor</i>
	Silon	<i>Silonia silondia</i>
	Rita	<i>Rita rita</i>
Snakeheads	Shol	<i>Channa marulius</i>
	Gazar	<i>Channa striatus</i>
	Taki	<i>Channa punctatus</i>
Live fish#	Koi	<i>Anabas testudineus</i>
	Shingi	<i>Clarias batrachus</i>
	Magur	<i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i>
Other inland fish	Includes:	Includes:
	Sarpunti	<i>Systemus sarana</i>
	Thai sharpunti	<i>Barbonymus gonionotus</i>
	Punti spp.	<i>Puntius</i> spp.
	Chapila	<i>Gudusia chapra</i>
	Tengra	<i>Mystus</i> spp.
	Pabda	<i>Ompak pabda</i>
	Baim	<i>Mastacembelus</i> spp.

	Mola	<i>Amblypharyngodon mola</i>
Hilsa shad	Ilish	<i>Tenualosa ilisha</i>
Large prawns & shrimp+	Bagda	<i>Penaeus monodon</i>
	Galda,	<i>Macrobrachium rosenbergii</i>
	Harina	<i>Metapenaeus monoceros</i>
	Chaka	<i>Fenneropenaeus indicus</i>
Small prawn & shrimp+	Includes:	Includes:
	small Chingri	Decapoda

645 *from 2013/14 catfish have been divided into two categories: Pangas and other catfish, which

646 includes four other species

647 # fish that are sold alive (Craig et al. 2004)

648 + the terms prawn and shrimp have been used interchangeably since 2003/04

649

650

651

652 **Table 3** Wildfowl and other waterbird species taken by recreational and Inuvialuit hunters in
 653 Canada. Information from Joint Secretariat – Inuvialuit Settlement Region (2003) and
 654 Government of Canada (2017)

Categories	Species		Offtake		
	Common name	Scientific name	Recreational	Inuvialuit	
Geese	Canada	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	x	x	
	Snow	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	x	x	
	Greater white-fronted	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	x	x	
	Brant	<i>Branta bernicla</i>		x	
	Ross's	<i>Chen rossii</i>		x	
Mallard	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	x	x	
Other dabbling ducks	Northern pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	x	x	
	Green-winged teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	x	x	
	American wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	x	x	
Inland diving ducks	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	x	x	
	Canvasback	<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	x	x	
	Scaup sp.	<i>Aythya</i> sp.	x	x	
	Eider and other sea ducks	Eider sp.	<i>Somateria</i> sp.	x	x
	Scoter sp.	<i>Melanitta</i> sp.	x	x	
	Goldeneye sp.	<i>Bucephala</i> sp.	x	x	
	Long-tailed duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>		x	
Swans	Merganser sp.	<i>Mergus</i> sp.		x	
	Trumpeter	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>		x	
	Tundra	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>		x	

	Other unspecified	<i>Cygnus</i> spp.	x
Other	Sandhill crane	<i>Grus canadensis</i>	x
waterbirds	Loon sp.	<i>Gavia</i> sp.	x

655

656

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971 **Supplementary Material**

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973 **Global offtake of wild animals from wetlands: critical issues for fish**
974 **and birds**

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976 **Sarah Brotherton • Chris B. Joyce • Jörn P. W. Scharlemann**

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979 **Table S1** List of studies for fish offtake in wetlands

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