Summary

Angling is a popular form of recreation around the world and a socio-economic phenomenon. It is a strongly coupled socio-ecological system in which the angler is an integral part of the natural-geographical environment, interacting with nature and deriving certain benefits from this relationship. This perception of angling is a direct reference to the concept of ecosystem services, and angling itself is considered as one of the most important aquatic ecosystem services.

Based on the research gaps identified in the literature, the main objective of the dissertation was to identify the socio-economic and environmental conditions of modern inland angling, as well as to determine the relationship of angling with the natural and geographic environment in relation to the concept of ecosystem services, along with an indication of the possibilities and management orientations of modern angling.

The study used a survey method. The data came from two survey questionnaires. The first questionnaire focused on motivational needs, while the second questionnaire focused on behavioral changes and preferences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Both questionnaires also included a set of identical questions about the socio-economic characteristics of the survey participants and their angling involvement and preferences. The study used the following statistical procedures: exploratory factor analysis, redundancy analysis, ordinal regression analysis, non-metric multidimensional scaling, statistical significance tests, reliability test and classification tree analysis.

Modern angling is strongly motivated by the need to interact with nature, which is independent of socioeconomic characteristics and engagement in angling. The needs for experiencing emotions and self-fulfillment were also found to be important. Social ties were important only for a part of the angling community (e.g.: women, junior and affiliated anglers). The motivational needs and preferences of anglers are explained more by indicators of engagement than socioeconomic and demographic factors. The relationship between angling and the natural environment is determined by anglers' specialization behavior and fishing preferences, while these are determined to a small extent by socioeconomic and demographic factors. The lack of specialization is most strongly linked to the negative impact of angling on the natural environment and aquatic ecosystems. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the positive impact of modern angling on perceived stress reduction. This is especially true for the angling community, which fulfills an intensified need to saturate non-family social ties. Modern angling benefits from cultural ecosystem services, which should be associated with the attitudes and preferences of at least two-thirds of the angling community, including mainly those with identified needs for association and saturation of non-familial social ties, as well as those preferring to be active in the lake environment. It is justifiable to initiate the formation of a specialized angling community and to concentrate it around fisheries that guarantee a satisfactory level of fulfilling needs at a favorable ratio to costs of their fulfillment. The associated angling participants, in a feeling of participation in the community and responsibility for the state of their own fishery, can propose educational and organizational solutions, positively influencing the resources and ecological state of the waters.

Keywords: angling recreation, motivation, recreational specialization, ecosystem services, COVID-19