

Title: **A Microeconomic Foundation for Recreational Effort Response Functions**

Authors: Max Thilo Stoeven, University of Kiel, Department of Economics, Chair of Martin F. Quaas (Germany)

Abstract: Recreational fishermen quickly adjust fishing effort directed at a specific site to variations in fishing quality. Holding all other quality parameters constant, the functional relationship between fish abundance and the resulting recreational fishing effort is denoted an effort response function. This paper proposes a Cobb-Douglas utility function for the benefits of recreational fishing to explain effort response functions with microeconomic theory. Depending on the relative weight of catch within the utility function, a concave, convex or linear effort response function results.